

## Book Reviews

### I

**Rahul Pandita (2013), *Our Moon Has Blood Clots: The Unheard Voice of Kashmiri Pandit Migrants*, ISBN-13: 978-8184005134**

*Our Moon Has Blood Clots* is a memoir about the lost home in Kashmir by Rahul Pandita, published in 2013. The author narrates the plight of Kashmiri Pandit's migration to different parts of India in the 1990s. The book is divided into five parts which describe the different phases of the history of Kashmir, but the dominant section deals with the exodus of [Kashmiri Pandits](#). It is a devastating and heart-breaking tale of a powerless minority which lost their homeland and took refuge across the globe. It brings the subaltern and marginalised voice of Kashmiri Pandits into mainstream literature. The violence, trauma, and nostalgia of exile is depicted by the author through his personal struggle. It is full of pain, sufferings, anger, and the struggle for survival.

This memoir is about the life in exile which one experiences after losing his/her home due to war or conflict. The author provides a counter narrative to the well-established canon of literature where the voice of the Pandits have largely been subjugated or ignored. The whole book is written from the migrant's perspective, which helps one to understand the complexities of the difficult situations in which the pandits find themselves. Issues like maladjustment, lack of education, unemployment, gamophobia and identity crisis perturbed the migrants and make their situation from bad to worse.

Muslims blame the then Governor of Jammu and Kashmir Jag Mohan for the exodus of Pandits because he did not provide them the security in their homeland. Instead, he helped them in moving out by arranging transport facilities. Muslims also consider the Pandits as opportunists for migrating to the safer places leaving the Muslims to suffer. Rahul negates this discourse and brings forth a new perspective of his own community.

In part one, the author puts light on the different periods of Kashmir history. This region had been ruled by multiple dynasties belonging to different religions like Hinduism, Sikhism and Islam. The narrative starts in 1996 when the author was staying in his flat in Delhi and goes back to the peaceful times of Kashmir before 1980s. Everything in the valley was good before the insurgency movement. The different sections of society were living in peaceful coexistence. Rahul vividly depicts the traditions and culture of Kashmir. Festivals like Eid and Shivratri were celebrated by both the communities with great fervour and gaiety. Most of the population were confined in Kashmir only where their lives revolved around their homes. Shalimar Garden, Pari Mahal, Aharbal waterfall and Dal Lake were the spots of their vacations. There used to be small strife over the India-Pakistan cricket matches between the two communities, but it never turned into communal disharmony or riots.

In the second part, the author reveals the reasons of mass exodus of Kashmiri Pandits in the 1990s. It was during this decade that the rift between Muslims and Hindu started. They looked at each other with suspicious eyes. The insurgent movement of Kashmiri Muslims had put the lives of Pandits in jeopardy who were suspected as collaborators and loyal to Indian army.

In order to spread the terror in the whole valley, prominent Pandits like Lasa Kaur, Director Doordarshan and Satish Tickoo, a well-known businessman among many others were killed. Newsreaders were asked to quit their jobs in Radio and Television so that people would not be able know the actual situation. Pandits were ordered to leave the valley, “Advertisements had appeared in some Urdu newspapers. Released by various militant organisations, they asked the Pandits to leave the Valley immediately or face dire consequence” (Pandita 94). Jag Mohan, the then governor of Jammu and Kashmir could not stop the exodus of Pandits to Jammu. Rahul’s family packed whatever little they could into few suitcases and shipped to Jammu. Their sufferings did not end by leaving their homeland. New challenges and hardships engulfed them from all sides. They became worried, “Where were we going to live? Where would the money come from? Was everyone else safe- our friends, relatives”? (Pandita, 100)

Part Three deals with the hardships of the migrants in the refugee camps and other lodgings. Those who took rooms on rent were under constant surveillance of their landlords who continuously used to look how much water they consume, how much electricity they use, what kind of food they cook and who comes to visit them. In the refugee camps, the migrants suffered lack of basic necessities like drinking water and toilet facilities. There was lot of anger and distress among them. Their immovable property in Kashmir was either usurped up the state government or was erased from the official records. Some of them sold their property to meet the financial crisis. Initially the residents of Jammu welcomed them, but gradually they developed antipathy towards Kashmiri Pandits and taunted them with abusive words.

