

Title—Migration in World History
Author—Pat Manning
Year—2005

Categories: Migration, World History, Macro-History

Place: The World

Time: 40,000 BCE-Present

Argument Synopsis:

Pat Manning's *Migration in World History* attempts to provide a summary of all the great migrations in human history, reaching back as far as the early *Homo sapiens*. A central aspect of his argument is the organization of human communities around shared language. Manning argues that factors of language and migration have been underemphasized in interpreting human evolution, claiming that migration often spurred innovation. He argues that human cross-community migration has a unique character due to the existence of language. The power and influence of cross-community migration is underscored throughout his study. Through a world-historical analysis, Manning highlights a common set of migratory processes and patterns of behavior.

Manning stresses the ubiquity of innovation, arguing against the belief that all innovation came from the cultural centers. The existing historiography has overemphasized the importance of the centers, while neglecting the role that the relationship between the rural and urban areas had on the development of commercial networks, and various other innovations. Central to these innovations and developments was the process of human migration. He identifies various changes in the modes of migration in the period from 500 to 1400 CE, such as the *hajj* pilgrimage, which brought about innovations and change throughout the world. Manning argues that communications among regions were continually expanding during this period, in part aided by the evolving modes of migration. As cross-community migration occurred on an increasingly larger scale, Manning claims that no region in the world was entirely isolated.

Manning then underscores the expansion of migration that occurred between 1400 and 1700 for economic purposes: the period beginning with the mass transport/migration of slaves followed later by the movement of agricultural and industrial workers. This grand scale of cross-community migrations spurred the development of national and racial identities, in a response to increasing perceived difference. Following the pattern of ever-increasing modes of movement, the twentieth century featured a further expansion of human mobility. Manning highlights both waves of transnational labor migration and the increase in refugees and people fleeing caused by the two world wars as significant factors in this increase. The degrees of communication between regions in the present make it logical to think of the world as a single, global community.

Key Themes and Concepts:

- Four categories of human migration: home-community migration, colonization, whole-community migration, and cross-community migration
- Prevalence of cross-community migration negates the prevailing theory that the development of agriculture provided unquestioned dominance for the group that developed it, because these migrations would have spread the techniques too quickly for a single group to achieve such dominance
- Maritime migrations brought about population decline caused by the spread of disease