


ROOTS & ROUTES

Vol 11, No. 10, October 2022



**4TH INTERNATIONAL
E-CONFERENCE**

**MIGRATION, GOVERNANCE, AND COVID-19:
PERSPECTIVES, POLICIES, OPPORTUNITIES,
AND CHALLENGES**

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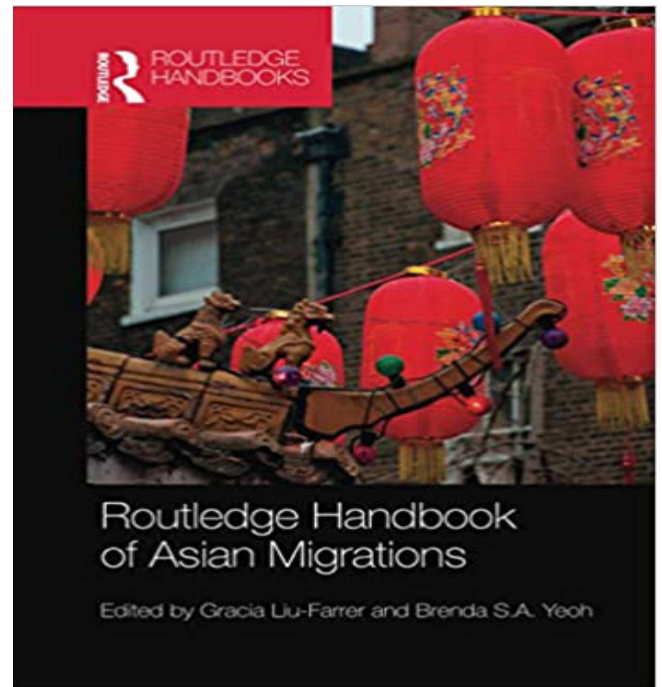
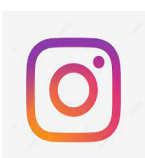


Photo Credit: <https://www.amazon.in/Routledge-Handbook-Migrations-Gracia-Liu-Farrer/dp/0367580977>

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Contents

Reports
Book Review

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Dear Readers,

Greetings!

Migration is not limited to the movement of people. But it is also related to the exchange of culture, knowledge, and ideas. Migrants can benefit from the host region or contribute to the development of the region. Nonetheless, if the movement of the people takes place forcibly or under the influence of war, it increases the vulnerability of the people to trafficking and smuggling. People forced to flee are more likely to be cut off from their homeland's network and support. They generally get isolated and hardly contribute to the development of the region or get any benefit from it. When they are trafficked, they frequently lose their identity and freedom.

The newsletter includes two reports published on The Migration News, a news portal of GRFDT. The report covers vital issues such as human trafficking, migration, and the Russia-Ukraine war. This issue begins with a report by Benedict Kuol, examining common human trafficking routes in Africa. The report noted that human trafficking is a key global topic and is addressed in various human rights and migration charters. The report also briefly mentions the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) and how it is making an attempt to prevent human trafficking. The next report by Benedict Kuol discusses war and displacement. The report makes an attempt to explain the war between Russia and Ukraine through chronological events. The report highlighted the issue of mass displacement under the impact of war.

The current issue also carries a book review titled "Routledge Handbook of Asian Migrants.," written by Laila Tasmia.

We invite readers to participate and share their experiences with us to have a meaningful engagement. You can communicate with us through email at editorinchief@grfdt.com. We wish you happy reading and look forward to your suggestions and comments.

Happy Reading!

Feroz Khan

COMMON HUMAN TRAFFICKING ROUTES IN AFRICA AND HOW TO COUNTER AND APPREHEND SMUGGLERS



Key Routes

Human trafficking is a key global topic and is addressed in various human rights and migration charters. The Global Compact for Migration addresses this under the 10th recommendation, Prevent and combat trafficking in persons in the context of international migration. It is a concern to nearly all major world powers, especially the European Union member states and the United States of America. It is estimated to gross one hundred and fifty billion dollars yearly and is expected to grow further. (Niethammer, 2022).

