

Maryna Kasianova, PhD in History

Serhii Nasadiuk

Vasyl' Stus Donetsk National University (Vinnytsia), Ukraine

MIGRATION PROCESSES IN JAPAN

The article examines the migration processes in Japan, which are formed under the influence of a number of factors, and especially state policy. The transformation and development of migration policy that influences citizen's life is considered. Attention was paid to the legal base of the Japanese government regarding the regulation of migration flows, as well as the positive and negative consequences for the country itself. The features of migration processes are characterized. The consequences of labor migration for the state are systematized. In addition, the motives and factors that encourage migration are considered. It is revealed that politicians who have a migratory past are increasingly appearing on the political arena, demanding equal rights with indigenous peoples. Based on data from the Statistics Bureau of Japan, the percentage of foreigners living in the territory of this country is analyzed. It is noted that migratory flows in the modern globalization world are of a driving character, which in one way or another forms the contours of political, economic and socio-cultural future.

Keywords: adaptation, migration legislation, migration processes, international migration, labor market.

Throughout history, we have the opportunity to observe the transformation and development of a migration policy that influences social life in one way or another and plays an important role in the evolution of socio-economic relations, which in turn influences on political development. Migration processes take a special place in the politics of each state. Along with such factors of international labor migration as globalization, the uneven development of different regions, the demographic situation in the host countries, the movement of foreign direct investment, the development of transport and communications, a very important factor is the official policy of regulating the migration itself. Due to the fact, that international labor migration encompasses many countries and regions, making the latter interdependent with migration flows, changes in the migration policy of one country can also effect on the situation of migration in other countries. To a certain extent, migration policy affects the quantitative and qualitative parameters of migration flows, their direction and the ratio of legal and illegal migration.

Review of recent publications. The issue of migration in Japan was devoted to the work of foreign researchers. Among them are the following works: Kyla Ryan¹, Seig, Linda², Yamawaki, Keizo³ and others. Nevertheless, more attention needs to be given to the above subject.

The objective of the report is to discuss and analyze the processes of international migration that influence on various aspects of Japanese life.

Migration of the population is caused by economic, political, social and ethnic factors. Throughout the history of humankind, it played a significant role in social development. On the one hand, the scale and direction of migration processes to a certain extent indicate the state of social and economic development of the country. On the other hand, the migration process itself has a significant impact on the development of the country.

For a long time, the Japanese nation remained homogeneous in ethnic terms – the number of non-Japanese in the country did not exceed 1%, but changes in the domestic needs of the economy and society – the aging of the population and the shortage of labor, the processes of globalization – made us realize

¹ Kyla, R. (2015). Japan's Immigration Reluctance. *The Diplomat*. <<https://thediplomat.com/2015/09/japans-immigration-reluctance/>> (2018, June, 06).

² Seig, L. (2016). Japan Eyes More Foreign Workers in Stealthy Challenge to Immigration Taboo. *Japan Times*. <<https://www.japantimes.co.jp/news/2016/04/27/national/japan-eyes-foreign-workers-stealthily-challenging-immigration-taboo/#.WhGH-zdx3IV>> (2018, June, 06).

³ Yamawaki, K. (2000). *Foreign Workers in Japan: a Historical Perspective*. In *Japan and Global Migration: Foreign Workers and the Advent of a Multicultural Society*. New-York: Routledge.

the inadmissibility of this doctrine, which allowed to modernize the migration legislation of the country.

Japan is a mono-national country. The population of ethnic Japanese is approximately 90%. Supplementary to them, the native-born minorities live in the country – Ainu and Riukiushki. According to the national census, they are registered as Japanese. The question is whether these minorities are debatable by ethnic groups or ethnographic groups of the Japanese people.

In accordance with The Statistics Bureau of Japan¹, together with the Japanese, there is a small percentage of foreigners. For instance, as of 2001, there were 1 778 462 people – 1.4% of the population of Japan. During the 1950s and 1980s, they accounted for only 0.6%, but, because of economic upsurge and globalization, their number gradually increased. Major groups of foreigners are Koreans (36%), Chinese (21%), Brazilians (15%), Filipinos (9%), Peruvians (3%) and US citizens (3%). In 2005 the number of Ukrainians in Japan was about 907 people.

Owing to the migration and to the complicated problems, that accompany it, this phenomenon is increasingly appearing in the political struggle, used by politicians as an argument against opponents, or as a means for acquiring political dividends. Politicization of migration, on the one hand, may be useful for the awareness of the society and the authorities of the need for policy decisions in this area, but, on the other hand, contributes to the emergence of additional tension in society. Migrants working abroad are, in fact, excluded from political life; they cannot exercise their right to vote, which creates a great deal of space for falsifications during the elections and for the manipulation of migrant workers by communities. This situation pushes immigrants to create their own political parties, capable of defending their interests, as the activists of immigrant organizations recently insist.

