In this chapter you will...

learn about:

- the nature of Australia's migration links
- the roles of government and non-government organisations in relation to migration
- treaties and agreements relevant to migration
- cultural, economic and geopolitical advantages and disadvantages of Australia's migration links
- social justice and equity issues related to Australia's migration links.

learn to:

- describe Australia's migration links and the countries involved
- explain the roles and actions of different levels of government in relation to migration
- discuss the importance of relevant non-government organisations in relation to migration
- identify and describe the purpose of agreements relevant to migration
- analyse the advantages and disadvantages of Australia's migration links
- recognise implications for social justice and equity in relation to the link
- critically analyse a website, including the ethics of the site

The nature of migration

migration
population movement involving a permanent or semi-permanent change of residence

multicultural
made up of many cultural groups

Migration involves the movement of people who are changing their permanent residence for a substantial period of time. International migration is the movement of people across international borders. Australia is a nation built on the process of international migration. With more than sixty ethnic groups, the First Fleet itself had a multicultural diversity that typifies Australia's current identity.

Since the time of the First Fleet, migration has remained a significant source of Australia's population growth. Population growth is dependent on:

- the rate of natural increase
- net overseas migration levels.

Migration from the Asia–Pacific and the world has played an important role in Australia's population levels and created links between Australia and the rest of the world. Migrants bring many cultural traits with them and this has led to strong cultural diversity in Australia. Australia is a multicultural nation and our everyday lives are influenced by the diversity of our population [14.3].

Why do people migrate?

emigration
the process of leaving one country to take up permanent or semi-permanent residence in another

push–pull factors
a migration theory that suggests conditions at the place of origin (such as poverty and unemployment) repel or push people out of that place to other places that exert a positive attraction or pull (such as a high standard of living or job opportunities)

[14.2] Push–pull factors affecting migration

Push factors	Pull factors
Globalisation	Globalisation
Unemployment	Job opportunities
Famine	Democratic government
War	Labour shortages
Natural disaster	Education opportunities
Drought	Better services (for example, health)
Political, racial or religious persecution	Favourable immigration laws
Unstable or undemocratic government	Environmental amenities (for example, beaches, climate)

What would it take for you to emigrate, or leave your birthplace to live in another country? There are a number of economic, political, social and environmental reasons why people emigrate. These reasons may be categorised as push–pull factors [14.2]. There may be forces pushing people from their homeland and/or there may be forces pulling people to a new country.

[14.3] This famous photograph, 'European migrants arriving in Sydney', was taken by the renowned photo-journalist David Moore as the Italian ship *Galileo Galilei* berthed at the overseas terminal at Circular Quay, Sydney, in 1966

refugee
a person who has fled their country and cannot return because of a well-founded fear of persecution due to their race, religion, nationality or membership of a particular social group

Migration may be voluntary. This usually involves the actions of pull factors encouraging people to move to a particular destination. Or it may be forced, such as when political tensions and economic hardship (push factors) create refugee movements [14.4]. For example, after the Vietnam War about two million 'boat people', many of whom were ethnic Chinese, fled from persecution in Vietnam to Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia and Australia.

[14.4] Forced migration is usually associated with push factors such as war – women and children on a refugee boat in Darwin Harbour, 1977
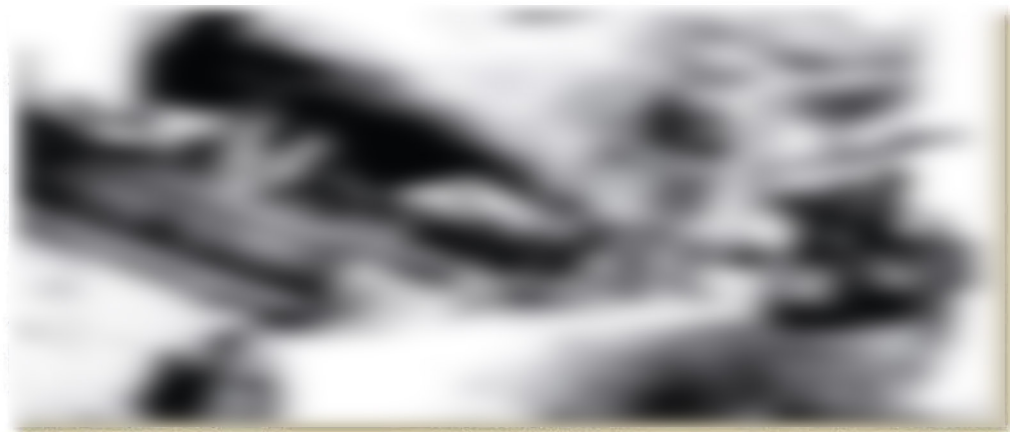
Learning about ...

1 In your own words, explain the meaning of migration.
2 Discuss the role of migration in shaping Australia's identity.
3 Outline the difference between the terms 'immigration' and 'emigration'.
4 Use the information in [14.2] to classify the push–pull factors according to whether they are economic, political, social or environmental.
5 Why does globalisation appear as both a push and a pull factor for emigration?
6 Explain the difference between voluntary and forced migration.

Learning to ...

1   Working in groups, discuss reasons that would encourage you to emigrate from Australia. List the feelings you would have settling in a new country.

2   Develop a survey for your class, year group or school to determine the ethnic diversity of the group. Process and record your findings.

3   Working in groups, describe the emotions shown on the faces of the different people arriving on *Galileo Galilei* and the living conditions aboard the boats used by the refugees in [14.4].

Australia's migration patterns

Australia's migration links were truly established in 1788, at which time the first of approximately 160 000 convicts were transported to the Australian colonies. Free immigrants from the early 1790s joined convicts, along with the officials of the penal system.

[14.5] Whenever enough Chinese people congregated in one area long enough they would build a joss house like this as a place of worship

[14.6] Two-thirds of the workers on the Snowy Mountains Hydroelectric Scheme between 1949 and 1974 were born overseas

The next wave of migration to Australia occurred during the goldrush era (1851–70), when many British, American and Chinese migrants arrived in Australia. The number of new arrivals was greater than the number of convicts who had landed here in the previous 70 years. The total population of Australia trebled from 430 000 in 1851 to 1.7 million in 1871. By 1861 Chinese immigrants made up 3.3 per cent of the population [14.5]. However, 60 per cent of Australia's population had been born in the United Kingdom.

Australia's first official migration program began at the end of World War II, in 1945. Agreements were made between Britain and some European countries, and with the International Refugee Organisation (IRO) to encourage migration, including displaced people (refugees) from war-torn Europe. Many displaced migrants arrived from Eastern Europe, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Greece and the Middle East. Ten years later, in 1955, the one-millionth postwar migrant had arrived. Between 1945 and 1965 Australia's population grew from seven million to eleven million [14.6].

From the time of the First Fleet, the United Kingdom remained Australia's main source of migration [14.7]. This trend was unchanged until the 1970s. Between 1963 and 1967, 51 per cent of migrants to Australia came from the United Kingdom and Ireland. By 2000 this group represented only 11 per cent of migrants to Australia. In the last three decades increasing numbers of migrants have been born in countries of South-East Asia, North-East Asia and South Asia [14.8]. The United Kingdom, however, is currently the largest source of migrants to Australia.