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# National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc.

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# INTERNATIONAL MIGRATIONS

VOLUME II

INTERPRETATIONS

By a  
GROUP OF SCHOLARS IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

EDITED ON BEHALF OF THE  
NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH, INC.

By  
WALTER F. WILLCOX

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Resolution Adopted Oct. 25, 1926.



## PREFACE

The inquiry which has resulted in the publication of this and a preceding volume originated with the Social Science Research Council. That body, from the time of its establishment eight years ago, interested itself in migration as a field where research was much needed, and early set up a committee on the subject. The committee recommended that a statistical study of international migration, past and present, be organized, the Council approved the recommendation, secured the needed funds, and entrusted the execution of the project to the National Bureau of Economic Research, which enlisted the writer to undertake it.

The plan fell into two parts, the collection and publication of the official statistics of emigration and immigration, past and present, with a fullness and detail not previously attempted, and a critical interpretation of the migration statistics of those countries which have sent out or received the largest number of migrants in a series of studies prepared by persons who were especially familiar with these statistics and several of whom were connected with the office from which they emanated.

The execution of the first part of the plan was handed on to the International Labour Office at Geneva, which had established not long before a section on migration, because migration had become in the modern world largely a response to the requirements of the labor market. This section had entered upon the collection and publication of current international migration statistics, and was in constant and friendly contact with the migration offices of the world. It agreed to meet the wishes of the National Bureau of Economic Research and extend the statistical work back through earlier years to the beginning of continuous records in each country provided the cost of doing so was met. That arrangement was made and the results have recently been published.<sup>1</sup>

For the second part of the plan, also, international coöperation was sought but in a different direction. The International Statistical Institute includes within the 32 countries from which its members are drawn many who are admirably qualified to comment upon the migration statistics of those countries. Before the World

<sup>1</sup>*International Migrations, Vol. I, Statistics*, New York, 1929. (National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc. Publication No. 14.) 1112 p.

War and during its forty years of life the Institute had contributed perhaps as much as any other one agency to the extension and improvement of international migration statistics. It could not be asked to assume the responsibility for the second part, but it was invited to aid in the delicate task of finding and enlisting the best collaborators. This it graciously consented to do and at the Rome session in 1925 the General Assembly elected on nomination from the section on demography an advisory body of four, Professor Rodolfo Benini, Director Lucien March, Professor Coenraad Alexander Verrijn-Stuart and President Friedrich Zahn, to whom I am glad to express my hearty thanks for their help in the choice of collaborators. Assistance with the same problem was received also from the Japanese Embassy at Washington, from Honorable Sao-Ke Alfred Sze, recently the Chinese Minister at Washington,<sup>1</sup> from E. D. Durand and Louis Domeratsky of the Department of Commerce, from the late Sir Henry Rew in connection with the chapter on Ireland, and from Assistant Secretary A. W. Flux in connection with that on England.

Several of the contributors prepared not a little material dealing with the history of international migration before continuous statistical records began. The editor found that to include these pages would swell the volume unduly and felt obliged to omit them. His main difficulties indeed lay in reducing several of the chapters, which had grown beyond the limit suggested in the preliminary correspondence, and in recasting the translation of several which were submitted in some other language than English.

Those who have tried to establish a long series of comparable figures for immigration or emigration, year by year, as the editor has had to do, will realize that the problem is difficult if not insoluble. In most cases they have been rounded to the nearest thousand, and in many only the ratios or per cents are printed. In all instances of either sort, a reference to an accessible source, often Volume I of this work, makes it easy to find the extended or omitted figures. Those given in different parts of the present volume do not always agree exactly. Where the editor has been able to satisfy himself which figure is more accurate, he has adopted it. No preference has been given to official figures *qua* official. But in a number of cases

<sup>1</sup>Unfortunately, the illness first of one and later of another Chinese scholar from whom a discussion of Chinese emigration had been sought has resulted in the omission of that chapter. The editor may refer to Ta Chen, *Chinese Migrations* (1923), published by the Department of Labor at Washington as a valuable contribution to this difficult subject.



the discrepancy has been left to stand, because both of the writers who disagree are believed to be better authorities than the editor about the point at issue, and both probably relied on official figures. These minor differences do not affect any important results.

The delay in the appearance of the present volume may have affected the accuracy of certain statements which were correct when written but have now ceased to be so. In one or two cases it has been possible for the authors, nearly all of whom were given that opportunity, to bring their figures up to date.

The ambiguous word "American" has been used often to mean "relating to the United States," and sometimes to mean "relating to the Western Hemisphere." The context will make it easy to decide in which sense it is meant.

It is a pleasure to express my deep indebtedness to the officers of the National Bureau of Economic Research, and especially to its Secretary, G. R. Stahl, for their very hearty coöperation in the protracted enterprise. Dr. Cleveland Abbe's familiarity with a multitude of publication questions has allowed the editor to shift to his shoulders many burdensome details of both volumes, and even to leave the country in care-free mood while the present volume was going through the press.

WALTER F. WILLCOX.

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