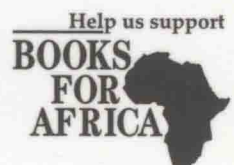


Columba Sara Evelyn (Ed.)

# Ethnic Chinese in Mongolia

**Irregular immigration, Russia, Gobi Desert,  
Outer Mongolia, Orkhon River, Tuul River,  
Khovd (city)**



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Fec Publishing

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# Contents

## Articles

Ethnic_Chinese_in_Mongolia	1
Irregular_immigration	3
Russia	22
Gobi_Desert	65
Outer_Mongolia	74
Orkhon_River	75
Tuul_River	77
Khovd_(city)	79
Qing_Dynasty	81
Dzungar_people	109

## References

Article Sources and Contributors	112
Image Sources, Licenses and Contributors	116

# Ethnic\_Chinese\_in\_Mongolia

Ethnic Chinese in Mongolia

Total population
40,000 (1987 est.) 2% of the Mongolian population
Regions with significant populations
No data
Languages
Chinese, Mongolian
Related ethnic groups
Overseas Chinese

**Ethnic Chinese in Mongolia** can be subdivided into three groups: Mongolian citizens of ethnic Chinese background, temporary residents with Chinese citizenship, and permanent residents with Chinese citizenship. Mongolia's 1956 census counted ethnic Chinese as 1.9% of the population; the United States government estimated their proportion to be 2% in 1987, or roughly 40,000 people.<sup>[1]</sup> The 2000 census showed 1,323 permanent residents of Chinese descent; this figure does not include naturalised citizens, temporary residents, nor illegal immigrants.<sup>[2]</sup> Illegal immigrants from China were estimated at 10,000 in the 1990s; some use Mongolia as a transit point into Russia.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Qing Dynasty

Historically, the Gobi served as a barrier to large-scale Chinese settlement in what was, before 1921, called Outer Mongolia; the unsuitability of most of the territory for agriculture made settlement less attractive. Some Chinese settlements in Mongolia were founded in 1725, when farmers moved there by decree of the Qing Dynasty to grow food for soldiers fighting the Dzungars. They were established in the Orkhon and Tuul river basins, and in 1762, in the Khovd region. After the fighting ended, the Qing closed off Mongolia to immigration<sup>[4]</sup> and occasionally evicted Chinese merchants.

Despite those restrictions, Chinese trade firms continually penetrated the country, concentrating mainly in Ikh Khüree, Uliastai, Khovd and Kyakhta. Their trade practices and the lifestyle of the Mongolian nobility lead to an ever-increasing indebtedness of the banners, nobles, and ordinary people, and Chinese businesses became a target of public discontent as early as Chingünjav's uprising in 1756. The spill-over from the Dungan rebellions of the 1870s into Mongolia also saw a number of Chinese businesses in Khovd and Uliastai destroyed. Many of the Chinese merchants lived in Mongolia only seasonally or until they had made enough money to return to China. Others took Mongolian wives, at least for the time of being in Mongolia.

In 1906, the Qing Dynasty began to implement policies aimed at a Han-Chinese colonization of Outer Mongolia along the lines of those in Inner Mongolia, but these policies never took full effect because the Dynasty collapsed and Mongolia declared independence in 1911. The total Han Chinese population at that time, mainly consisting of traders and artisans, but also of some colonists, can be estimated to have been at some ten thousand.

## Since 1911

Upon Mongolia's declaration of independence, many Chinese became victims of atrocities, particularly in Khovd. However, after 1912, Chinese businesses were able to continue their operations, including collection of debts, largely unimpeded. It was only the establishment of communism that meant an end to Chinese trade in Mongolia. Ever-increasing obstacles to commerce were created, and the closure of the border to China for imports in 1928 meant an end for Chinese enterprise in the country.

