

*Migration without borders:  
essays on the free movement of people.*

Edited by Antoine Pécoud and Paul De Guchteneire.  
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*Lorena Peterle Modolo Braz\**

Edited by Paul de Guchteneire and Antoine Pécoud, from the International Migration and Multicultural Policies Section at UNESCO, the book addresses the issue of the politics of migration under the prism of the 'migration without borders' (MWB) scenario. Despite presenting trends in controlling frontiers observed in developed countries migration policies, Pécoud and Guchteneire declare that more reflection should be given to free movement of people across boundaries, bringing forth new approaches for this phenomenon. Hence, the twelve essays organized in this volume deal with economic, social, political, ethical and the human rights dimensions of free migration in a globalizing world as an attempt to point out that free movement of people could encourage cross cultural relations and economic gains for both receiving and sending countries, and the migrants themselves, while stimulating tolerance and enriching the debate about the right to mobility.

The volume is divided in two parts, each one embracing articles that turn the attention to the MWB scenario in different perspectives. The first part concerns theoretical issues present in current debates. Nigel Harris states that the world economy requires a mechanism of global labor exchange, restricting the role of governments to responsibilities for employment regu-

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\* Undergraduate International Relations student at the University of Brasilia (Universidade de Brasília –UnB). Brasília / Brazil.

lations, that could benefit both developed and developing countries. The question of a right to mobility is analyzed by Catherine Wihtol de Wenden in a context of current violations of human rights and fails of border controls, assuming the premise that mobility is a fundamental human right and a complement to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The social dimension is also focused on this book, considering questions such as how many people would migrate in a MWB scenario. While the operating restrictive system encourages people to seek illegal forms of entering a territory, the open borders condition would enable voluntary return and temporary migration, reducing the risks the migrants are exposed to. Dismissing the idea of mass immigration as a result of open borders, the “invisible boundaries” cited in Jan Kunz and Mari Leinonen article are an evidence that the idea of a borderless Europe is not a reality for all, thus depending on economic and cultural factors to become substantial. Security issues, international cooperation between receiving and sending states, mechanisms of governance of free movement and its implications for democracy are also highlighted as a reflection about the practical dimensions of MWB scenario.

The second section addresses the regional perspectives to indicate the difficulty and complexity in establishing a free movement regime, examining the cases of Europe, Asia, West and Southern Africa, South American Cone and North America. Despite the historical human mobility observed in Africa, recent events such as nationalism and xenophobia, and even economic interests, configure a threat to the MWB scenario. In the cases of MERCOSUL (Southern Common Market) and SADC (Southern African Development Community) the free movement of goods seems to be a priority on the regional agenda despite human mobility issues. The fight against irregular migration is set as a common feature for both European and South American migration policies, especially border controls.

Dealing with the main issues of the contemporary debates on migration through diverse lenses, the book considers the MWB scenario as a tool for more sustainable policies and, at the same time, it recognizes the limits of this model to be implemented. However, rethinking the conventional views, it is not a political guide for implementing a MWB system, but “an inspiring vision for the future of migration and a precious source of ideas to imagine fairer migration policies” (p.26).