BBC Eye Africa (BBC, 2021) highlights the challenges that force many to move from Africa and seek better lives in Asia or Europe. The protagonist of the documentary highlights drought, unemployment, lack of knowledge of regular pathways, and unemployment as a few of the major factors that force many to migrate. Routes are dangerous and filled with challenges such as the propensity of being robbed and killed, walking in fatigue, or being arrested and repatriated. Smuggling cartels, with international outreach, are also active in the migration routes.

Various key routes are in existence all across Africa

and are controlled by different traditional and modern cartels. They include; the northern route (central Mediterranean route), which has two alternative routes. The first; Djibouti-Ethiopia-Sudan-Libya, then Italy. Second, Libya-Tunis-Madrid. Sinai route, which has three routes, the first Somali-Ethiopia-Sudan-Egypt-Asia. Second; Somali-Ethiopia-Djibouti-Sanaa. The last; is South Sudan-Khartoum-Port Sudan-Asia. The Eastern Route covers Somali-Yemen-Saudi Arabia as well as Ethiopia-Djibouti-Yemen-Saudi Arabia (Marchand, 2017).

The northern African and East African routes are the most common and controversial, with a focus on unorthodox counter-insurgency. As we will see, a large number of immigrants are due to conflict in central and eastern Africa. Currently we have war in South Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo and Sudan. Thus, we have a large number of refugees compared to other regions. There exists the southern route through Nairobi- Dar Salam- Lusaka- Harare-Johannesburg. The western route through Nigeria-Nigeria-Algeria and Nigeria-Niger-Libya. Insurgents in Mozambique threaten an exodus through the southern route.

Past Counter insurgencies

Various world powers have undertaken steps to counter the mass exodus of individuals to their homelands on various continents through the human trafficking routes. One African country has stood out as a transit and gateway through the northern route, Sudan. Sudanese cities have been used as a resting point for smuggled refugees or normal citizens. Smugglers through Sudan link with Libya, which is currently engulfed in a civil war like Sudan. Unlike Sudan, the state has a strong grip, and the uprisings are in isolated pockets in the country like Darfur.

The European Union, in a bid to secure the West, decided to undertake a covert operation to secure the northern and western smuggling routes. (Archive, 2019) implicates the Rapid Security Forces of Sudan of being utilized by Europe as guardians of the Sahel and northern route. Basically, they were utilized to detain immigrants unwillingly and torture them against the human rights principles and safe and orderly detention of immigrants. In an embarrassing proclamation, the head of the unit asked for millions of dollars from the west and was subsequently paid.

In the western route, Tuareg rebels and other militias were paid to prevent migrants from overflowing into Europe. Despite the attempts all proved to be unreliable, other strategies have been local development projects in collaboration with various state governments. The International Monetary Fund, European Union, and international organizations such as Oxfam are leading the international counter-insurgency against human trafficking and smuggling. The African tale of corruption, bad leadership, and conflict disrupt local development and at times leads to further desperation.

In collaboration, United Nations and Interpol have led a counter-insurgency by arresting smugglers, but their attempts have been reduced by factors such as conflict. A good example of this is the western migration route, which passes through Niger which has pockets of the country under militias. The smugglers find an easy route through their turfs. Militias and authorities are corrupt and go with the highest bidder or still collect a smuggling toll. All in all, human resilience and desperation are stronger than all weapons.

The Future of Counter Insurgency

In the words of General Douglas, 'Disaster is Inevitable.' Thus, we must brace ourselves for future conflicts or insurgencies, as well as new agents of misery like Boko Haram and ISIL in West Africa. The state and the international community,

while combatting terrorists or seeking peace, must accept refugees through a multilateral framework. Neighboring countries should be consulted and made regional allies. Each country must be allotted refugees in a fair, timely, and considerate manner for the sake of the welfare of the population. Upon peace or defeat of an insurgency, repatriation must be done for development.

The human trafficking routes must be strictly monitored. Refugees must be channeled to alternative destinations instead of being concentrated in one country. Organizations such as the International Organization for Migration must have staff in towns along the migratory routes. Education of regular pathways must be emphasized and imparted amongst the migrants, especially the vulnerable. Avoiding deaths and countering the smuggling culture must use alternative means rather than guns.