With the People's Republic of China development aid projects of the 1950s, another wave of Han Chinese entered Mongolia, beginning in 1955. By 1961, they had reached a number of 20,000. However, most of them left the country when relations between Mongolia and China soured in the early 1960s.<sup>[5]</sup> In the early 1980s, Ulan Bator was reported to have a small Chinese community, which published a Chinese-language newspaper and which looked to the Chinese embassy there for moral support. However, in 1983, Mongolia systematically began expelling some of the remaining 7,000 Chinese contract workers in Mongolia to China. They were accused of "preferring an idle, parasitic way of life" to honest labor. At the same time, ethnic Chinese who had become naturalized citizens were reported to be unaffected. Because the presence and the status of Chinese residents in Mongolia were politically sensitive subjects, Mongolian sources usually avoided mentioning the Chinese at all.<sup>[1]</sup>

After the introduction of democracy, another wave of Chinese immigrants has entered the country. Many of the migrants work in the construction sector, while others run small or medium enterprises. Negative sentiment against Chinese migrants remains; China is seen as a potential threat to Mongolia's security and cultural identity.<sup>[6]</sup> However, not all recent immigrants from China are ethnic Chinese; in particular, there is a number of Inner Mongolians.<sup>[7]</sup>

## See also

- Demographics of Mongolia
- Koreans in Mongolia

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### Notes

Ⓒ This article incorporates public domain material from websites or documents of the Library of Congress Country Studies<sup>[8]</sup>.

[1] LOC 1989, Ch. 2.3.2 ([http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?frd/cstdy:@field\(DOCID+mn0052\)\)](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?frd/cstdy:@field(DOCID+mn0052))))

[2] Batbayar 2006, p. 221

[3] Bedeski 1999, Mongolia--A Demographic Buffer?

[4] Batbayar 2006, p. 216

[5] Rupen 1973, p. 476

[6] "Anti-Chinese sentiment swelling in Mongolia" ([http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\\_m0WDP/is\\_2005\\_April\\_11/ai\\_n13601320](http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0WDP/is_2005_April_11/ai_n13601320)), *Asian Economic News*, 2005-04-11, , retrieved 2007-02-23

[7] Uradyn 1998, p. 188

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## Irregular\_immigration

**Illegal immigration** is the migration into a nation in violation of the immigration laws of that jurisdiction. Illegal immigration raises many political, economical and social issues and has become a source of major controversy in developed countries and the more successful developing countries.

In 2010, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) estimated that 25.5 to 32.1 million people (or 10%–15%) of the world's total 214 million international immigrants are illegal immigrants, though the IOM notes that it is difficult to make accurate estimates. Furthermore, most illegal immigrants arrive in a country legally, but overstay their authorized residence (i.e. overstaying a visa).<sup>[1]</sup><sup>[11]</sup> The Center for Immigration Studies (CIS) estimates that there were 11 million illegal immigrants in the US in 2008, while other estimates for the US range from 7 to 20 million.<sup>[2]</sup><sup>[3]</sup><sup>[4]</sup><sup>[5]</sup> If these estimates are correct, it could mean that approximately half of the total illegal immigrants in the world are in the US.

## Other terms

- illegal alien
- illegal immigrant
- clandestine workers<sup>[6]</sup>
- *sans papiers* / "without papers"<sup>[7]</sup>
- irregular immigrant/migrant/alien/worker/resident
- people "hiding/living/staying/working/ in the shadows"
- undocumented immigrant/migrant/alien/worker/resident
- unauthorized immigrant/migrant/alien/worker/resident
- paperless immigrant/migrant/alien/worker/resident
- immigrant "without immigration/legal status"
- out of status immigrant/migrant/alien/worker/resident
- boat people



## Causes

### Economics and labor markets

Illegal immigration occurs principally from countries with lower socio-economic circumstances to countries with higher socio-economic circumstances, where potential immigrants perceive greater economic opportunities and quality of life. This has typically been viewed as driving people from developing countries to developed countries but as economic conditions improve in a number of developing countries, illegal immigration to these more successful developing countries has also increased significantly.<sup>[8]</sup>

When potential illegal immigrants believe the probability and benefits of successfully migrating to the destination country are greater than the costs then illegal immigration will be an attractive option. The benefits taken into account not only include expected improvements in pay and living conditions but also include expectations in relation to potential future immigration amnesty<sup>[9]</sup>, where illegal immigration is given a path to naturalization or citizenship and also the rights to citizenship of future children are a consideration.<sup>[10]</sup> The costs may include restrictions on living as an illegal immigrant in the destination country, leaving family and ways of life behind, and the probability of being detained and resulting sanctions.<sup>[11]</sup> Proposed economic models of illegal immigration include varying considerations and degrees of complexity.

### Neoclassical model

The neoclassical economic model looks only at the probability of success in immigrating and finding employment, and the increase in real income an illegal immigrant can expect. This explanation would account for the economies of the two states, including how much of a "pull" the destination country has in terms of better-paying jobs and improvements in quality of life. It also describes a "push" that comes from negative conditions in the home country like lack of employment or economic mobility.