The migrants were living in unhygienic conditions and as a result they developed diseases which were hitherto unknown to them. Their trauma of exile was beyond imagination. Rahul's father was very much concerned regarding the education of his son, so he had sent him to Chandigarh (India) for higher studies. He also sold his house in Kashmir to treat his ailing wife in a better hospital.

Part Four delineates the grief and misfortune of Kashmiri Pandits during the 1947 tribal raids of Pakistan. The invaders came from the Northwest Frontier Province and – entered Baramulla to make a way to Srinagar. The news of their arrival spread terror in the Hindu community. In order to save their lives, the Pandits fled to unknown destinations without informing anyone. People were killed, houses ransacked to get the gold and other valuable items. Maqbool Sherwani, a member of National Conference misguided the tribesmen so they could never reach Srinagar. He was brutally killed by the [Pathans](#) for his loyalty to India. This section helps us to understand how Kashmir became an important issue and why disputes happened between India and Pakistan after Independence.

Part Five brings forth the nostalgia for the past. Kashmir has now become a part of their memory. The new generation did not find much emotional attachment to the land of their ancestors. They are losing their customs and traditions in exile. Rahul's mother lost her voice and could not walk due to back pain. In order to bring happiness in his parent's lives Rahul bought a flat in Delhi which is now his home. He worked as a journalist in Kashmir to report the episodes of human violation in the valley. He is hopeful that one day he will be back with his family and community in his homeland.

In conclusion, it can be said that the book is not just the memoir about the personal life of Rahul Pandita but it is a tragic tale of his whole community. It presents before readers the unheard story of the vulnerable people who left their homeland mostly due to religious persecution. The episodes mentioned in the book are true to the history. One loophole in the book which reviewer could find that the author blames the whole Muslim population of the valley for their exodus which can be contradicted with other accounts which were written at that time. It was such a horrible period in the Kashmir history that countless Muslims lost their lives for no genuine reasons. Overall, this is a wonderful book which not only highlights the sufferings of Kashmiri Pandits but also praises their resilience. This book is worth reading for scholars and common readers who want to study forced displacement and to all the people who want to see what it means to lose a home/homeland. It is wakeup call to all the world for mutual understanding and respect for diversity. Rahul is highly concerned about his dispersed community scattered all around, he wishes for their peaceful return to their ancestral land.

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## II

**Seiger, Fiona-Katharina, et al. (2020) Migration at Work: Aspirations, Imaginaries & Structures of Mobility, ISBN-13: 978-9462702400**

*“Migration at Work: Aspirations, Imaginaries & Structures of Mobility”* is a volume published in 2020 which offers a multidisciplinary approach towards migration. This book comprises empirical research in various fields providing valuable scholarship and evidence on current processes of migration and mobility. A wide range of geographical coverage can be seen in the book chapters. To understand the importance of migration and mobility from a wider perspective, the research is conducted in European Union, Turkey, and South Africa. The narrative, descriptive and qualitative research study shows the methods to tackle experiences and aspirations of the migrants. The chapters thus analyse the labour-related mobilities from two distinct yet intertwined vantage points: the role of structures and regimes of mobility on the one hand, and aspirations as well as migrant imaginaries on the other (p. 15). All the authors and editors of this volume delve deeply into various aspects of migration with their expertise in various fields. This book unearths the questions such as: the role played by the opportunities when people are mobilising; how structures enable, sustain and change different forms of mobility and how imaginaries fuel labour migration and vice-versa. The book thus is divided into two parts that are related to either of the two vantage points. Both the parts contain four chapters each.

In the first chapter *Aija Lulle* discusses about the gap between migration

literature and care which are to be bridged and should be critically read through the lens of care. Care is an important part in the lives of all. The chapter explains that existing structures such as European Union (EU), that has failed to consider migrants as caring agents and does not consider giving full social rights to temporary migrants. The main argument of this chapter is that migration is not only an economic activity but also a care-giving project. There are instances in the chapter where the migrant workers are not allowed to ask for leaves from their employers. Thus, author emphasises that the migrants are deprived of their right to make use of their mobility. There is a continuous negotiation from temporary migrants for their need to travel for providing care.

In second chapter, *Joana de Sousa Ribeiro* discusses the topic of health care migration. The chapter explores the interrelations between regulation regimes such as admission policies, academic institutions procedures, and professional bodies' rules. Based on the case studies, the author brings out the debate of division between regulation and emancipation in a capitalist society. The findings suggest that social transformation poses new challenges to the structure of mobility. Further, this chapter explores on the inter and intra-relations of regulatory regimes related to the international mobility of the health workers to and from Portugal.