Countries of origins must undertake viable projects as well as educate on the value of the local economy. For an African from a disadvantaged war-ravaged background, Europe sure sounds like paradise rather than resettling. Thus, I must be able to value my land and see its potential rather than risk my life on an irregular pathway to Europe. Scholarships, work opportunities, and local processing of asylum requests shall encourage regular pathways. Campaigning is of key importance to encourage regular pathways and save victims.

The Rapid Support Forces and militia experiment is a violation of human rights. Local law enforcement should be strengthened to collaborate with international partners such as Interpol and the European Union for the effective arrest of smugglers. Take the example of the northern route; international special forces can easily capture smugglers on the route and monitor them, and evidence can lead to a cartel's arrest. Modern equipment and surveillance teams are key to saving lives and prosecuting the one hundred and fifty million members in this vile

industry. The game starts from the origin before the destination.

Benedict Kuol is a GRDFT Global Compact Migration graduate as well as a Strathmore University Finance major. He is a passionate writer and researcher with a vision to be the best GRDFT Research Intern.



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War and Displacement: The Case of Ukraine



marked the end of the Cold War with the US and reinforced the free-market ideology. (BBC News, 2019).

Beginning with the collapse of the Berlin wall, many Soviet Union states declared independence, and just like the fall of the Ottoman empire, it led to the redrawing of traditional geographical borders. Like the Baltic states, there was a war between many member states as each wanted strategic territory, and ethnic groups based in states demanded autonomy. The Chechnyan war is a good example where an uprising occurred as the indigenous Chechnyan Muslims demanded absolute independence. Russia was able to retain the territory, but peace has not been attained yet.

Ukraine was able to undergo a smooth transition from the Soviet Union and embarked on development like other former Soviet states. Its ties with Russia were strong in many aspects, with many Ukrainians opting for the Russian identity. Russia recovering from the collapse of the Soviet Union and adapting to capitalism, still held its world leader role due to its military might accumulated over the decades. The economies of the countries, still reliant on many aspects, gradually grew almost at the same rate until interference by the European Union (VOX, 2015).

Centuries of coexistence since the era of Catherine the Great of Prussia seemed threatened in the Russian eye due to the growing proximity between Ukraine and the West. A panicked Russian intelligence bureau did all it could to back the Pro-Russian president in Ukraine, but all was in vain. Feeling the pressure on their state from their 'traditional' enemies, the European Union and Northern Trade Alliance Trade Organization, the Russians launched an invasion along its borders. Attacks on Georgia were under the

Origins of the Conflict

The current ongoing Russian-Ukrainian war results from chronological events in the former Soviet Union's and current Russia's timeline. The Soviet Union is a former block of countries that covered Eastern Europe and was unified with the communist ideology. Unlike other European countries that emphasized a free consumer market, they opted for a government-regulated consumer model on the basis of equality. The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991

pretext of guarding the motherland, and Ukraine next door was up for the taking.

Invasion and its Consequences

Ethnic Russians in Eastern Ukraine started demanding autonomy which paralleled the protests against the national leadership intending to join North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union. Donbas region has two provinces, Donetsk and Luhansk, which saw mass protests on the issue. A referendum led to the region declaring autonomy which led to a confrontation between Russian separatists and the Ukrainian state. The conflict gradually escalated, with each side attacking the other despite negotiation attempts, complemented by Russia and its support for the separatists.

The war was waged covertly for almost three years until Russia, paranoid from the Ukrainian negotiations with Europe and North Atlantic Treaty Organization, decided to invade. On 24th February 2022, Russian troops marched into Ukraine and captured town by town in their move towards Kyiv. In my opinion, both sides are to blame, along with the United Nations and other world powers. Russia's concern had to be addressed, yet they were left to continue a covert war without a peacekeeping intermediary, hence the boost to a military approach rather than a negotiated settlement.

Mass displacement has been the first consequence, with a majority of victims originating from Donbas, where separatists demanded autonomy. United Nations High Commission estimates that Ukrainian crisis has resulted in the highest internal displacement in the entire world. An analysis of the political attitude saw that majority of the displaced in the Donbas region opted to seek refuge in Russia. The same was the opposite for Crimeans who opted to seek refuge in mainland Ukraine. Many saw the opportunity to start living abroad.