It does not come as a surprise that politicians from the migrant background are increasingly appearing in the political arena, radical parties emerging, organized by migrants. Among their requirements are: the provision of equal rights with indigenous peoples, including the right to original ethnic-cultural development, the facilitation of the procedure for obtaining citizenship, the right to participate in local elections, etc. The results of their activities are to facilitate the process of naturalization in many countries, not only in Japan; providing voting rights at local elections, identical to citizens; the formation of advisory bodies designed to support migrants in various aspects, including political.

M. Weiner emphasizes that "... provoked or forced migration can become an instrument by which one state can destabilize the situation in another, make it recognize its authority, force the neighboring state to interfere in its internal affairs, push the neighboring state to provide assistance or credit as the answer to the suspension of migration flows, or serve as a way of spreading their own political, economic interests, or interests of the dominant ethnic group for the sake of colonization".²

In 1999, the Japanese government approved the main directions of its policy in two documents: "Ideal Society and Policy for Economic Rebirth"³ and "The 9th Basic Plan of Measures in the Region Employment"⁴. According to these documents, the government has decided to facilitate the more active reception of foreign highly skilled technicians, while maintaining a cautious policy on unskilled labor resources. In March 2001, the government put forward the "e-Japan strategy" ("e-Japan strategy"), the goal of which was the adoption of 30 thousand IT professionals by 2005, the Ministry of Justice simplified the administrative procedure for the entry of such specialists from India for the status of "engineer". In a recent United Nations report on the demographic situation in leading industrialized countries, the organization's experts advise Japan to accept at least 600,000 immigrants annually to fill the rapid decline in the working population. By 2050, according to experts, their number in the country should be increased to 33 million

¹ The Statistics Bureau (2018). *The official website of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan*. <<http://www.stat.go.jp/english/>> (2018, June, 06).

² Weiner, M. (1990). *Security, Stability, and International Migration*. Cambridge: Center for International Studies Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 43.

³ Economic Planning Agency. Government of Japan (1999). *Ideal Socioeconomy and Policies for Economic Rebirth 1999*. *The official website of the Cabinet Office, Government Of Japan* <<http://www5.cao.go.jp/99/e/19990705e-keishin-e.html>> (2018, June, 06).

⁴ Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (2004). *Trends in International Migration* <https://books.google.com.ua/books?id=uKTVAgAAQBAJ&pg=PA222&lpg=PA222&dq=9th+Basic+Plan+for+Employment+Measures+Japan&source=bl&ots=tq6Cv_jSpa&sig=DRFVrewZBYY20jwh8LJtJSNaGB8&hl=ru&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiDlvu8t57aAhUOKVAKHUcrCCsQ6AEIOjAD#v=onepage&q=9th%20Basic%20Plan%20for%20Employment%20Measures%20Japan&f=false> (2018, June, 06).

people. Japan has only gradually begun to remove restrictions on the use of foreign labor. In addition, mitigation of immigration legislation will take place as the problems with labor resources in the country increase.

Such migration processes have significant positive and negative consequences for the country. To the positive effects, we can refer to the general benefits of migration:

- migration promotes to the growth of the population of able-bodied age and the reduction of the ratio of elderly people (65 years and above);
- migration enlarges the labor force, which fuels economic growth;
- multicultural dialogue plays an important role in combating intolerance and facilitates mutual understanding. Educational programs in formal as well as informal communication and youth work are effective tools for developing intercultural competences, increasing awareness of migration issues and presenting ethnic, religious, linguistic and cultural differences as a source of development, not as a problem;
- the technical and economic level of production increases due to the work of more qualified immigrants;
- opportunities for private investment increase;
- the tension in the domestic labor market is reduced due to the export of surplus labor;
- budget revenues are rising in the form of taxes from intermediary firms;
- currency revenues to the country increase at the expense of private transfers of immigrants;
- the standard of living and well-being of family members, left at home, increases.