In third chapter, *Alice Ncube* and *Faith Mkwanzzi* emphasise how migration has allowed female sub-Saharan economic migrants in South Africa to use their agency and challenge traditional gendered roles and stereotypes. The authors use the Capability Approach (CA) to understand how gendered roles are playing a part in reconstructing traditional structures that saw

women as passive in development associated with labour migration (p. 68). This chapter highlights the fact that in earlier times, migration was thought to be for the men and the role of females were within the family and invisible to the world. Thus it gave the view that migration was a male centric phenomenon. Gradually, this assumption was changed and women could construct their path to development and break the glass ceiling. The findings illustrate that those women who have certain capabilities to migrate into a foreign country are exercising their agency in the field of work and earning for a living. It is evident from the chapter that the nature of migration is not influenced by gender roles.

In chapter four, *Mirjam Wajsberg* tries to explore the tension between structure and agency experienced by West African migrants during their migration trajectories within Europe. The authors draw the attention where the migrants use tactics to achieve both spatial and socio-economic mobility despite various restrictions within the European Union. The migration trajectory approach used in this chapter allows us to understand the complex interplay between migrants' hopes, frustrations and aspirations during their journeys. The chapter beautifully carves out the tactics used by the migrants who challenge the rules and regulations imposed on them.

In chapter five *Maria Luisa Di Martino et al.* examines how highly educated migrant women negotiate their careers considering structural constraints. The authors analyse their experiences of the educated migrant women through the lens of migratory careers. The chapter throws light by focusing on the coping strategies of European and Latin American women in the Basque Country. The findings show how opportunities and challeng-



es are dealt with and how women despite facing structural constraints are getting opportunities when their private and professional trajectories unfold abroad.

In chapter six, **Iraklis Dimitriadis** explores how subjective representations of work or any type of life-related subjects may induce desires to leave the place of destination. This chapter further discusses about the decisions of the migrants to stay in their place of destination also. The author analyses how the lives of Albanian migrant construction workers in Italy and Greece revolves around negative perceptions such as fears of racism or have to settle for less favourable lifestyles which works as deterrents for the migrants (p. 18). The author conducted 61 in-depth interviews with Albanian migrant construction workers in Italy and in Greece to conclude that the analysis of imaginaries can become the motivation for onward migration. The only limitation emerged in this study is from the gender perspective where Albanian migration is traditionally known as male pattern migration. It thus represents to confirm males' prominent role in the household economy (p. 143).

In chapter seven, **Christine Moderbacher** focuses on the effects of future which is destroyed. The author describes the lived experiences of Cise whom he met and points out important nexus between imaginaries vested in mobility and structural realities. This study explores how certain migrants are systemically immobilised through governmentally prescribed training programmes. These programmes are typically used to keep the participants busy which eventually fail to convey skills that are applicable in the labour market. These policies are disabling people destroying their ability to imag-

ine future horizons while at the same time producing a waiting room that turns people into “patients of the state” (p.166).

Finally in chapter eight, *Deniz Berfin Ayaydin* puts focus on the care in labour industry. The author argues that Filipino nannies are privileged in the hierarchy of foreign child-carers in Turkey. Accordingly, the placement agencies market Filipino women’s English-language proficiency; their modernity and their supposed cultural predisposition which can provide good childcare. This study however sheds light on the power relations which are formed during the course of migration. The author further explores how the privileges are distributed which are not equal to all in the care sector. The preferential treatment is clearly given to those with knowledge of English or higher level of work ethics instead of experience or age in the work domain.

The role of agency of migrants is often missing from an analysis of migration systems. The only drawback is repetitiveness. Some of the points in the chapters are repetitive and could have been eliminated to provide an easier read and avoid monotony. This book presented a breakthrough study on migration which is solely based on qualitative methods. This book thus opens up new possibilities for future research in the domain of migration. However the book is very informative in nature for anyone to read and gain knowledge about various aspects of migration. The aspects which the book covers are easy to read even for those who do not have any specific knowledge about migration. Overall, the book provides an excellent source of information for the students, researchers, policymakers or anyone who has interest in understanding migration.

Source: Fiona-Katharina Seiger, Christiane Timmerman, Noel B. Salazar, Johan Wets (2020), *Migration at Work: Aspirations, Imaginaries & Structures of Mobility*, Belgium: Leuven University Press, 978-94-6166344-3, 194 pages.

