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*Changing Patterns of Migration: the Case of Germany,
1945-1994*

Abstract

The authors examine how the immigrant population of Germany has risen despite the fact that the German government has sought to restrict it. They argue that among other things, family reunion policies, Germany's liberal asylum policy and the high birthrate of immigrant women has led to this phenomenon. The authors further argue that in order to understand German immigration, one must make a distinction between immigrants of German origin (the "expellees") and other immigrants of non-German origin. Each group received separate treatment, was viewed differently, and shared different fates in Germany. The authors argue that the German government needs to treat these groups more equally and make access to German citizenship easier for non-German immigrants. They conclude that Germany needs to reconceptualize its understanding of what constitutes German citizenry. The continued wealth and stability of Germany and the poverty and instability of its neighbors to the east ensure that Germany will continue to serve as a desirable destination for immigrants whether it supports that migration or not.

Rainer Münz is Professor of Demography at the Humbolt University, Berlin.

Ralf Ulrich is Professor of Demography at the Humbolt University, Berlin.

Contents

1 Introduction	3
2 Migration of Ethnic Germans and German Citizens	5
2.1 Expelles and other Ethnic German Immigrants	5
2.2 Emigration and Remigration of German citizens	8
2.3 Migration between East and West Germany	10
3 Immigration of Foreigners to Germany	13
3.1 Recruitment and the Rotational Model	13
3.2 The Recruitment Stop, Attempted Consolidation, New Waves of Immigration	17
3.3 Asylum Seekers and Refugees	19
4 Structure and Situation of Foreigners in Germany	23
4.1 From "Guest Workers" to Immigrants	23
4.2 Origins and Duration of Stay	25
4.3 Regional Distribution of Foreigners in Germany	26
4.4 Employment of foreigners by economic sectors and branches	29
4.5 Naturalization of Foreigners	30
5 Demography and Politics	32
5.1 A New Phase of Immigration to Germany?	32
5.2 Future Development of the Foreign Population in Germany	34
5.3 Future Prospects	37
Bibliography	38
Authors	45

List of Tables and Figures

Table 1: Population of Germany (in millions), 1950-1993	4
Table 2: Phases in the history of German migration, 1945-1995.....	5
Table 3: Asylum seekers and regular foreign migrants, 1970-93.....	20
Table 4: German cities with the highest share of foreign population, 1993.....	27
Table 5: Share of foreign population by Federal Provinces (Länder), 1993.....	29
Table 6: Naturalization of ethnic Germans ("Aussiedler") and foreigners, 1974-1992.....	31
Table 7: International migration from and to Germany, 1984-93.....	33
Table 8: Future growth of foreign population in Germany, two scenarios, 1993-2030.....	35
Figure 1: Immigration of ethnic Germans to FRG by country of origin, 1950-93.....	7
Figure 2: Emigration and remigration of German citizens, 1954-1993	10
Figure 3: Migration between East and West Germany, 1950-93	12
Figure 4: Migration of foreigners to and from Germany, 1954-1993.....	15
Figure 5: Foreigners and foreign labor in Germany, 1960-1993.....	16
Figure 6: Foreign labor in Germany by selected nationalities, 1954-1993.....	18
Figure 7: Asylum seekers in Germany, 1970-94	21
Figure 8: Foreign nationals in Germany by duration of stay, 1993	25
Figure 9: Foreign nationals in Germany by citizenship, 1971, 1993	26
Figure 10: Share of foreigners in Germany by district, 1992	28
Figure 11: Net migration balance for ethnic Germans, German citizens and foreigners, 1954-1994	34

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