

CHAPTER 12

12.1 Migration (Πολιτική Παιδεία Α' Λυκείου, σελ. 154-155)

12.1.1 Categories and Causes of Migration

Migration, the movement of people either individually or in groups, is a very ancient phenomenon. There is no historical period in which migration did not exist for various reasons.

People moved and still move for **economic reasons** (work, trade), **educational reasons** (studies), and **social reasons** (more opportunities for a better life).

The idea of a world where no one moves from the place where they were born belongs to imagination. Therefore, a world without migration cannot exist.

Migration is not a single, uniform phenomenon. There are different types of migration.

More specifically:

a) External migration is the movement of individuals or groups to another country. For example, someone from Albania moving to Greece, or someone from Greece moving to another country.

The country from which someone migrates is called the **country of origin**. The country to which someone migrates is called the **host country**.

If external migration happens between countries of the **same continent** (for example from Greece to Germany), it is called **continental migration**.

If it happens to countries of **another continent** (for example from Greece to the USA), it is called **overseas migration**.

b) Internal migration is migration from one region of a country to another.

Athens is largely a result of internal migration, mainly during the **1960s and 1970s**. Hundreds of thousands of people left their villages and moved to the capital for a better life.

There are also other categories of migration such as:

- **voluntary migration** (when a person moves by their own choice),
- **forced migration** (without their will; refugees belong to this category),
- **environmental migration** (caused by environmental reasons such as drought or lack of water), etc.

12.1.2 Social and Economic Consequences

Migration from one country to another happens **more smoothly** when it helps **solve problems inside those countries**.

For example, **high unemployment** in one country may lead many unemployed people to consider migration as a solution. Also, **low wages** in one country may push part of the workforce to migrate in search of better pay.

If another country **needs workers** and offers better salaries, migration can happen with relatively few problems.

For example, “**planned migration**” was applied by **West Germany after World War II**. Many migrants from Southern European countries (Spain, Portugal, Greece, Italy) moved there to work in factories.

However, West Germany invited a **specific number of workers for specific jobs**, which reduced conflicts between migrants and the local population and limited the use of migrants as cheaper labor.

These conditions **do not exist today**.

Migration today is usually **not planned**. Large migration waves, mainly from **Asia and Africa**, are caused by environmental destruction, wars, poverty, and the search for a better life.

The **large scale and unplanned nature of migration** creates economic and social consequences for both migrants and the local population. These consequences become stronger during **economic crises, reduction of welfare systems, and high unemployment**.

More specifically:

a) Some people develop the opinion that migrants are solely responsible for unemployment.

However, **unemployment** is mainly caused by **economic crisis, lack of investments**, and the **weakening of the production sector** (for example, workshops and factories closing), not by the presence of foreign workers.

In fact, foreign workers usually work in jobs that local people often do not want, such as:

- caring for elderly people
- caring for sick people
- private nursing in hospitals
- heavy agricultural work
- construction work
- livestock work

b) Migration can lead to **social dumping**. This means that migrants may accept lower wages than local workers and work without social insurance.

However, during economic crises and high unemployment, this can also happen to local workers, whose wages may also decrease.

c) The **rights of migrants** are a major issue connected to the **democratic functioning of the state.**

Migrants should have access to **health services, education, and other public services.** Otherwise, the economic and social problems related to migration will become more serious