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### III

**Jasmin Lilian Diab (2021), *Dignity in Movement: Borders, Bodies and Rights*, ISBN-13: 978-1910814598**

In the book *Dignity in Movement: Borders, Bodies and Rights*, Jasmin Lilian Diab as an editor, attempts to knit the expertise of academicians across disciplines with the motive to cover wide-ranging aspects related to migration. The editor is a professional in Migration Studies, currently positioned as Assistant Professor at the Lebanese American University. She has previously been an international consultant at UNHCR, WHO, and is the co-founder of MILAMET. The seemingly effortless network synthesis presented in the book evidences her invaluable experience as an editor for various journals. The book has 22 chapters written by more than 22 specialists in the backdrop of the current ‘migration crises.’ The book, being a work

of its time, strives to enrich the discourse on human movement so that no person is left behind. Therefore, despite opening with quantitative data on the migration crisis, the book finds its locus in qualitative analysis such as nascent conceptualization with varied definitions by different enumerating organizations.

The book is based on the hypothesis that the definitions in the migration discourse are developing. The central research question is to unravel the influence of various factors formulating the definition of migration. It is, therefore, the book in its main theme provides the reader with a theoretical understanding of the existing international and national institutions, human rights debates, treaties, and legal frameworks as to how migrants, refugees, and immigrants are differentiated. It is here that the Foucauldian lens of governmentality is used to unveil the state as a non-neutral arbiter. The book explores this theme through various case studies, empirical data, ethnographic field-study, participant observations, temporal and spatial analysis regarding displaced persons. The lucid writing style, along with reader-oriented explanation, helps in critical thinking that state creates power hierarchy by producing knowledge on displacement through differential labels, definitions, representations, and categories of migrants and refugees. The book is not a criticism of existing frameworks, but it is an empathetic effort aiding a comprehensive understanding of how governance can create, normalize and fix humans into categories through ritualized performance. Wide-ranging examples in the book substantiate this argument, such as the recent Global Compact for Migration, the Argentinian Migration Laws, colonial violence in Bosnia-Croatia frontiers; internally displaced people of South Sudan; and

Tamils in Sri Lanka. The case of North Jordan is an intriguing example of governing protracted displacement.

The book has an encompassing theme dealing with different kinds of migration based on race, gender, region, class, geography, environment, and many more aspects. Case studies are vivid in explaining the reasons for migration and how a person's identity can change his/her experiences on the journey. In this process, the organizations involved in arranging migration are equally important. The book uses an intergenerational case study to highlight labour migration management by the state as a win-win for the worker, destination, and labour sending countries. A significant contribution of the book is its fresh perspective on militarism, imperialism, and geopolitical intervention as factors contributing to stringent and often inhuman border management practices. Today, governments pay private companies to manage prisons and detention centers. Under this neo-liberalism is the gamut of neo-colonialism when private corporations profit by confining migrants fleeing violence.

Further, interviews with migrants elucidate the existence of multiple and fused oppressions. The case of mutual support groups by women migrants in Nicaragua captures a desperate but unfulfilled resistance. According to Lugones (2008), the modern/colonial gender system sustains these oppressions. The grey zone between oppression and resistance is picturesque in the book. The reader is left to wonder steps for strong resistance ranging from- opposition to the short-term welfarist policy of the state to advocacy for a long-term capability, enhancing community experiences led policy.

The book has tried to cover every aspect of human displacement, starting from definition and ultimately covering the chain of processes. The case study of migration, asylum, and unaccompanied children from Central America's turbulent Northern Triangle presents a case of this unending process (even if a child accompanies). It shows how unilateral policies of a country are bound to fail if the problem is regional. Further, COVID-19 has brought to face the need for a collective and collaborative framework. A striking keynote of the book is its understanding of migration as a cycle. The example of the European Union Readmission Agreement shows that deportation is not the end of a migration cycle but a rupture in a complex process that affects and disrupts the lives of deported and dependents (Collyer 2018). Tracing from the book, the cycle includes the situation and the status of a migrant after completion of the entire process; it covers the conditions in which he/she leaves his/her home, whether it was by force or voluntary; the process by which he/she starts the journey whether it was legal or illegal; role and support of his/her home country in migration; international agencies encountered in the journey; the process of acceptance by foreign land; his/her condition on new place; if he/she wants to return to the homeland or not. The book is a masterpiece in covering all these varied aspects in detail.

