

ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL STABILITY THROUGH LEGAL MIGRATION
AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE

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Abstract: This article analyzes the role of legal migration in ensuring global economic and political stability, as well as its socio-economic significance. The author argues that organizing labor migration on a legal basis serves not only the economy of the sending country (through remittances) but also helps address demographic gaps in the labor markets of receiving nations. The article provides a comparative study of the economic risks associated with illegal migration versus the advantages of legal migration in the development of human capital. Furthermore, scientific proposals and recommendations are presented for improving the mechanisms that regulate legal migration within the international labor market.

Keywords: Legal migration, Economic stability, Labor market, Human capital, Remittances, Money transfers, International migration policy, Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Social protection.

INTRODUCTION

In today's rapidly evolving era, relations between states and peoples are manifesting in entirely new forms. Many political scientists define this phenomenon through a new term: "legal migration." While this trend has ushered in an era of "Quality Migration," questions regarding its potential drawbacks and risks have become increasingly relevant today. Currently, more than 300 million legal migrants are active worldwide. In the past, migration flows were directed toward a limited number of specific countries; however, today the geography of these routes is expanding dramatically. This, in turn, contributes to the diversification of the global labor market and generates demand for expertise in emerging sectors.

Nevertheless, the widespread expansion of legal migration is not limited to positive outcomes; it also gives rise to a series of systemic challenges. Foremost among these is the "brain drain" phenomenon, which poses a serious economic threat to developing nations. The departure of highly skilled personnel to wealthier countries through legal channels can lead to the depletion of human capital and the disruption of demographic balance in donor countries. Furthermore, issues such as the social integration of migrants in host countries, potential cultural conflicts with local populations, and intensified competition in the labor market remain unresolved. Therefore, legal migration must be studied not merely as a process of relocation, but as a complex socio-economic phenomenon that requires profound analysis and comprehensive regulation.

**MAIN BODY: THE ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE OF LEGAL MIGRATION.
ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES.**

When addressing migration and its related concepts, it is essential to remember that these issues possess distinct geopolitical and economic advantages and disadvantages, and are by no means free from potential risks. Analyzing the **historical escalation** of migration processes, we observe the evolution of this phenomenon from simple territorial movements to the level of complex legal institutions. In the initial stages, particularly during the Age of Discovery, migration was largely spontaneous and often characterized by coercion; however, by the second half of the 19th century, it began to take on a systemic form under the influence of the Industrial Revolution[1]. The second major wave of this escalation corresponds to the post-World War II period. During this time, Western European nations (such as Germany's *Gastarbeiter* program) and the United States introduced large-scale interstate legal agreements for the first time to meet their labor demands. By the 21st century, this process entered a stage of intellectual and technological escalation. Today, states no longer compete merely for physical labor, but have entered into a formal competition to attract highly skilled professionals through systems such as 'Green Cards' and 'Blue Cards.' This historical evolution has transformed legal migration into an integral part of international law and a fundamental mechanism governing the global labor market.

The role of legal migration in ensuring economic stability is interpreted in modern economic theories not merely as the movement of people, but as a "global transformation of the labor force." While E. Ravenstein, a representative of the classical economic school, described migration in his work "The Laws of Migration" as a natural process driven by economic disparities, this concept has expanded significantly today[2]. Nowadays, legal migration serves as the lifeblood of the global economy - a primary instrument for balancing imbalances between markets. Furthermore, the Human Capital Theory, founded by G. Becker and T. Schultz, allows for a completely new perspective on legal migration[3]. According to this theory, a migrant is not an individual merely abandoning their homeland, but an investor directing their knowledge, experience, and skills toward a highly profitable international market. Relocation carried out on a legal basis acts as a legal and social shield for the migrant. This sense of peace and security leads directly to increased labor productivity. Unlike illegal migrants, a legal migrant can fully realize their potential because they are free from discrimination and persecution. From the perspective of economic stability, legal migration creates a mutually beneficial (win-win) chain:

1. For Exporting (Donor) Countries: Remittances sent by migrants enrich the state's foreign exchange reserves. These funds stimulate domestic consumption, encourage the development of small businesses, and reduce poverty levels. Most importantly, citizens who depart through legal channels return to their homeland with new technologies, a modern work culture, and international experience.

2. For Receiving (Recipient) Countries: Today, developed nations (such as Germany, Japan, and Canada) are facing serious demographic crises and aging populations. Legal migrants fill "segmental gaps" in the economy. They do not only provide labor; as taxpayers and consumers, they replenish the state budget and ensure the sustainability of the pension system.

