

Between Malthus and Verne

The migratory movements forced by environmental catastrophes



Dr. Marcelino Irianni
UNICEN – UPV



If at some time it was an extreme measure, space mobility has stopped being an exception in the daily life of men to become something habitual; in some point, it seems that while a handful of people makes the decision to return to the land of its ancestors or to draw lots in a promising place. . .



A growing percentage of men has gone back thousands of years in becoming historical to make instinctive decisions, of survival. Both cases fit ironically, in the same group

We have contemplated these movements without the scenery where they took place. If before it was an error of investigator's appreciation obsessed for problematic economic, demographic or social -also catastrophes were less frequent-, today is a clear myopia act. A study of current migrations that doesn't keep in mind space, is flimsy, kind of a seat with three legs



How must we face the analysis of the forced movements of our time then?



Nobody would doubt, at first sight, that if in the XIXth century and even early XXth, were middle low layers the ones that emigrated, today most unprotected sectors are who do.

The multiplication of environmental catastrophes without a doubt more fateful according to the grade of precariousness of the societies that suffer them, is another novel element of the migratory equation

Anyway, although we could presuppose an escape in stampede, today like yesterday, the destinations are not risky, at least at regional level. The proximity and the absence of obstacles they are basic element when choosing the place to go, mainly if in that place there are friends or relatives who can put them up



If in some moment of the XIX century the immigrants conformed ethnic spaces of sociability to counteract the pain of the eradication or to preserve the language, at present time, many of the the migrant's that had to leave their lands, meets to resist the embate of a hostile scenery and even for practical reasons as sharing over crowded rooms

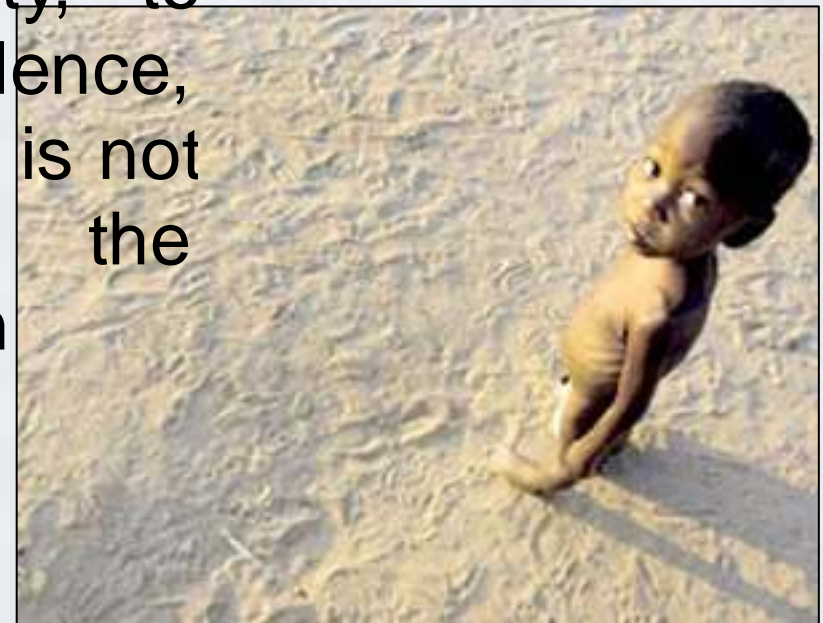
At first sight, the form of building our study object takes us to consider the international migration as another form of social exclusion, which is the reason to claim the focus should keep relationship with the study of poverty

Not to take the planet like a unit in crisis would be the first observation error



It would be myopic to concentrate the look on people that move. They make it for the deterioration in the environment that generally they did not provoke and that far from being local or regional, it is impacting to the planet in their group

To solve the problem to future of the forced growing migrations, it continues, we have to atomize humanity, to denationalize the victims. Hence, population's forced displacement is not more than another of the manifestations of social exclusion



If a hundred years ago many immigrants died without knowing anything about their family or received two letters throughout their lives in America, globalization allows people to leave without cutting the links. Transnationalism is the group of activities created by the immigrants that allows them to live in a simultaneous way in two differentiated communities.



The difficult thing is not to imagine the scenery in a fairly near future, but such versatile actors as the human being on their platforms

Contrary to other migratory movements that happened to become historical, the current one cannot be left liberated at random, neither to the invisible forces of the market, nor in hands of the countries directly implied in the demographic flow in question

We are at a critical moment that determinates we must stop thinking about the forced emigrants as people that have had as bad luck as their countries, and observe them as thousands of flares saying that humanity, as if it was a ship, sinks



You cannot build, from the point of view Chinese material neither ethical, more walls, to wire the frontiers or to bet a soldier each two meters; neither you can control the entrance indefinitely for sea in places that have hundred of kilometers of coast ...

When we speak of migrants forced by environmental catastrophes, we refer to human beings, beings belonging to our species



Population's curve continues under that of production of foods; the problem of the equation resides in that this last it is not distributed equally



Anyway we remain
near to Verne and
his optimism in
man's capacity,
far away from the
passivity in front
of an inexorable
destination
of Nostradamus