Neoclassical theory posits that factors such as geographic proximity, border enforcement, probability and consequences of arrest, ease of illegal employment, and chances of future legalization govern the likelihood of "successful" illegal immigration.<sup>[12]</sup> This model also assumes that illegal workers tend to add to, and compete with, the receiving nation's pool of unskilled laborers. Illegal workers in this model find employment by accepting lower wages than native-born workers, sometimes below the minimum wage and "off-the-books". Economist George Borjas supports aspects of this model, calculating that real wages of US workers without a high school degree declined by 9% from 1980–2000 due to competition from illegal immigrant workers.<sup>[13]</sup>

Large scale economic evidence supports neoclassical theory, as may be seen in the long-term correlation of relative wages/unemployment and illegal immigration from Mexico to the US. However, immigration scholars such as Gordon Hanson and Douglas Massey have criticized the model for being oversimplified and not accounting for contradictory evidence, such as low net illegal immigration from Mexico to the US before the 1980s despite significant economic disparity.<sup>[12]</sup> Numerous refinements have been suggested to account for other factors, as seen below.

### Trade liberalization

In recent years, developing states are pursuing the benefits of globalization by joining decline to **liberalize trade**. But rapid opening of domestic markets may lead to displacement of large numbers of agricultural or unskilled workers, who are more likely to seek employment and a higher quality of life by illegal emigration. This is a frequently cited argument to explain how the North American Free Trade Association may have impoverished Mexican farmers who were unable to compete with the higher productivity of US subsidized agriculture, especially for corn. NAFTA may have also unexpectedly raised educational requirements for industrial jobs in Mexico, since the new *maquiladoras* produced export products requiring skills and education that many unskilled workers did not have.<sup>[14]</sup>

### Structural demand in developed states

Douglas Massey argues that a bifurcating labor market in developed nations creates a **structural demand** for unskilled immigrant labor to fill undesirable jobs that native-born citizens do not seek, *regardless of wages*.<sup>[15]</sup> He postulates that postindustrial economies have a widening gap between well-paying, white-collar jobs that require ever higher levels of education ("human capital"), for which native-born citizens and legal immigrants can qualify, and bottom-tier jobs that are stigmatized and require no education. These "underclass" jobs include harvesting crops, unskilled labor in landscaping and construction, house-cleaning, and maid and busboy work in hotels and restaurants, all of which have a disproportionate number of illegal workers.

Since the decline of middle-class blue-collar jobs in manufacturing and industry, younger native-born generations have acquired higher education. The majority of new blue-collar jobs qualify as Massey's "underclass" work, and suffer from unreliability, subservient roles, and, critically, a lack of potential for advancement. Entry-level white-collar and service jobs offer advancement opportunities for native-born and legal immigrant workers.

In a developed country like the US, only 12% of the labor force has less than a high school education. Illegal immigrants have much lower levels of education (about 70% of illegal workers in the US from Mexico lack a high school degree).<sup>[12]</sup> Even "underclass" jobs have much higher relative wages than those in home countries. Since illegal immigrants often anticipate working only temporarily in the destination country, the lack of opportunity for advancement is less of a problem. Evidence for this can be seen in one Pew Hispanic Center poll of over 3,000 illegal immigrants from Mexico in the US, which found that 79% would voluntarily join a temporary worker program that allowed them to work legally for several years but then required them to leave.<sup>[16]</sup>

The structural demand theory posits that willingness to work undesirable jobs is what gives illegal immigrants their employment. (ref name="Massey") Evidence for this may be seen in the average wages of illegal day laborers in California, between \$10 and \$12 per hour in a 2005 study, was higher than many entry-level white collar work or service jobs.<sup>[17]</sup>

Structural demand theory argues that cases like this show that there is no direct competition between unskilled illegal immigrants and native-born workers. This is the concept that illegal immigrants "take jobs that no one else wants". Massey argues that this has certain implications for policy, as it may refute claims that illegal immigrants are "lowering wages" or stealing jobs from native-born workers.<sup>[15]</sup>

### Poverty

While economic models do look at relative wealth and income between home and destination countries, they do not necessarily imply that illegal migrants are always impoverished by standards of the home country. The poorest classes in a developing country may lack the resources needed to mount an attempt to cross illegally, or the connections to friends or family already in the destination country. Studies from the Pew Hispanic Center have shown that the education and wage levels of illegal Mexican immigrants in the US are around the median for Mexico, and that having family who have emigrated or being from a community with many emigrants is a much better predictor of one's choice to emigrate.<sup>[16]</sup>

Other examples do show that increases in poverty, especially when associated with immediate crises, can increase the likelihood of illegal migration. The 1994 economic crisis in Mexico, subsequent to the start of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was associated with widespread poverty and a lower valuation for the peso relative to the dollar.<sup>[14]</sup> It also marked the start of a massive swell in Mexican emigration, in which net illegal migration to the US increased every year from the mid-1990s until the mid 2000s.

