

BOOK REVIEW

IMMERSING IN DIVERSE ASIAN MIGRATION

Gracia Liu-Farrer & Brenda S.A. Yeoh (Eds). 2018. Routledge Handbook of Asian Migration. New York: Routledge

The *Routledge Handbook of Asian Migration* presents a wide-ranging analysis about migration in the Asian context and it is organized into four parts which all have different focus. The authors provide an explanation of the migration phenomenon that exists in Asia and how changes have occurred from ancient times to the present. Since the Asian continent has different characteristics from other continents, the movement of its population or migration, both permanent and temporary, has unique characteristics. The first part of this book presents Asian migrations in the historical context which consists of stories of migration in Asia from colonial migration to postcolonial migration. Next, the second part discusses about the phenomenon of migration in Asia, such as: labor migration, migration due to marriage, retirement, temporary migrations such as due to education or medical travel migration. Besides, in this part, the authors also explain each migration phenomenon meticulously from its history, its beginnings, to the issues that developed this tactic.

The third part is about re-conceptualizing migration through Asian experiences which does not only provide an explanation of how the phenomenon of migration occurs in Asia, but also presents the phenomenon of migration in Asia, in which the author tries to reflect what is happening in Asia in relation to the

phenomenon of migration in general. Lastly, in the final part of this book, the authors explain several challenges of migration which might be faced in Asia. The first challenge is the problem of labor migration which consists of three stages namely recruitment, remittances, and return. Next, the second challenge is the issue of citizenship, particularly for residents who are married or have lived for a long time in other countries and the naturalization processes that still cause many problems. Third, social problems, such as: gender, race, class, culture, and citizenship, which often occur between migrants and indigenous people. Lastly, problems that occur among family members who leave other members due to migration, especially children that would be impacted on their growth and development.

Reading this book makes the readers grasp various types of migration phenomena in Asia. The explanation and the writing style of each writer are understandable hence the topic is easy to comprehend. In addition, the problem explanation and the characteristics are also explained in detail. Migration that occurred in Asia is different from migrations in other continents, such as North America, Europe, and Oceania. Therefore, it needs in-depth research in order to know the characteristics of migration in Asia. Based on research conducted by the authors, the readers are able to learn

about some of the characteristics of Asian migration. First, the differences in social and economic characteristics of the population in Asia are very diverse since the continent consists of varied society range – from the poorest to the richest and advanced and less developed countries – which led to the inequalities development. In addition, regional, religious and political characteristics are also complex. Furthermore, the social political situation of the Asian community influences how migration patterns occur in Asia and makes it even more diverse.

Second, Asian countries still have many problems in their countries, including strengthening the state regulations, which covers regulations on international migration. In relation to international migration regulations, particularly labor migration, some countries in Asia are not ready to welcome some voluntary migration such as migrant workers or forced migrant like refugees. However, through ASEAN, countries in Asia have implemented their freedom of movement or have worked in line with the free trade market in Asia. Thus, those countries must be prepared to face it. Having capability to be a destination country for migration is considerably important since population's mobility in Asia will continue to grow and develop in the future. Third, there has been a gap between the increasing desires of people to migrate, yet the immigration regulations have become even more stringent so that many migration industries have emerged, especially for labor migration.

However, there are some migration phenomena that have not been mentioned in this handbook. Firstly, the labor migration, especially in the countries of Middle East and South East Asia such as Indonesia which has not been explained yet, while in fact it has a lot of migration phenomena and problems within. In addition, according to Aris Ananta, et.al (2011), Middle East countries, such as Saudi Arabia, have become the main destination of permanent or temporary migrations towards Asian. Secondly, the forced migration due to the natural disaster and climate change such as refugee and internal displacement person (IDPs)

are currently increasing in the world, including in Asia. Based on a study conducted by World Bank in 2015, at least 1,500 people will move because of the climate change. This situation reflects that this issue will tend to increase and become the challenge for population in the world, particularly in Asia. Thus, it should be explained at least in the part IV (Challenges in Asian Migration).

According to data from the UN Population Division in 2017, Saudi Arabia, which is included in the Middle East Countries, is considered as the second highest country for migrant recipients from all over the world after the United States, and Asia is one of its biggest migrant suppliers. Besides the current state of attraction in the Middle East continues to increase especially for tourism purposes, the rapid development and the need for construction also become the reasons for migrants to work in the Middle East. Therefore, the high number of labor migration to the Middle East can be a reference for how workers in the informal sector are able to migrate, survive, and give benefits to their home countries.

One of migration issues that continue to be concern to many researchers is migration which caused by climate change. The climate change which has taken place since long time ago can become the reason why people migrate from one place to another place. In the Asian context, the communities' migration is not directly caused by the climate change but it is caused by natural disasters that ultimately force the population to migrate. For instance, some countries in Asia such as Japan, Korea, and Nepal are prone to earthquakes which caused a large number of population movements. In addition, countries with archipelagic characteristics, such as Indonesia, also have high danger of natural disasters which are caused by climate change such as rob floods and the volcanic eruptions. Such migrations will certainly continue to increase in the future which can become a subject of its own in migration in Asia. In addition, it will certainly be a challenge that needs to be found the solution on how to adapt and mitigate it.

Overall, the *Routledge Handbook of Asian Migration* will be useful for students or scholars since this book is able to provide a general picture of migration in Asia and it is worthy of being used as a guide for studies related to migration in Asia as well. This book also provides examples on countries which encountered issues related on migration so that the readers can easily grasp idea or picture on how to confront it. Each topic raised in the book has a structured explanation starting from what the definition is used, and how the situation and its development in Asia. In addition, this handbook is served with clear and thought-provoking explanation as a basis for further research. It also provides detailed examples which related to migration in Asia and it is also a refinement version of the previous book, namely in the Asian migration chapter of the international handbook of migration and population distribution.

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