

Territorial Aspects of Migration Processes in Russia

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Abstract

This article deals with theoretical and practical aspects of migration of population. Particular features of international and interregional migration flows in Russia are revealed on the basis of the analysis of statistics on migration. Three model configurations of migration flows are singled out: counter, outgoing and incoming migration flows. Particular attention is given to the study of migration in Volga federal district. The structure of international and interregional migration in Volga federal district is examined. It was observed that in international migration incoming migration flows predominate, whereas in interregional migration all three model configurations of migration flows are present.

Keywords: migration, migration flows, migrants, labor migration, centers of migration.

1. Introduction

In modern becoming globalized world the process of production internationalization is accompanied by increase of migration flows scale. One can judge scales of migratory processes worldwide by data presented by United Nations Organization according to which at the present time approximately 3% of total amount of our planet's population (more than 200 millions people) turn out to be external migrants, whereas every sixth inhabitant of our planet (approximately 1 billion) is an internal migrant [1].

As Russia is getting involved in the system of international labor division and world economy, its territory is becoming a zone for spatial shifts in migration flows. Today Russia is one of the international centers of migration.

The increased complexity, richness and versatility of modern migratory processes require a profound theoretical comprehension of migration's nature, its consequences for the world, national and regional economies on the basis of many-sided, diverse, and interdisciplinary approach to the study of mechanisms and tendencies of population's migration in the context of global development.

2. Method

Research methodology of migratory processes was formed by the works of foreign as well as home scholars.

Among authors whose contribution to the solution of methodological problems in the given sphere of academic knowledge seem highly notable are E. Ravenstein, W. Thomas and F. Znaniecki [2], R. Park, E. Burgess, R. McKenzie [3, 4], S. Lee [5], D. Massey [6], N. Oishi [7], S. Sassen [8].

In a broad sense, migration is a versatile spatial population's movement independent from its type and goals. This definition allows to include movements from some communities to the others, daily trips to the places of work and study beyond places of residence, arrival in some area for temporary including seasonal work, business, vocational, and other trips in the contextual understanding of migration.

In a narrower sense, migration is spatial movements between communities which lead to the permanent or temporal change of place of residence or regular two-sided movements between place of residence and place of work or study. This contextual interpretation allows to exclude from migration episodic work and recreational trips from one

community to another.

Finally, migration can be regarded as spatial movement of people which in the end leads to the territorial redistribution. In this sense, spatial movement's relevance to migration is determined by actual migration from one place to another.

In the modern world labor migration is considered to be one of the most important component of migration flows. The movement of labor resources covers all links of world economy, exists between countries and regions of the world as well as within national borders – its administrative and territorial units. These movements result in the creation of global world market of labor force.

Global market of labor force is a complicated, controversial phenomenon requiring a detailed study in the context of up-to-date world, national and territorial economies development. Various factors – economic, political, demographic, social, cultural and others – have influence on direction and intensity of migratory processes. However, economic reasons should be acknowledged as the main stimulating motives forcing people to change their place of residence. As early as 1885, English researcher E.G. Ravenstein pointed out that they are the initial cause for migration [9].

Consequences caused by migration of labor force could be interpreted differently. Countries importing labor resources achieve decrease in the cost of labor force in internal market which leads to the reduction of production costs and enhancement of competitiveness of their own production. Inflow of immigrants has a positive influence on internal consumer demand for goods and services which stimulates additional employment. Involvement of highly professional specialists in the country allows to save means for further training of qualified personnel. Countries encountering decrease in birth rate and population aging owing to labor migration have opportunities to solve problems of pensions provision for their citizens and realization of the country's social duties indirectly through the tax system. States have a positive attitude to migrants who are potential important investors in the economy of the accepting country.

Certain profits from participation in international exchange of labor force are derived by exporting countries. In the first place, they receive additional source for currency supply from compatriots' labor activity abroad.

Furthermore, with the help of labor migration countries experiencing excess pressure in internal labor market decrease acuteness of social problems connected with mass unemployment owing to the export of labor force.

At the same time uncontrolled mass migration can cause particular negative influence on national economies in countries accepting people and those which are the basic centers for labor force provision in the world market.

For the first group of countries the inflow of foreign labor force in scales exceeding needs of the internal market leads to the conflict of intercultural relations and has a negative effect on the internal political situation in the countries – importers. On the other hand, the countries – exporters of labor force - lose the most dynamic and socially mobile part of their population.