There are also examples where natural disasters and overpopulation can amplify poverty-driven migration flows.<sup>[18]</sup>

## Overpopulation

Population growth that exceeds the carrying capacity of an area or environment results in overpopulation.<sup>[19]</sup> Spikes in human population can cause problems such as pollution, water crisis,<sup>[20] [21]</sup> and poverty.<sup>[22] [23]</sup> World population has grown from 1.6 billion in 1900 to an estimated 7 billion today. In Mexico alone, population has grown from 13.6 million in 1900 to 107 million in 2007.<sup>[24]</sup> Virginia Abernethy notes that immigration is a road that provides a "relief valve" to over population that stops a population from addressing the consequences of its over population and that exports this over population to another location or country.<sup>[25]</sup>

In 2000, the United Nations estimated that the world's population was growing at the rate of 1.14% (or about 75 million people) per year. According to data from the CIA's 2005–2006 World Factbooks, the world human population currently increases by 203,800 every day.<sup>[26]</sup> The United States Census Bureau issued a revised forecast for world population that increased its projection for the year 2050 to above 9.4 billion people, up from 9.1 billion people. We are adding a billion more every 12 years. Almost all growth will take place in the less developed regions.<sup>[27]</sup>

## Family reunification

Some illegal immigrants seek to live with loved ones, such as a spouse or other family members.<sup>[28] [29] [30]</sup> Family reunification visas may be applied for by legal residents or naturalized citizens to bring their family members into a destination state legally, but these visas may be limited in number and subject to yearly quotas. This may force their family members to enter illegally to reunify. From studying Mexican migration patterns, Douglas Massey finds that the likelihood of a Mexican national to emigrate illegally to the US increases dramatically if they have one or more family members already residing in the United States, legally or illegally.<sup>[31]</sup>

Due to inability to marry, same-sex couples in which one member has an expiring visa may face an "unpalatable choice between leaving and living with the person they love in violation of U.S. immigration laws".<sup>[31]</sup>

## Wars and asylum

Unauthorized immigration may be prompted by the desire to escape civil war or repression in the country of origin. Non-economic push factors include persecution (religious and otherwise), frequent abuse, bullying, oppression, and genocide, and risks to civilians during war. Political motives traditionally motivate refugee flows – to escape dictatorship for instance.

The status of "unauthorized immigrant" may coincide with or be replaced by the status of "asylum seeker" for emigrants who have escaped a war or repression and have unlawfully crossed into another state. If they are recognized as "legitimate" asylees by the destination state, they will then gain status. However, there may be numerous potential asylees in a destination state who are unwilling to apply or have been denied asylum status, and hence are categorized as "unauthorized immigrants" and may be subject to punishment or deportation. However, Article 31 of the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees prohibits the Contracting States from imposing penalties on refugees for their illegal enter or presence, who come directly from a territory where their life or freedom are threatened.<sup>[32]</sup>

There are numerous cases of mass emigration from poor or war-stricken states. These include examples from Africa<sup>[33] [34]</sup>, Colombia, and El Salvador.

After decades of armed conflict, roughly one of every 10 Colombians now lives abroad.<sup>[35]</sup> For example, Colombians emigrating to Spain have "grown exponentially, from a little over 7,000 in 1993 to more than 80,000 in 2002 and 244,000 in 2003."<sup>[36]</sup> Also, figures from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security indicate that Colombia is the fourth-leading source country of unauthorized immigration to the United States. According to its estimates, the number of unauthorized Colombian residents in the United States almost tripled from 51,000 in 1990 to 141,000 in 2000.<sup>[37]</sup> According to the US Census Bureau, the number of authorized Colombian immigrants in the United States

in 2000 was 801,363.<sup>[38]</sup> Census data are important because, as the Department of Homeland Security states, [U.S.] "census data are more complete and reliable [than INS's data] because of the national scope of the data collection, the vastly larger data sample, and the extensive preparation and follow-up activities involved in conducting the decennial census."<sup>[39]</sup>