Moreover, the description of these aspects is covered not by abstract theoretical dictums but by narratives. These narratives have the potential to develop empathy in the reader. The reader is bugged by the weirdness that these human-made cycles sometimes do not end, but human life ends in the process.

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The book covers many identities, but the women-sensitive coverage of the issue is extraordinary. It is phenomenally different from mainstream state-centric literature and offers a human and community face of the problem. All the chapters deal with different stories, frameworks, and situations but with a common thread, i.e., the current migration law (international or national). The book, in some chapters, uses the historical study of law to show how migration handling was better in the past, but it has degraded with time. It shows we are, in a real sense, becoming less civic. The book brings case studies of many national or international bodies and laws to prove this perpetual inefficiency, for example, International Organization for Migration; (Avellaneda law, Videla law, DNU) Argentina; Inter American Court of Human Rights; New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants; Global Compact for Migration; Kafala System; Agenda for the protection of cross border displaced person in the context of disasters and climate change; National Agency for the Placement and Protection of Indonesian Migration Workers; UN Refugee convention.

One of the limitations of the book is that it uses mainstream binaries of gender. The gender/sex is dealt in binary of male and female without giving attention to the third gender/sex. Given the emerging nature of migration studies, this limitation is understandable. Another limitation is that the book is a mere diagnosis. Despite a promising introduction, the book lacks a policy way forward. It is the most significant limitation, as it undermines both: the seriousness of each chapter in the book, and the commitment to the issue. A final limitation is the lack of other methods to verify the case study, interviews, and field work. Thus, despite the merit of linking the theory and

the empirical, the book is shadowed by the possibility of the researcher's subjective bias. In the chapter dealing with the violence on the Croatia-Bosnia border, the author uses unguided conversation to dilute positionality, bias and other methodological issues. However, the attempt is half-hearted because the reader feels that the author is continuously using bias in the act of abstracting the arguments from the conversation. Further, the tool has narrow scope and questionable reliability.

The work of various authors in the book highlights that migration is not a singular entity. It is in myriad forms, nature, and unending process. The work and effort from diverse fields hold relevance in the crisis of our times. Overall, the book is stimulating, articulate, reader-oriented, and connects theory and narratives. It is a good read for researchers, think-tank professionals, and students of the humanities discipline. It contributes to migration studies, IR, developmental studies, law, ethnographic studies, political science, labour studies, women studies, child-welfare studies, and policy-making. It is beyond doubt that the work can enthrall an ordinary person too by the heart-touching case studies and pictures used in the book. The book convincingly presents the case that existing actions are not sufficient in human movement to provide human dignity. Each chapter is eloquent in its way forward that the 'migration crisis' can end by providing meaningful rights to human movement. The book is coherent in its message that to attain these rights, we must act together.

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#### IV

### **Richard Obinna Iroanya (2018), *Human Trafficking and Security in Southern Africa – The South African and Mozambican Experience*, ISBN-13: 978-3319891286**

In the book *Human Trafficking and Security in Southern Africa: The South African and Mozambican Experience*, Richard Obinna Iroanya deals with the widespread issue of human trafficking. The author considers the problem of human trafficking as a threat to national security as well as a threat to the security of human rights. In addition to this, the given problem is not outlined in isolation from other socio-economic and political problems. It instead follows the multi-disciplinary approach to articulate the interconnections between different socio-economic problems such as economic inequality, poverty, gender issue, the high unemployment rate among youth, and human trafficking. However, the author mainly focuses on the security issues related to human trafficking in order to fill the existing gap in much available literature about human trafficking and its security threats. The author thus incorporates the security issues in this study of human trafficking,

applying his expertise in security and strategic studies.

Moreover, he has done extensive work on the same issue in terms of publication of various research papers before publishing the given book, which shows that the given piece is an outcome of his long-term and in-depth study on human trafficking from all the existing dimensions. The book is well-organized in seven chapters, and the sequence of chapters follows the deductive approach. The first half of the book deals with the general phenomenon of human trafficking globally, while the second half deals with the study of specific cases of human trafficking in South Africa and Mozambique.