3. Result

Russia and its regions take part in international exchange of labor resources. According to data on state's statistics in 2010, 191656 people arrived in the country, 179066 (the largest amount) being from CIS, Baltic states and Georgia. Among them were mainly labor migrants. In federal districts migration flows from neighboring countries are dispersed unevenly. The greatest migration flow is attracted by Central (34.6%) and Volga (17.8%) federal districts. The least attractive for labor migrants are Far East (2.6%) and North Caucasian (3.1%) federal districts.

Incoming migration flows from Moldova, Ukraine, Belarus, Turkmenistan are mainly turned to Central federal district (more than 50%), from Central Asia – to Central and Volga federal districts, migrants from Baltic countries stay in Central (38.7%) and Northwestern federal districts (35.5%).

The main part of migrants arrive in Volga federal district from Uzbekistan (24%), Tajikistan (15%) and Kazakhstan (13%). Relatively low amount of migrants arrive here from Baltic countries, Georgia, Belarus, Turkmenia.

Migrations occurring within national borders (interregional migrations) unlike international migration have certain specific features [12-13]: firstly, migrants do not encounter the necessity to cross the national borders;

secondly, migrants have opportunities to receive more detailed and precise information on labor market and socio-economic and political situation in the place of the planned stay; thirdly, migrants stay within cultural identity field that facilitates adaptation in new conditions.

Migration flows within Russian Federation are localized by territorial borders of federal districts (table 1).

Table 1: Migration within territorial borders of federal districts

Federal districts	Internal migration share (within territorial borders of federal district)
Central federal district	68.3
Northwestern federal district	67.8
Southern federal district	57.5
North Caucasian federal district	76.5
Volga federal district	82.5
Ural federal district	68.6
Siberian federal district	87.8
Far Eastern federal district	79.2

As it is clear from the table 1, the main part of migrants move from some units of Federation to other situated within one federal district from territorial point of view. Moreover, exchange of migration flows – which constitute one of the forms of interregional cooperative relations - also occurs between federal districts [10]. For example, in 2011 migration flows moved from Volga federal district mainly to Central and Ural federal districts (64.5%). The greatest amount of migrants from these districts moved to Volga region federal district (54.7%). Volga federal district in 2011 had the highest negative index of interregional migration increase (-160991). Among all units – parts of Volga federal district – only in two of them (Samara oblast and the Republic of Tatarstan) general increase of migration was observed [15-16].

In 2011 migration flows from Central federal district in the first place moved to Northwestern and Volga federal districts (51.6%). The most of migrants arrived in Central federal district from these districts (approximately 46%). From Northwestern federal district migration flows moved in the first place to Central federal district (49.8%) and arrived from Central and Volga federal districts (51.5%).

4. Conclusion

On the basis of the detailed study of population's migration between territories, three model configurations of international and interregional migration flows movements could be distinguished:

1. model of counter migration characterized by more or less even exchange of migrants between territorial units.
2. model of outgoing migration flows when people move from some territorial units to the other ones;
3. model of incoming migration flows when people mainly move to one territorial unit from the other ones.

In international migrations of Volga federal district, the same as in the other ones, incoming migration flows predominate. Volga federal district is considered to be the second most important center of international migration in Russia. Migrants mainly arrive from CIS.

What concerns interregional migration flows, they are remarkably different from the international ones by the model configuration. In 2011 only three models of interregional exchange of migration flows occurred in Volga federal district: with Central, Northwestern and Southern federal districts outgoing migration flows predominated; with Ural and Siberian federal districts counter migration was dominant. Incoming migration flows were established with Far Eastern and North Caucasian federal districts.

On the basis of the conducted research the following conclusions were made:

1. Migration flows move between countries of the world and territorial units within national borders by three model configurations.
2. International migration flows are characterized by existence of uniform model configuration of migration flows movement: incoming or outgoing. Russia owing to a number of reasons is a country (incoming model configuration of migration flows) accepting migrants mainly from CIS.
3. Internal migration flows are distinguished by great variety. In Volga federal district three model configurations of migration flows movement exist that makes it possible to speak about broad connections of this region with other federal districts. At the same time high index of negative migration increase allows to speak about the existence of particular problems in socio-economic development of the region.

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