The February 2022 invasion has seen dramatic events only comparable to the invasion of Kabul in

Afghanistan by the Taliban in recent history. Events caught the world by surprise in a scenario that was so far perceived as having an improbable probability of occurring, and thus, the refugee crisis is of epic dimensions. The neutral stance and lack of an international peacekeeping force on the ground make the scenario even worse. Unlike African conflicts where the United Nations responded and set up camps for the internally displaced, this was not done in Crimea or Ukraine. The second invasion has seen six million individuals displaced internally and more refugees.

What is the role of the United Nations if superpowers cannot be held accountable? If the United Nations is a world regulator, why should it not wield superior weapons and mediate forcefully.

Resettlement and a Future for Ukrainians

BBC News Africa (BBC, 2022) shows how Africans privileged to live the 'Ukrainian' dream have seen their lives disrupted. One Kenyan friend Njeri, narrated on a personal level how she had to walk for two days to the border with Poland. Living in Eastern Ukraine and next to the airport, she wakes up to an airport in flames. She had planned to take a flight to London on rumors of a pending invasion but was shocked to find the Russian army next door. Forced to undertake a perilous journey of two days on foot to Poland, I could see her emotions as she lamented.

Njeri narrated that those hundreds of thousands of Ukrainians have been received in Poland, and ironically, many have opted to resettle in Russia due to deep ancestral roots. Detailed statistics show four million individuals are resettled in Poland. One million in Russia, another million in Romania, half a million in Romania, and another a million in other European countries. Canada has shown an open border policy to Ukrainians, and so has the United States, which opted to host or help resettle Ukrainians (UNHCR, 2022).

The major concern should not be for the refugees

but for constant critical monitoring of the internally displaced families in Ukraine. As the invasion continues, an international monitoring force should be deployed to provide support to Ukrainians and prevent a massacre. Immediate and critical negotiation between Russia and North Atlantic Treaty Organization should occur on all issues both sides are concerned about. All parties should be held accountable, including NATO, which should put human lives first.

United Nations, which is the global mandated monitoring mechanism, should force parties to save lives rather than embark on an arms race. Russian humanitarians are a key to a cessation of hostilities

and ensure respect for human rights as this shall create the ground to aid their brothers, the Ukrainians. A global resettlement emergency mechanism should be developed based on any impromptu conflict as well as the current crises like the fall of Afghanistan or the invasion of Ukraine. Quick international rescue of refugees, response, and resettlement should be a global priority.

Benedict Kuol is a GRDFT Global Compact for Migration graduate as well as a finance major from Strathmore University. He is a passionate writer and aims to excel as a GRDFT Research Intern.

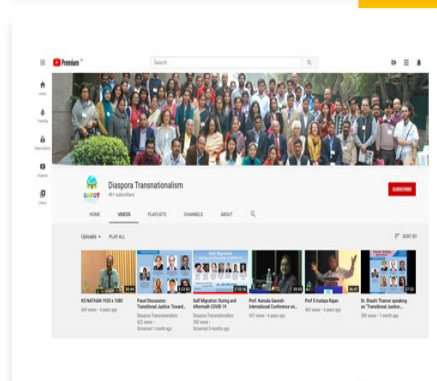
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Routledge Handbook of Asian Migrants

Gracia Liu-Farrer and Brenda S. A. Yeoh. Routledge Handbook of Asian Migrants. ISBN: 9781138959859 (Print); ISBN: 9781315660493 (eBook); ISBN: 10.4324/9781315660493 (Adobe)

Being the largest continent and part of the global population, Asia has diversified forms of migration and mobility which contribute to developing more inclusive migration studies. The Routledge Handbook of Asian Migration can play a good role in that process. The 33 contributors of this book gave the outline of the diverse Asian migration phenomenon in three major areas- the context and characteristics of migration from the colonial period to the present time; new conceptualization of migration with Asian migrants' experiences; and, contemporary migration policy and practices.

In the introduction part, the presentation of Liu-Farrer and Yeoh argued that migration within, from, and to Asia eventually scaled up with the results of economic globalization, demographic transformation, expanded international education, and tourism. According to them, the Asian migration can be understood with three points- a) complex patterns of mobility is visible with the presence of extreme variation and contradictions of the region including richest and poorest societies, from liberal democratic secular states to fundamentalist governments, reasons; b) in the post-colonial nation-states, the nationalist sentiments, and aspiration of regional integration where the former one also rendered migrants (mostly ethnic others) and refugee integration and later one has removed barriers for

the flow of people as well as capital and increased potential mobility across borders; c) the rise of migration industries created intersections between state and private sector on migration management and thus news complexities.