### **Difference between Human Smuggling, Kidnapping, and Human Trafficking**

The first chapter provides an extensive introduction of relative facts about the global existence of human trafficking. The author clarifies in the beginning that the terms “human smuggling”, “kidnapping,” and “human trafficking” are not synonymous. The four criteria used to differentiate these terms are consent, exploitation, transnationality, and source of profit. Based on these criteria, the problem of human trafficking has its unique characteristics. The trafficked victims do not have consent to being trafficked, the cross-border movement, which is the necessary condition for transnationalism, may or may not be fulfilled, and the victims are exploited during their whole working period which becomes the basis for higher and continuous extraction of profit under the case of human trafficking. Therefore, voluntary migration and human trafficking are the opposite forms of human mobility

in the contemporary world. In contrast, kidnapping and human smuggling lie in between these two extreme cases as far as the degree of exploitation of the victim is concerned. The author also emphasizes the lack of availability of rigorous data sources to deal with human trafficking, which becomes a significant reason for the policy's failure to combat human trafficking.

### **Multiple Dimensions of Human Trafficking**

The second chapter of the book deals with the conceptualization of human trafficking. After an extensive literature review, the author points out six different approaches associated with the conceptualization of the subject. These six approaches include considering human trafficking as slavery, an organized crime, a global migration challenge, a human rights violation problem, prostitution, and a negative aspect of globalization (p. 29). The author also discusses the concept of transnational organized crime, causes of human trafficking, the concept of security, and the criteria for identifying security threats in detail. Transnational organized crimes include drug trafficking, illegal weapons trafficking, illegal trafficking in natural resources, cybercrime, and human trafficking. As far as the concept of security is concerned, the author follows the contemporary approach of security to link it with human trafficking. The given approach considers security in its broader sense, which includes political, economic, social, and environmental issues and is not primarily restricted to military threats (p. 48). After defining the concept of human trafficking, the study deals with the question of when a problem can be considered a threat to security. Under the sub-heading of 'The criteria for Identifying Security Threats,' the author states that if a given social condition or situation leads to extreme violence, unacceptable

conflict or state instability, or has a clear potential to do so, it could be possibly viewed as a national security threat (p. 56).

### **Human Trafficking: A World-wide Phenomenon**

The third chapter of the book, named ‘Overview of Human Trafficking as a Global Phenomenon,’ deals with the cases of human trafficking existing in different regions of the world. The analysis of that chapter provides an understanding of the commonalities and differences in extent, nature, and causes of human trafficking in different regions of the world. The commonalities among different regions exist in the flow of human trafficking from poor and less developed regions to prosperous regions. Women and children are victimized to a more considerable extent than the men population in all the regions, and the historical patterns of migration have a strong influence on the current pattern of human trafficking globally. The main differences exist due to the different routes and changes in routes on account of law enforcement improvements either in the source country, transit country, or destination country. The differences also prevail based on the extent of intra-regional trafficking, inter-regional trafficking, and domestic trafficking in different countries of different regions. The author also explains different forms of exploitation of victims, which vary from sexual exploitation to human organ trafficking and forced marriages of women. One of the significant points which are highlighted by the author in the concluding remark of this chapter is that it is fallacious to uniquely identify a country or region as a source only or destination only country or region, since they can be used as a source, transit, and destination places simultaneously, due to the different exploitable opportunities identified by the traffickers.

## **The Route of Human Trafficking from Mozambique to South Africa**

The fourth and fifth chapters of the book show a strong interrelationship. The fourth chapter deals with the case study of human trafficking in South Africa, which is the major destination and a transit country in the African region. At the same time, the fifth chapter focuses on the case study of human trafficking in the Mozambican country, which is the primary source as well as a transit country in the given region. The connection between both the case studies lies in the presence of the primary route of human trafficking from Mozambique to South Africa in the African region. Thus, Mozambique plays a dual role for South Africa as a source and a transit country for human trafficking.

The study highlights that Mozambique has become the transit country in the trafficking route from Zambia, Malawi, Camerocoonia, Uganda, Kenya, Congolese, Ethiopia, and other African nations along with Russia, Eastern Europe, Thailand, China, and Taiwan towards South Africa. The Mozambican victims are also not trafficked directly from their area of origin to South Africa. They are trafficked domestically in the major recruitment center cities for South Africa and then cross the border illegally. Sex trafficking of women, including young girls, labour trafficking of young boys and children, and human organ trafficking are the underlined forms of human trafficking present in Mozambique and South Africa. The author has also narrated in detail the socio-economic and political conditions that play a role in facilitating human trafficking in both countries. Poorer economic conditions in Mozambique compared to South Africa, corruption among public officials in both countries, and poor enforcement of human traffick-

ing laws are the featured causes of human trafficking in both countries.