El Salvador is another country which experienced substantial emigration as a result of civil war and repression. The largest per-capita source of immigrants to the United States comes from El Salvador. Up to a third of the world's Salvadoran-born population lives outside the country, mostly in the United States.<sup>[40]</sup>

## Dangers

Unauthorized immigrants may expose themselves to dangers while engaged in illegal entry into another country. Aside from the possibility that they may be intercepted and deported, some considerably more dangerous outcomes have been known to result from their activity. As an example, unauthorized immigrants may be trafficked for exploitation including sexual exploitation.

## Slavery

After the end of the legal international slave trade by the European nations and the United States in the early 19th century, the illegal importation of slaves has continued, albeit at much reduced levels. Although not as common as in Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America, some women are undoubtedly smuggled into the United States and Canada.<sup>[41]</sup>

People have been kidnapped or tricked into slavery to work as laborers, for example in factories. Those trafficked in this manner often face additional barriers to escaping slavery, since their status as illegal immigrants makes it difficult for them to gain access to help or services. For example Burmese women trafficked into Thailand and forced to work in factories or as prostitutes may not speak the language and may be vulnerable to abuse by police due to their illegal immigrant status.<sup>[42]</sup>

## Prostitution

Some people forced into sexual slavery face challenges of charges of illegal immigration.<sup>[43]</sup>

Since the fall of the Iron Curtain, Western Europe is being confronted with a serious problem related to the sexual exploitation of illegal immigrants (especially from Eastern Europe), for the purpose of prostitution.<sup>[44] [45]</sup>

## Death

Each year there are several hundred illegal Immigrant deaths along the U.S.-Mexico border.<sup>[46]</sup> Death by exposure occurs in the deserts of Southwestern United States during the hot summer season.<sup>[47]</sup>

Methods

Border crossing

Immigrants from nations that do not have automatic visa agreements, or who would not otherwise qualify for a visa, often cross the borders illegally in some areas like the United States–Mexico border, the Mona Channel between the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico, the Strait of Gibraltar, Fuerteventura, and the Strait of Otranto. Because these methods are illegal, they are often dangerous. Would-be immigrants have been known to suffocate in shipping containers,<sup>[48]</sup> boxcars,<sup>[49]</sup> and trucks [50], sink in shipwrecks caused by unseaworthy vessels [51], die of dehydration [52] or exposure during long walks without water. An official estimate puts the number of people who died in illegal crossings across the U.S.-Mexican border between 1998 and 2004 at 1,954 (see immigrant deaths along the U.S.-Mexico border).

Human smuggling is the practice of intermediaries aiding illegal immigrants in crossing over international borders in financial gain, often in large groups. Human smuggling differs from, but is sometimes associated with, human trafficking. A human smuggler will facilitate illegal entry into a country for a fee, but on arrival at their destination, the smuggled person is usually free. Trafficking involves a process of using physical force, fraud, or deception to obtain and transport people.

Types of notorious human smugglers include Snakehead gangs present in mainland China (especially in Fujian) that smuggle laborers into Pacific Rim nations (making Chinatowns frequent centers of illegal immigration) [53] and "coyotes", who smuggle illegal immigrants to the Southwestern United States and have been known to abuse or even kill their passengers. [54] Sometimes immigrants are abandoned by their human traffickers if there are difficulties, often dying in the process. Others may be victims of intentional killing.

Overstaying a visa

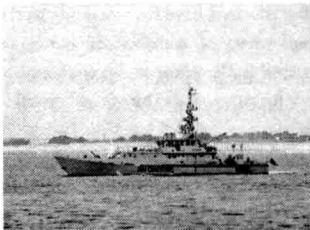
Most illegal immigrants are migrants who originally arrive in a country lawfully but overstay their authorized residence (overstaying a visa).<sup>[1]</sup> <sup>[55]</sup> <sup>[56]</sup> For example, most of the estimated 200,000 illegal immigrants in Canada (perhaps as high as 500,000) are refugee claimants whose refugee applications were rejected but who have not yet been expelled from the country.<sup>[57]</sup>

A related way of becoming an unauthorized immigrant is through bureaucratic means. For example, persons can be allowed to remain in a country or be protected from expulsion because they need special pension for a medical condition, deep love for a native, or even to avoid being tried for a crime in their native country, without being able to regularize their situation and obtain a work and/or residency permit, let alone naturalization. Hence, categories of people being neither "unauthorized" immigrants nor local citizens are created, living in a judicial "no man's land".