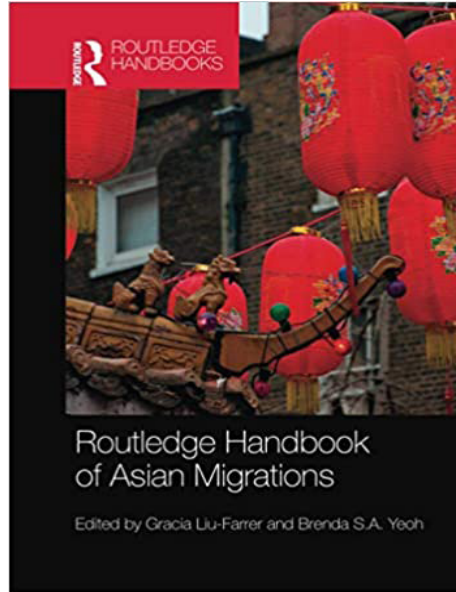


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The first part of the book has two chapters- one by Amrith on colonial and postcolonial migration in Asia and the other one by Dongen and Liu on the Chinese diaspora in Southeast Asia. Together the chapters explain the historical context behind the present geographic shapes, patterns, and routes for Asian migration. Amrith argued for the global transformation till the World War II including empire expansion that created labor demands in cultivation and roles of mediators like brokers and intermediaries in the 'kangany' system[1] have always existed.

Alongside that, the technological advancement of geographic communication facilitated people's movements. Both chapters also provide a historical explanation of how the previous mass migration due to unstable economic and political homelands was introduced to western nationhood and individualism. Later former migrants became symbols of modernity and resulted in modern subjectivity in Asia. The second chapter which focused on the migration history of the Chinese diaspora gave the changing notion of the 'diaspora' concept from a journey of 'forced exiles' of group identities with hardship to a more flexible social and cultural notion where the desire of eventual return is questioned. The shared identities of Chinese diasporas and labeling them as 'huaqiao' people[2] also represent efforts of harnessing economic power which shaped migration

pathways, increased migration, and gave the cultural logic. These background reflections are more understandable in the next part of the book which shows the contemporary migration pattern in Asia.

In the second part of this book, the six chapters are consisting of the contemporary issues around diversified migration pathways and institutional frameworks (e.g. national policies) as well as practices that facilitate or control it. Labour migration and economic issues are reflected in the three chapters by Baas, Whittaker, and Liu-Farrer; the chapter by Ge and Ho discussed the intra-Asia higher education mobilities; the chapter by Hwang and Parrenas discussed intimate migration issues; return migration as well as linkages with diaspora engaged are covered by the two chapters by Ho and Wei and Tsuda. The third chapter by Baas on temporary labor migration showed how this contemporary feature of migration is not only the expected source of economy and human capital but also ethically and conceptually a problematic category. While temporariness has been an illusion including high human cost and undescribed credentialism under 'unskilled/semi-skilled criteria. However, the countries of destination and origin encourage temporariness to secure the host country from the 'threat of social order' and bring finances to the home country. And here the chapters on the return concept provide further contemporary analysis, like Ho and Lim's chapter describes that Asian governments have three types of return programmes- a) labour migration management by servicing and controlling unskilled/semi-skilled ones; b) luring back high skilled capital-bearing ones with incentives; and, c) encouraging ethnic diaspora's return to reap labour power as well as finances. And in some cases, for example in Japan and South Korea (in the seventh chapter by Tsuda), the return projects turned out to be a manipulative action to import temporary low-wage labours, like 'nikkei' Brazilians[3]. In terms of understanding women and migration, this part of the book, especially the fourth chapter by Hwang and Parrenas gave interesting arguments. Asian migration prominently contributed to progressing the women's migration conceptualization as an independent actor