### **Policy response to Human Trafficking: A Challenging Task**

In the sixth chapter, the policy responses to the issue of human trafficking in Mozambique and South Africa are discussed. The chapter deals with the laws that directly or indirectly combat human trafficking in both countries. The laws implemented based on the Palermo Protocol 2000 deal directly with the criminalisation of human trafficking, while the laws related to the fundamental rights of women and children rectified in both countries have an indirect impact on combating human trafficking. The content of this chapter is somewhat challenging to grasp because the author extensively uses technical terms related to different laws and international conventions. Nevertheless, it is also true that the policies dealing with human trafficking cannot be represented without technical jargon related to the study of laws.

### **Concluding Remarks**

In the last chapter, the author concludes that along with the socio-economic dimensions of human trafficking, the problem also poses a threat to the national security as well as to the security of fundamental human rights when the problem is tested based on the identification of security threat criteria defined in the second chapter. Therefore, recognizing the problem as a national security threat, strengthening international counter-trafficking cooperation, and ratifying and firmly implementing human trafficking laws are some recommendations provided by the author to combat human trafficking globally. Furthermore, improving the living conditions of groups vulnerable to trafficking, one of the significant policy measures that deal with the major

economic root cause of human trafficking, is provided as a complementary measure to eradicate human trafficking under the measures recommended.

In a nutshell, the book is a detailed analysis of human trafficking in the selected South African nations and provides a deep insight into the problem of human trafficking as a global issue. The policy response stated by the author to deal with the problem gives an excessive weightage to the super-structural forces, including tightening of border security and implementation of strong laws to combat human trafficking by considering the economic base of the problem in terms of extreme poverty and economic inequality existing in different regions as a supplementary cause of the problem.

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V

**Sonia Shah (2021), *The Next Great Migration: The Beauty and Terror of Life on the Move*, ISBN-13: 978-1635571974**

In *The Next Great Migration*, Sonia Shah retraces the biological and ecological roots of migration through the movement patterns of humans, flora, and fauna. The book centers on the “idea of migration as a disruptive force” (24) to which Shah grounds her thesis on the “wild exodus” or the next great migration that has begun to unfold. Shah criticizes modern paradigms of biogeography which tend to center on the idea of stillness, in that we were taught to believe that “plants, animals, and people belong in certain places”

(21), whereas migration is seen as a “form of disorder” (27) that could be disruptive and even dangerous. These scientific ideas also bleed into popular culture and fuel the fearmongering that underlie many anti-migrant political agendas. Shah offers profoundly human and scientific perspectives that will remind readers of what most cautionary tales and theories on today’s crisis-driven migrations tend to overlook. As she poignantly puts it: “Perhaps migration takes hold during periods of opportunity, not crisis. It’s possible that our restless ancestors, rather than reluctantly escaping from bad conditions, capitalized on good ones.” (321)

The chapters are arranged thematically, covering a vast array of concepts using select case studies across different periods and fields. In the first chapter, Shah distinguishes between the constraints to migration for biota versus people. That is, while biological capacities are the key constraints to wild species’ movement, the migration pathways of people are “shaped primarily by abstractions” (19) such as political borders, international law, and economic costs of cross border travel. Certain chapters explore these abstractions more explicitly than others and they cover the commonly discussed topics on migration in contemporary political discourse. For instance, in the second chapter, Shah discusses the anti-migrant narratives invented during post-Cold War America which framed migration as a national security threat. She compares this to the recent European refugee crisis which instigated a similar kind of “social panic about migrant-driven criminal anarchy” (73) across the region. She also links this to fears that migrants are disease-carriers, a narrative perpetuated by the Trump administration in 2018 which presumed Haitian refugees “all have AIDs” (87).



Her navigation of these scientific and political narratives on migration were interspersed by Shah's own perspectives as a migrant. Throughout the book, she provides snippets recounting her experiences as a child of immigrants in America and, later, as a newcomer in Australia. As she delves deeper into the biased scientific findings that perpetuate these anti-immigration agendas, the influence of Shah's personal background on her thesis also becomes more apparent. In the ninth chapter, opines that "asking why people move reveals more about us and our expectations and fears than it does about migrants or migration" (324-5). Shah is very careful not to reduce these social dynamics, emphasizing that "genes rarely provide instructions for a single trait, especially not for a complex behavior such as migration" (330).

