



The Age of Migration: International Population Movements in the Modern World. 4th ed. Revised and Updated. New York and London: The Guilford Press, 2009. Pgs, 369.
By Stephen Castles and Mark J. Miller

-- Reviewed by J. D. Payne, National Missionary, North American Mission Board and Associate Professor of Church Planting and Evangelism, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.

If you are looking for an excellent overview of international migrations in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, this is the book for you. Of course, any book on the topic of migration that makes it into its fourth edition is a “must read” on the topic. While this work is a well-researched book, it does not read like a textbook. The chapters do contain numerous tables and diagrams, and up-to-date statistical information. An extensive bibliography and good indices conclude this work.

The purpose of this book is “to provide an understanding of the emerging global dynamics of migration and of the consequences for migrants and non-migrants everywhere,” with the main emphasis on the “challenges for receiving societies” (16). According to Castles and Miller, “the central aim of this book is therefore to provide an introduction to the subject of international migration and the emergence of increasingly diverse societies, which will help readers to put more detailed accounts of specific migratory processes in context” (16).

The book is divided into thirteen chapters, with a Table of Contents that outlines each chapter. Following the Introduction, chapter two addresses the contemporary theories of migration. Chapter three examines how globalization and migration are related. Chapter four provides a brief overview of international migration prior to 1945.

Chapters five through seven address migration in various regions of the world. Chapter five focused on migration to Europe, North America, and Oceania since 1945. Chapter six addresses migration in the Asia-Pacific Region of the world. And migration in Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East and North Africa, and Latin America is the topic of chapter seven.

Chapter eight includes a discussion of the topics of refugees and asylum, employment, and human smuggling and trafficking. Migration and Security is the topic of chapter nine. Chapter ten focuses on the topic of migrants and minorities in the labor force. The eleventh chapter examines the topic of how immigrants are incorporated into a society. Chapter twelve addresses migrants and politics. And the book concludes with the author’s future perspectives on global migration.



While the secular world is filled with a multitude of books on the topic of migration, with many written from a sociological or anthropological perspective, works related to migration and the Great Commission are few in number. As a Kingdom Citizen, you should read this work with “Great Commission Eyes,” for it is filled with insights about the movement of peoples across the globe. Anyone concerned with missions in North America should add this book to their library. While Castles and Miller write from a secular perspective, any Kingdom Citizen will quickly understand that one of the facts in this book is that the Sovereign Lord has moved some of the world’s least-reached peoples to western nations where they can freely encounter the gospel.