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978-0-521-14248-9 - International Migration in the Age of Crisis and Globalization: Historical and Recent Experiences

Andres Solimano

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INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION IN THE AGE OF CRISIS AND GLOBALIZATION

The international mobility of people is a main feature of the global economy of today and yesterday. However, external openness is often more favorable to the mobility of goods and money than people across different periods of the world economy including times of crisis, globalization, nationalism, and autarkic trends. Immigration augments the labor force in receiving countries and provides many of the bodies and minds that are essential to any vibrant economy. The international mobility of human capital and talented individuals is critical to the transfer of knowledge, ideas, fresh capital, contacts, and entrepreneurial capacities. This book, which promotes a freer and more humane regime for the mobility of people, is based on a blend of theory and empirical evidence comprising varied country examples and rich historical material ranging from the mid-19th century to the early 21st century. It discusses the conceptual underpinnings of the push-and-pull factors of current migration waves and their impacts for development on the source and receiving countries. The analysis reviews the historical context under which various migration experiences have taken place – both in periods of internationalism and in periods of nationalism – in order to contribute to debates on the desirability of and the tensions and costs involved in the current process of international migration and globalization. These issues are relevant during times of both economic crisis and slumps and times of economic growth and prosperity.

Andrés Solimano is founder and President of the International Center for Globalization and Development in Santiago, Chile. Dr. Solimano is a former Country Director at the World Bank, Executive Director at the Inter-American Development Bank, and former Regional Adviser at the U.N.'s Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago. He has published several books and articles on a variety of subjects including the international mobility of talent, economic growth, globalization, international migration, inequality, macroeconomic management, and political economy. Dr. Solimano is a member of the founding board of the Chilean Society for Public Policy; the editorial board of the Central Banking, Analysis, and Economic Policies Series of the Central Bank of Chile; and the board of the magazine *Mensaje*. He received his Ph.D. in economics from MIT.

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ANDRÉS SOLIMANO

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and Development, CIGLOB, Santiago, Chile



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To my wife Bernardita, daughters Gracia and Paula, and son Pedro.

To the memory of my late mother Sofia. To my father Ivan.

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“Give us your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.”

Inscription on the Statue of Liberty, New York, erected in 1886

“A Third World invasion of the United States, the largest in History, is taking place today along our undefended two-thousand-mile border with Mexico; *La Reconquista*, the reconquest of the American Southwest by Mexico, is underway.”

*Patrick J. Buchanan, former U.S. Presidential Candidate,
State of Emergency, 2006*

“Realizing potential global welfare gains from migration may require not just allowing individuals to emigrate from low-income countries in larger numbers but also allowing them to sort themselves across receiving countries according to labor markets’ reward to skill.”

*Professor Gordon H. Hanson, University of California, San Diego,
International Migration Expert, 2008*

“The new directive on return of immigrants in Europe establishes criteria for the deportation of irregular immigrants in 27 member states and prison terms from 6 to up to 18 months for undocumented immigrants.”

Law Resolution of the European Parliament, approved June 2008

“We were very generous with the Europeans who arrived in our land in the last century, and the truth is that it is not fair for our people to get a denigrating treatment (in Europe).”

*Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile, the 35th Presidential Summit
of MERCOSUR countries, Tucuman, Argentina, July 2008*

“When European migrants arrived in America, they took possession of thousands of hectares of land, mines, natural resources and exploited our people, while on the contrary, the Latin American people in Europe are not exploiting anyone, (and) they are not taking possession of thousands of hectares of land and mines, they are not destroying the natural resources.”

*Evo Morales, President of Bolivia, the 35th Presidential Summit
of MERCOSUR, Tucuman, Argentina, July 2008*

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Acknowledgments

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