Another example is formed by children of foreigners born in countries observing *jus soli* ("right of territory"), such as was the case in France until 1994 and in Ireland until 2005.<sup>[58]</sup> In these countries, it was possible to obtain French or Irish nationality (respectively) solely by being born in France before 1994 or in Ireland before 2005<sup>[58]</sup> (respectively). At present, a French born child of foreign parents does not automatically obtain French nationality until residency duration conditions are met. Since 1 January 2005, a child born in Ireland does not automatically



Border control at sea by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection



HMC Vigilant, one of several customs cutters of the UKBA, capable of speeds up to 26 knots departing Portsmouth Naval Base.

acquire Irish nationality unless certain conditions are met.<sup>[58]</sup>

## Legal and political status

*See also: Illegal immigration to the United States, Immigration to the United States, Australian immigration, Immigration to the United Kingdom, Immigration to Canada, Illegal immigration to Pakistan, Illegal immigrants in Malaysia, Immigration to Chile, Hazleton, Pennsylvania.*

Many countries have had or currently have laws restricting immigration for economic or nationalistic political reasons. United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373 concerning counter-terrorism, enacted in October 2001, requested of UN member states to restrict immigration laws. Whether a person is permitted to stay in a country legally may be decided by quotas or point systems or may be based on considerations such as family ties (marriage, elderly mother, etc.). Exceptions relative to political refugees or to sick people are also common. Immigrants who do not participate in these legal proceedings or who are denied permission under them and still enter or stay in the country are illegal immigrants, as well as people born on national territory (henceforth not "immigrants") but who have not obtained nationality of their birthplace and have no legal title of residency.<sup>[59]</sup>

Most countries have laws requiring workers to have proper documentation, often intended to prevent or minimize the employment of unauthorized immigrants. However the penalties against employers are often small and the acceptable identification requirements vague and ill-defined as well as being seldom checked or enforced, making it easy for employers to hire unauthorized labor. Unauthorized immigrants are especially popular with many employers because they can pay less than the legal minimum wage or have unsafe working conditions, secure in the knowledge that few unauthorized workers will report the abuse to the authorities. Often the minimum wages in one country can be several times the prevailing wage in the unauthorized immigrant's country, making even these jobs attractive to the unauthorized worker.

In response to the outcry following popular knowledge of the Holocaust, the newly-established United Nations held an international conference on refugees, where it was decided that refugees (legally defined to be people who are persecuted in their original country and then enter another country seeking safety) should be exempted from immigration laws.<sup>[60]</sup> It is, however, up to the countries involved to decide if a particular immigrant is a refugee or not, and hence whether they are subject to the immigration controls.

The right to freedom of movement of an individual within national borders is often contained within the constitution or in a country's human rights legislation but these rights are restricted to citizens and exclude all others. Some argue that the freedom of movement both within and between countries is a basic human right and that nationalism and immigration policies of state governments violate this human right that those same governments recognize within their own borders. According to the article 13 on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, fundamental human rights are violated when citizens are forbidden to leave their country. However, immigrants are not assured the right to enter a country, that right is given at the host country's discretion.<sup>[citation]</sup>

Since illegal immigrants without proper legal status have no valid identification documents such as identity cards, they may have reduced or no access to public health systems, proper housing, education and banks. This lack of access may result in the creation or expansion of illegal underground forgery to provide this documentation.<sup>[61]</sup>

When the authorities are overwhelmed in their efforts to stop "illegal" immigration, they have historically provided amnesty. Amnesties waive the "subject to deportation" clause associated with illegal aliens.

## By country or region

### Angola

In 2007 around 44,000 Congolese were forced to leave Angola.<sup>[62]</sup> Since 2004, more than 400,000 illegal immigrants, almost all from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, have been expelled from Angola.<sup>[63] [64]</sup>

### Argentina

Undocumented immigrants were estimated at 50,000 to 2,500,000 in the year 2001.<sup>[65]</sup>

### Australia

Official government sources put the number of visa overstayers in Australia at approximately 50,000. This has been the official number of illegal immigrants for about 25 years and is considered to be low. Other sources have placed it at up to 100,000, but no detailed study has been completed to quantify this number, which could be significantly higher.