In attempting to capture this complexity, the book covers a wide scope of topics and some discussions tend to be convoluted or sporadic. On several occasions, there were huge temporal jumps within a single chapter as Shah discusses one popular scientific theory that emerged in the context of an earlier period to compare it with one that did at a much later time. Those who are particularly interested in the continuities and discontinuities of these theoretical developments would benefit from additional sources to fill these wide gaps. Hence, the arguments presented in the book do not provide a comprehensive overview of the field-specific scholars, findings, and theories pertinent to these intersectional developments. Although Shah weaves the scientific and political dimensions with commendable skill for the most part, there are moments when the perspectives from these two were discussed as one without necessary contextualization with respect to each field. For instance, Shah's evaluation of Charles Elton who she described as

having “cherry-picked only the most disruptive of introduced species” (179) does not cover the broader scientific discourse on the ecological impacts of migration-driven activities. Although Shah correctly points out the lack of emphasis on the benefits of introduced species in their new environments, there are equally valid findings on the costs and damages they may present in the long-run. These were presented by lesser-known scholars from niche sub-disciplines whose studies on invasive species illuminate how human, animal, and plant migrations could influence the gradual extinction of other species. However, these were not discussed with the depth they warrant since the book is more focused on predominant narratives on migration and the scholars during that period who were at the forefront of these paradigms.

The greatest strength of the book emerges when Shah delves into widely-accepted scientific underpinnings that have systematically reduced our awareness that migration is fundamental, perhaps even encoded, in most species. Shah rigorously discusses how these Eurocentric biases emerged and the ways in which they side-stepped the role of migration in shaping our biodiversity. For instance, the third chapter investigates the legacy of Carl Linnaeus whose work as a natural historian has come to define modern science itself. Shah links Linnaeus’ invention of taxonomy to the Europeans’ preoccupation with “distinctions between peoples” (79) which glosses over the key role of migration in natural selection and refuses to accept our biological commonality. She argues that Linnaeus’ own aversion to foreignness may have also influenced his inclination to highlight differences rather than similarities. However, as Shah argues, even Linnaeus struggled to construct a system based on differentiation since many of the ascribed dif-

ferences were rather blurry in practice. These limitations manifested when he “likened botanical sexual organs to those of humans” (83) and described certain plants as hermaphrodites, among other notions deemed sacreligious in eighteenth-century Europe. By illustrating the limitations of a taxonomic framework that aims to differentiate, Shah presents migration as a necessary explanatory mechanism for the overlaps in our scientific biodiversity.

Such topics do not typically come to mind in discussing migration today, yet Shah uncovers the links between these ingrained scientific biases with contemporary frameworks of migration. For instance, the fourth chapter investigates the “scientific proof of a racial hierarchy” (115) that was used to justify the racial segregation in America and its colonies in the early twentieth century. The superficiality of these differences were exposed later when racial scientists confirmed the common ancestry of the human race as well as our “border-crossing tendencies” (109), exemplified by migration patterns when humans engaged in opportunities for trade and conquest, which blurred the distinctions as we evolved. Similarly, the sixth chapter tackles close-border agendas that emerged in the late nineteenth century as wealthy nations sought to control migrant populations from poor nations. These anti-immigrant agendas were perpetuated by assumptions that non-white migrants are *homo progenitiva* with “traditionally high fertility patterns” (189), in contrast to the *homo contraceptivus* Americans and Europeans who have smaller families.

Overall, this book provides a much-needed reminder of the intrinsicity of migration by revisiting long-standing scientific assumptions we still allude to despite the biases and errors underlying them. In doing so, Shah recal-

brates the way we ought to discuss migration beyond the political connotations often attached to it. Despite the limitations of the book, there is a great merit in Shah's critique of boundaries and differentiations invented to regulate migration throughout history. While most would debate whether borders should be opened or closed, Shah deftly illustrates why and how they were invented in the first place. More importantly, she reminds us that these abstractions are manmade and that migration could be reframed as a solution the sooner we accept that it is "integral to life on a dynamic planet with shifting and unevenly distributed resources" (378). *The Next Great Migration* addresses the crux of these contemporary debates in a fundamental way that many tend to forget in the chaos and noise of politics surrounding the concept of migration today.

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