

Why is it important?

Chinese diaspora since the nineteenth century from a global perspective.

To learn about...

- How major Chinese communities spread across each continent.
- the influence, the challenges and the most important contributions of Chinese culture on the global community.
- the main trends and prospects of Chinese diaspora to develop a better understanding of current migration flows as well as their future implications from global perspective.

Historical Evolution of Chinese Diaspora in the World

- Between 1850 and the 1950s, a growing number of Chinese workers, mostly male peasants from coastal provinces, started leaving their homeland to seek employment opportunities in Southeast Asia.
- Between the 1950s and the 1980s widespread violence and instability in the region shifted the destination of Chinese migrants to more industrialised areas including North America, Europe, Japan and Australia.

==Most migrants in this era were unskilled workers, driven by the growing demand for cheap manual labour elsewhere. This process is still evolving today and since the 1980s, Chinese migrants have developed an increasingly “multi-class and multi-skilled” profile, in line with the requirements of a globalised and technologically advanced economy (Ding, 2010).

Historical Evolution of Chinese Diaspora in the World

Major factors driving Chinese people abroad? Eggs?

- Economic, political, religious concerns have historically been the major factors driving Chinese people abroad.

Eg. forced migration -- migration of Buddhist pilgrims to Central, Southern and Eastern Asia.

Eg. In China's case, sustained growth has been the result of economic reforms and, in particular, of the "opening up" policy that started during the 1970's.

- It led to major changes in all areas of society; labour flexibility and privatization left large numbers of workers unemployed, unable to be reabsorbed by the internal-market.
- Rural-urban mobility, the polarization of the distribution of wealth and the consequent widening of the gap between rich and poor are all relevant factors for this migration.

- people tend to migrate in order to gain a better quality of life (such as social services and infrastructure), but always to be integrated in the places of destination (Gómez Díaz, 2012).
- According to the IMO, there are currently about 200 million migrants in the world. Chinese migrants amount to 39.5 million and are scattered across 130 countries.
- Asian migration, both domestic and international, is the largest globally.
- China and India account for 35% of migrants in the world: more than 70 million people.
- Therefore, the amount of international migration is heavily dependent on these two countries (Gómez Díaz, 2012).

- the age of mass Chinese emigration was significantly related to mega global developments such as Western colonialism and imperialism.
- The formation and transformation of diasporic Chinese communities also constituted a central element in the nation building process in many venue nations, such as the United States, Australia, Thailand, and the Philippines.
- forceful reminder : in order fully to understand the Chinese community in one region, we must place it in a larger context and see its broader connections.
- revealing the extraordinary importance of modern Chinese history in the development of the diaspora.
- overseas emigration has had important connections to internal migration.

- Kuhn connects overseas emigration to the flows of the domestic population within late imperial China, "subset of a vaster scene of human movement of which the major part was internal migration" (p. 4).
- These links are crucial and transgress the imagined territorial boundaries that still separate China studies and the study of overseas Chinese, and divide area studies and ethnic studies.