### Bhutan

Immigration in Bhutan by Nepalese settlers (Lhotshampa) began slowly towards the end of the 19th century. The government passed the Bhutanese Citizenship Act 1985 to clarify and try to enforce the Bhutanese Citizenship Act 1958 to control the flood of illegal immigration. Those individuals who could not provide proof of residency prior to 1958 were adjudged to be illegal immigrants. In 1991 and 1992, Bhutan expelled roughly 139,110 ethnic Nepalīs, most of whom have been living in seven refugee camps in eastern Nepal ever since. The United States has offered to resettle 60,000 of the 107,000 Bhutanese refugees of Nepalese origin now living in U.N. refugee camps in Nepal. The Bhutanese government, even today, has not been able to sort the problem of giving citizenship to those people who are married to Bhutanese, even though they have been in the country for 40 years.<sup>[66]</sup>

### Brazil

Brazil has long been part of international migration routes. In 2009, the government estimated the number of undocumented immigrants at about 200,000 people; a Catholic charity working with immigrants said there were 600,000 unauthorized immigrants (75,000 of which from Bolivia). That same year, the Brazilian Parliament approved an amnesty, opening a six-month window for all foreigners to seek legalization irrespective of their previous standing before the law. Brazil had last legalized all immigrants in 1998; bilateral deals, one of which promoted the legalization of all reciprocal immigrants with Bolivia to date, signed in 2005, are also common.<sup>[67]</sup>



Aerial view of São Paulo, where most illegal immigrants in Brazil live.

Unauthorized immigrants in Brazil enjoy the same legal privileges as native Brazilians regarding access to social services such as public education and the Brazilian public healthcare system.<sup>[67]</sup> Most unauthorized immigrants in Brazil come from Bolivia, Paraguay, Peru, China (mainly from Fujian), North Korea and sub-Saharan Africa. A Federal Police operation investigated Chinese immigrants who traveled through six countries before arriving in São Paulo to work under substandard conditions in the textile industry.<sup>[68]</sup>

After signing the 2009 amnesty bill into law, President Lula said, in a speech, that "repression and intolerance against immigrants will not solve the problems caused by the economic crisis", thereby also harshly criticizing the "policy of discrimination and prejudice" against immigrants in developed nations.

An October 2009 piece from O Globo, quoting a UNDP study, estimates the number of unauthorized immigrants at 0.7 million,<sup>[69]</sup> and points out to a recent wave of xenophobia among the general populace.<sup>[70]</sup>

## Canada

There is no credible information available on unauthorized immigration in Canada. Estimates range between 35,000 and 120,000 unauthorized immigrants in Canada.<sup>[71]</sup> James Bissett, a former head of the Canadian Immigration Service, has suggested that the lack of any credible refugee screening process, combined with a high likelihood of ignoring any deportation orders, has resulted in tens of thousands of outstanding warrants for the arrest of rejected refugee claimants, with little attempt at enforcement.<sup>[72]</sup> Refugee claimants in Canada do not have to attempt re-entry to learn the status of their claim. A 2008 report by the Auditor General Sheila Fraser stated that Canada has lost track of as many as 41,000 illegal immigrants.<sup>[73]</sup><sup>[74]</sup> This number was predicted to increase drastically with the expiration of temporary employer work permits issued in 2007 and 2008, which were not renewed in many cases because of the shortage of work due to the recession.<sup>[75]</sup>

## Chile

Chile has recently become a new pole of attraction for unauthorized immigrants, mostly from neighboring Peru and Bolivia but also Ecuador, Paraguay, Colombia and, Haiti. According to the 2002 national census, Chile's foreign-born foreign population has increased by 75% since 1992.<sup>[76]</sup>

## People's Republic of China

People's Republic of China is building a security barrier along its border with North Korea to prevent the defectors or refugees from North Korea.<sup>[77]</sup> Also, many immigrants from Mongolia have tried to make it to China. There might be as many as 100,000 Africans in Guangzhou, mostly illegal overstayers.<sup>[78]</sup> To encourage people to report foreigners living illegally in China, the police is giving a 100 yuan reward to whistleblowers whose information successfully leads to an expulsion.<sup>[79]</sup>

## Dominican Republic

Dominican Republic, an island nation shared with Haiti, has many illegal immigrants coming from Haiti. Over a million illegal Haitian immigrants on Dominican soil (over 10% of the total population). The loyalty of foreign nationals and illegals can be questionable, especially when they do not consider the adopted country as "their home." (See statement in "Victims" section)

## European Union

The European Union is developing a common system for immigration and asylum and a single external border control strategy.