However, modern research indicates that the economic efficiency of migration does not end with obtaining a visa. True stability is achieved through the level of the migrant's socio-legal integration into the host society. Bilateral agreements signed between states "legalize" economic growth by recognizing the migrant's diploma, ensuring their pension rights, and guaranteeing decent working conditions. Consequently, in the contemporary world, "visa wars" are being replaced by the "war for talent" and strategic cooperation.

When evaluating legal migration processes from the perspective of economic efficiency, it is essential to consider their dual nature. Among the advantages, the foremost is the legal protection of the migrant and their equality within the labor market. Legal status grants migrants full access to the host country's social infrastructure, including healthcare and education systems, which in turn prevents the degradation of human capital. Economically, legal migration ensures the stability of tax revenues and reduces the share of the "shadow economy." However, this process also entails specific disadvantages and risks. The primary negative consequence for donor countries is the "brain drain" (loss of intellectual potential), in which the most active and educated segments of society depart from the country. In host countries, a rapid increase in the flow of legal migrants can lead to intensified competition in the local labor market and an increase in social costs (pressure on infrastructure). Consequently, to maximize the benefits of migration, improving interstate quota systems and reintegration programs has become an urgent economic necessity today.

Analyzing the political implications of legal migration, it manifests as one of the most fundamental factors determining state sovereignty, national security, and stability within the modern system of international relations. Today, migration is not merely a socio-economic relocation but an integral part of the external and internal political strategies of states. When analyzing this complex process theoretically, the perspectives of representatives of the realist school, such as S. Huntington, are of particular importance³[4]. Realists view migration as a potential challenge to national security and cultural identity. According to their interpretation, while legal migration allows the state to legally restrain and filter population flows, it can trigger political polarization within the host society. Specifically, an increase in migrant flows strengthens the instinct for identity preservation among the local population, which in turn leads to the emergence of anti-migration political forces and a shift in the internal political balance.

In contrast, the "Soft Power" theory put forward by J. Nye views legal migration as a positive resource that enhances a state's prestige and attractiveness in the international arena⁵[5]. Legal migrants serve as a unique "living diplomatic bridge" between two states. They are not just a labor force, but subjects who transfer democratic values, human rights, and modern governance culture from one society to another. In political science, this process is referred to as "political remittances," representing the indirect influence that compatriots abroad exert on political reforms and democratization processes in their homelands. Simultaneously, J. Hollifield's "Migration State" concept reveals the most nuanced aspect of modern political reality⁶[6]. In his view, contemporary states live in a condition of a "liberal paradox": while liberalization is necessary for economic growth on one hand, strict border control is required to maintain political security and sovereignty on the other. Legal migration is precisely an attempt to find the "golden mean" between these two conflicting poles. Therefore, the process of legal migration should be interpreted not merely as the movement of individuals, but as a strategic process that serves to strengthen international legal institutions, elevate transnational political cooperation to a new level, and improve the global governance system.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it should be emphasized that in the context of modern globalization, legal migration is not merely the movement of individuals from one geographical point to another, but a complex, multifaceted phenomenon of strategic character that ensures global economic stability. As analyzed within the framework of Human Capital Theory, legal migration ensures the efficient global distribution of the workforce and serves as a decisive driver for the

sustainable economic growth of both donor and recipient countries. Research indicates that the positive outcomes of legal migration transcend economic indicators, evolving into an instrument of "soft power" in international relations. It strengthens interstate diplomatic trust and accelerates cultural integration. Nevertheless, risks such as the "brain drain" (loss of intellectual potential) and socio-political transformations in host societies necessitate strict legal regulation of this process, not only at the national level but also at the transnational level. Based on the above analysis, the following practical proposals can be put forward to improve the sector:

Strategic Institutional Cooperation: Expanding the system of multilateral international agreements for the mutual recognition of migrants' work experience, social protection, and pension rights. This strengthens the migrant's confidence in the future and their legal status.

Implementation of the "Brain Circulation" Model: Developing reintegration programs that encourage highly skilled personnel to return to their homeland. This should involve introducing special tax and investment incentives to direct intellectual and financial capital acquired abroad into the innovative sectors of the national economy.

Digitalization of Migration Management: Fully digitalizing visa and legal procedures based on blockchain and artificial intelligence technologies. This process will eliminate bureaucratic obstacles and ensure the transparency and security of migration flows.

In summary, legal migration is an inevitable challenge of the modern world. Managing this process based on rational and humanitarian principles serves not only the professional maturity of individuals but also the economic and political stability of the entire global community.

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