As for the negative aspects¹, we can say:

- firstly, society understands that the number of illegal migrants, who have penetrated into the country with counterfeit documents or stayed longer, than the specified period of their staying are engaged in dubious activities, which leads to the development of crime and, in general, the deterioration of security;
- secondly, the process of aging of the population carries a shortage of manpower. In this regard, the government should review the restrictions on the admission of foreigners to work, and above all, it concerns the category of workers who are in urgent need (doctors, nurses, etc.);
- thirdly, there are problems of abuse of the visa legislation preferences provided for the category of foreign probationer / interns. Under this status is understood training at the enterprise and internship. However, small and medium-sized Japanese companies are using the visa relaxation to get cheap labor. Typically, no one teaches such workers, but uses them to carry out heavy unskilled physical labor with low wages and without social guarantees;
- fourthly, in Japan, there is the problem of using the "artist" category visas to bring girls prostituted into the country. Criminal groups use such a weakness in the legislation to conduct their illegal activities. The Japanese government is also subjected to international criticism of insufficient measures to combat trafficking in human beings;
- fifthly, the active migration of the Japanese population to large cities turned the country into a highly hostile state and, as a result, caused a significant gap in the standard of living of the population and periphery. In the prefectures too, there was a shortage of young skilled personnel, as young people, going to big cities, did not return back. This further complicates the social and economic situation in the cities.

In the light of the foregoing, it can be stated that the migration policy of Japan has undergone a significant stage of formation, undergoing changes and in a certain way, by improving the rules and norms, established for years.² As we see, for the most part, the country conducts a moderate and well-balanced migration policy in order to prevent the influx of foreigners, and especially unskilled personnel. Modern Japanese legislation aims to preserve cultural diversity and plays an important role in building a future country through controlled migration. It should be emphasized that migration legislation is complex and is constantly being improved through the implementation of the necessary levers to attract professional migrants, investors, businessmen, and, on the other hand, to prevent entry into the country of undesirable categories of migrants to the country and thereby protect the national interests.

¹ EMBRACE (2012). *The pros and cons of Migration* <<https://www.embraceni.org/migration/the-pros-and-cons-of-migration/>> (2018, June, 06).

² Green, D. (2017). *As Its Population Ages, Japan Quietly Turns to Immigration. Migration Information Source.* <<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/its-population-ages-japan-quietly-turns-immigration>> (2018, June, 06).

Based on the analysis of the migration policy, along with regulatory, monitoring, integration and diplomatic functions of the state migration policy, more protective, economic and innovative functions are singled out. Protective manifests itself in protecting domestic labor abroad; economic – in attracting into the country's economy the investment capital of a migratory origin; innovative – in encouraging the labor immigration of highly skilled foreign specialists who can qualitatively influence the innovative development of the host country.

The attraction of foreign labor force leads to increased competition in the domestic labor market to some extent stimulates the growth of labor productivity and production efficiency in the country. It should also be noted that the economy of a number of industrialized countries was created by the massive attraction of labor from the outside.

However, Zbigniew Brzeziński argued, Western Europe, USA and Japan will not be able to afford to stop immigration mainly due to the shortage of labor, partly because of the progressive and accelerated global aging. The aging of the titular population of the West can shift the ratio of the socially dependent senior group to the risk of a financially dangerous, will lead in the near future to a sharp increase in public debt and even to default countries.

In principle, as history and contemporary international immigration often show that countries of emigration have more control over international leakage of the population than is thought by those that believe in the spontaneity of immigration; in fact, in many cases, immigration is a conscious immigration policy from the countries of emigration. Considering the flow of refugees only as an unintended consequence of internal shifts or economic crises means not to take into account the desire of some governments to reduce in quantity or beyond its territory of certain social classes and ethnic groups and to influence the policy of their neighbors.

The effectiveness of the state migration policy will be achieved only if adequate information is provided. The incompleteness and incommensurability of existing statistical information on external as well as internal migration considerably complicates the formation of a well-considered and effective state policy. International labor migration has both positive and negative consequences for countries and people. That is why it is important to develop such a state migration policy that can overcome the shortcomings and rationally use positive effects for the economic and political development of countries.

In conclusion, the aforesaid testifies, the need to shift the emphasis in the research of international migration processes, from the traditional description of the economic and socio-demographic causes of migration to a deeper explanation of the scale, trends, composition of migratory flows, factors that determine the motivation of migration decisions and the choice of place of self-realization, and also motivating states and supranational structures that stimulate or impede certain migration processes.

The transition from a simple description of the mechanisms of socio-economic adaptation of migrants to a comprehensive study of the forms and ways of their socio-political integration with the local population and the possible consequences of this process for society, especially to change the structure and dynamics of political relations, is necessary. There is a need for a transition to in-depth and comprehensive knowledge of the essence of migration processes, which lead to large-scale consequences not only in the economic and demographic spheres, but also in the socio-cultural and political aspects of the vital functions of modern societies. Only this formulation of the question can provide the disclosure of the laws and mechanisms of modern migration processes, which will allow successfully to model and predict their consequences.

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