Many reports from local Greek islands, near the Turkish coast indicate that Turks equip migrants with boats and knives and tell them to cut the boat when they reach Greek waters. Greek authorities are then forced to deal with the influx of thousands of illegal immigrants under EU rules. Greek police are unable to work with their counterparts in Turkey because the Turkish army is responsible for their border.<sup>[80]</sup> Recently, 14 illegal migrants drowned because of Turkish traffickers who sent them into the sea, telling them to slice the dinghies once they reach Greek waters.<sup>[81]</sup> The Turkish newspaper *Hürriyet* published stories once in July 2004 and a second time in May 2006 that Hellenic Coast Guard ships were caught on film cruising as near as a few hundred meters off the Turkish coast and abandoning clandestine immigrants to the sea.



This practice allegedly resulted in the drowning of six people between Chios and Karaburun Peninsula on 26 September 2006 while three others disappeared and 31 were saved by Turkish gendarmes and fishermen.<sup>[82]</sup> However, there are also numerous non-Turkish claims and testimonies that Turkish authorities and/or citizens lead immigrants through the sea, often resulting to the abandonment and sometimes drowning of said immigrants.

A tough new EU immigration law detaining illegal immigrants for up to 18 months before deportation has triggered outrage across Latin America, with Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez threatening to cut off oil exports to Europe.<sup>[83] [84]</sup>

### Greece

After the opening of the Albanian borders in 1991, a huge influx of Albanian economic migrants crossed illegally into Greece in order to find work. They are currently estimated at about 700,000, but an accurate calculation is very difficult because of the large percentage of illegal immigrants.<sup>[85] [86]</sup>

### United Kingdom

There are between 550,000 and 950,000 illegal immigrants in the United Kingdom, with a figure of 750,000 as the most likely number.<sup>[87]</sup> The United Kingdom is a difficult country to reach as it is mostly located on one island and part of another, but traffickers in Calais, France have tried to smuggle illegal immigrants into the UK. Many of the illegal immigrants come from Africa and Asia. There are also many from Eastern Europe and Latin America who are in the UK illegally, having overstayed their visas.<sup>[88] [89]</sup>

### France

In France, helping an unauthorized immigrant (providing shelter, for example) is prohibited by a law passed on December 27, 1994.<sup>[90]</sup> The law was heavily criticized by non-governmental organizations such as Cimade and GISTI, left-wing political parties such as the Greens and the French Communist Party, and trade-unions such as the magistrates' *Syndicat de la magistrature*.

The linguistic differentiations between anglophone and francophone rhetoric is important when considering the topic of French illegal immigration. In French, the term "irrégulière" is used (literally "irregular"), whereas in English, the term more often used is "illegal." Often, instead of referring to someone's irregular immigrant status, the colloquial term used is "sans papiers" (literally "without papers"), referring to the fact that irregular immigrants do not possess papers from the French government allowing them to stay in France.<sup>[91] [92]</sup>

It is important to distinguish illegal immigrants from other forms of immigrants and residents in France. Some immigrants to France are asylum-seekers, and once granted asylum, they are no longer illegal/irregular, though they are immigrants. There are also children who are born to immigrants in France, who are not immigrants themselves, but they are still considered foreigners by the French national government. One does not merely need to be a foreign immigrant in order to be a foreigner in France.<sup>[93]</sup>

French citizenship is based in the idea of political unity; therefore, French citizenship may be more accessible than other EU countries, such as Germany. However, there is also the strong feeling among French citizens that those non-native people who gain French citizenship should also conform to the cultural aspects of French life.<sup>[94]</sup>

French law prohibits anyone from assisting or trying to assist "the entry, movement, or irregular stay of a foreigner in France." One found guilty of these acts can be imprisoned for up to five years and fined €30,000. There are also quotas for the number of arrests that should be made in such cases: 5,000 arrests for 2009 and 5,500 arrests for 2011.<sup>[95]</sup>

France has an Immigration Ministry (L'immigration, l'intégration, l'asile et le développement solidaire) which begun functioning in 2007 under President Sarkozy. The goal of these quotas and laws put forth by the government is to combat smugglers who profit financially from moving immigrants into, through, and out of France, according to the Immigration Minister, Eric Besson.<sup>[96] [97]</sup>