Reading Questions Portes & Rumbaut Chapter 2

In push-pull theories, there are three types of factors in play. List them.

The authors identify a common perception of scholars on the topic, which identifies that which one, push or pull, has been the strong force explaining migration to the United States?

Summarize a shortcoming of the push-pull explanations, as is illustrated by the case of Mexico and the United States.

Is the oft-needed labor recruitment in to rich countries evidence used to support push-pull explanations, or more as a refutation? Explain.

If push-pull often fails to predict migrations, what other facet of migration might be explained by it – hint the word starts with a p. (page 50)

Economic theories suffer from the same shortcomings as push-pull ones. Explain.

Why in many areas has force been used by the capitalist system, rather than simple economic incentives?

We will be covering World Systems Theory in class. From this part of the reading the quote from Massey et al. is perhaps the most succinct description. I would suggest writing this out in its entirety.

The hut tax happened on what continent and had what effect in the context of what you just wrote above?

Does New Economics theory focus more on the family, or the individual as a unit of analysis?

What do families in rural communities of the less-developed world tend to lack access to? (3 things). How can migration to urban areas or other countries address these shortcomings?

Explain the role of *relative deprivation* in stimulating out-migration.

STABILITY OF MIGRATION

Why might rising incomes of migrants working abroad actually increase the rate at which they return home? (and how might some of them view settlement in the host country)

How/why do migrant networks increase the likelihood of international movements (they lower what two things)?

List the forces that can bring migration flows to an end (at least 3) other than the emptying of places of origin and a glut of migrants in a destination area.

USES OF LABOR MIGRATION

What big problem can happen in a receiving area that can render migrants to be no longer useful to the capitalists that originally recruited/hired them (see remarks of John Stuart Mill)?

Why then might industries in host societies get government sponsorship of emigration?

In the above narrative, self-employed colonists are of “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ to capital.”

Explain the importance of status conditions of workers and how this perpetuates the demand for immigrant labor.

When a group of immigrants move up in the occupational structure, who typically takes their place?

List the three different work statuses of *colonized minorities*. Do they take the place of free domestic laborers? Why or why not?

Outline the five step colonization process described by Blauner.

How is the occupational mobility of colonized minorities blocked (list the first two related examples, and the two examples given of them.) (p. 62)

Identify one way (of many) that dominant group laborers can benefit from colonized laborers.

Explain what the Portes and Rumbaut mean when they write that “widespread racism among native workers is thus, ultimately, an ideology directed against themselves.”

After WWI, why were Southern black migrants seen as a preferred labor force in the Northeast and Midwest? (3 reasons)

Describe the two segments of the dual economy thesis, and why it is that two jobs of roughly equal requirements can offer such different pay.

Related to this, the authors write that …”the same minorities that that had previously served as the mainstay of colonial and split labor regimes now found themselves confined to the secondary sector of the dual labor market.” Other than some sub-groups of whites (women, teenagers, and rural), list three other groups that are identified here. (p. 67)

The increase of illegal immigration during the last decades of the twentieth century and its employment by competitive firms (rather than in the oligopolistic sector) was intended to do what?

What racial/social group is still the largest that is working in the oligopolistic sector? Which of the two, oligopolistic or competitive sector workers, are thus more likely to be unhappy with theireconomic/social progress over the last decades? (interpretive question for you, perhaps relevant to the recent presidential election)

The emergence of the hourglass labor economy has affected the hiring of immigrant labor. Explain what has happened in two of the sectors.

THE ENTREPRENEURAL PATH

The authors review a few theories that have been put forward to explain business advancement of immigrants, though they also point out that these theories have had some shortcomings. What is the key element necessary for collective business advancement that is later described?

IMMIGRANT ADAPTION

*assimilation*: what is it, and how does it happen?

Define *structural assimilation*.

What process does Gordon define as being critical to *assimilation*?

For Warner and Srole, the speed at which immigrants gain access to core groups of society is driven by what three variables?

From Gordon, what are three key ideological tendencies when thinking about *assimilation*?

What is *selective acculturation*, and what are its advantages, according to Portes and Rumbaut?

The emergence of the second vein of the *ethnic resilience* model, as described on page 75 and beyond, will likely be covered in greater detail later on. Its significance and complex warrant our later attention, though in greater detail to do it justice.

The first sentence in the new paragraph in the middle of page 76 is a great summary of the *ethnic resilience* perspective.

The authors summarize some of the debates about *assimilationism* vs. *ethnic resilience* (76-77). We will look at these in later chapters.

*Transnationalism*: what is it, and what are a couple of perspectives about its role in *assimilation*?