which theoretically should contribute to women's social position. Nevertheless, the authors of part two argue that- a) migration is opening some spaces for women's mobility but it also reconfigures different gender hierarchies, inequalities, subordination, and lack of securities; b) the complexities of intimate migration are beyond the generalization of combining it with human trafficking which speaks about the underexplored unequal heterosexual relationship, domestic violence, restrictive movements and results in a 'holistic worlds view' to shape emigration and immigration policies that disproportionately affect migrant women. One of the best features of this book is to cover some overlooked areas of migration like student mobility (covered by Ge and Ho) and medical migration (covered by Whittaker). It described these new migration patterns are related to political and economic change in Asia. Although student mobility is mostly in the West, the intra-regional education and medical facilities are commodified as luxury and political insurance. The internationalism of education in Asia became an important indicator of Asia's globalization and medical care has become a national development strategy.

The third part of this book includes Lin and Gliess's analysis of migration and production, Lindquist and Xiang's specific focus on migration infrastructure, Coate's arguments on cultural logic, Sklendon's questions about separating internal from international migration, and two chapters by Mahdavi and Farrer on conceptualizing differences in human trafficking versus voluntary migration and boundaries of migrant's identities. This part of the book mainly questions the traditional economic and motivational conceptualization of migration which can put many Asian experiences as discrete events and advocates for processual thinking with Asian experiences. Several chapters of this part have some arguments- a) Lin and Gleiss's chapter 10 shares that the political economy, transport technology, and border governance are responsible for shaping migration patterns; b) migration is more than a process how Lindquist and Xiang described in chapter eleven as five interactive dimensions of migration infrastructure- commercial

recruitment, (state) regulatory, technological, humanitarian and social (networking); c) Coats's chapter 12 provides the cultural logic of migration-till 19th-century migration studies majorly focused on measurable economic logic with avoidance of subjective and cultural linkages; there are also cultural desires of modern subjectivity (as described in part 1); d) the methodological gaps are visible in migration studies by separating movements from issues of borders and people who cross those which is cleared and interlinked by arguments of Skeldon in chapter thirteen; Skeldon suggested for 'step' migration[4] analysis.

The fourth part of this book focused on analyzing the considered 'challenges' and 'controversies' around migration in Asia. It includes Cole and Rigg's arguments on migration and poverty; snaps of remittance and trade-in migration by Martin's chapter; analysis on transnationalism with chapters by Yeoh and Lam et. al. chapters; and specific debates around non-citizen political engagement by Chung and Abbas's chapter. This part of the book provides some concrete arguments- a) development of migration is context-dependent where the economic and social development through migration (recruitment, remittance, or return) depends on how these processes are managed; b) issues of migration and citizenship needs to be re-examined from the focus on political incorporation to political empowerment to understand changing global contexts and immigrants' interests; c) the controversial 'irregular migration' is the result of misclassification, lack of diligence and disjunctions in the migration process and governance; d) with Colonial effects, the contemporary urban Asian life has complexities of exclusion of ethnic and cultural diversities; e) transnationalism has large disruptions and effects on family lives; f) borders and related issues are the struggle zones for migrants who cross it.

However, the readers may find some limitations

in this book. Although this book contributes to an overall idea about underexplored features of Asian migration, this still lacks incorporation of the critical analysis of the intersectional connections among diversified migration patterns. The historical analysis focused on the two largest communities (Indian and Chinese) which may not reflect the migration history of smaller communities. Although the book covered the underexplored student and medical mobility, especially in inter-regional migration, the experiences of Asian student migrants in other continents are still less reflected which could give more analytical angles for understanding the third binary of migration. Nevertheless, this book is a must reading in any type of literature review on Asian migration. It is can be also a pleasant reading for non-fictional readers who may have a curiosity about how Asian migration looks like.

Laila Tasmia is a Sustainable Development practitioner, currently obtaining her master's in Sustainable Development Management at Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences under DAAD scholarship as well as doing a research internship at GRFDT.

[1] The Kangany System was a recruitment process in South Asia under British rule which is done through informal networks.

[2] Huaqiao refers to those Chinese citizens who are living abroad.

[3] 'nikkei' Brazilians mean the ethnic Japanese living in Brazil.

[4] According to Skelton, it is mainly the process where rural migrants move to urban to accumulate resources and then move across borders while there is any opportunity.

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