



Diasporas and Homelands – What Do We Know?

Rainer Münz Erste Group

Migration and Identity: Encouraging the Role of Diaspora

Riga, April 13, 2012





What is a Diaspora?

Diaspora



- Originally, the term was used for Jewish emigrants forced into Babylonian exile after the collapse of the Kingdom of Judah (587 B.C.)
- Today, the term is generally used for ethnic or religious groups of people, who:
 - live outside their historical home country,
 - are dispersed as a result of historical migration or changes of boundaries,
 - keep a distinct identity that differs from the majority in their host countries

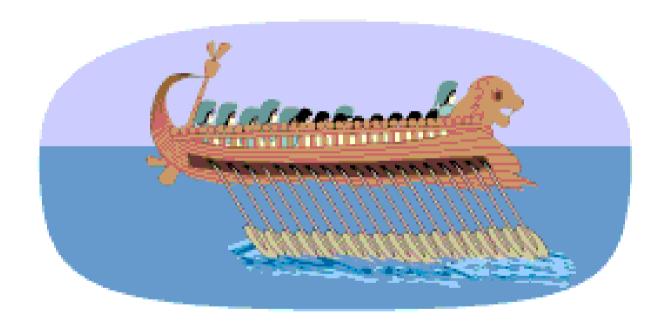




A few examples ...

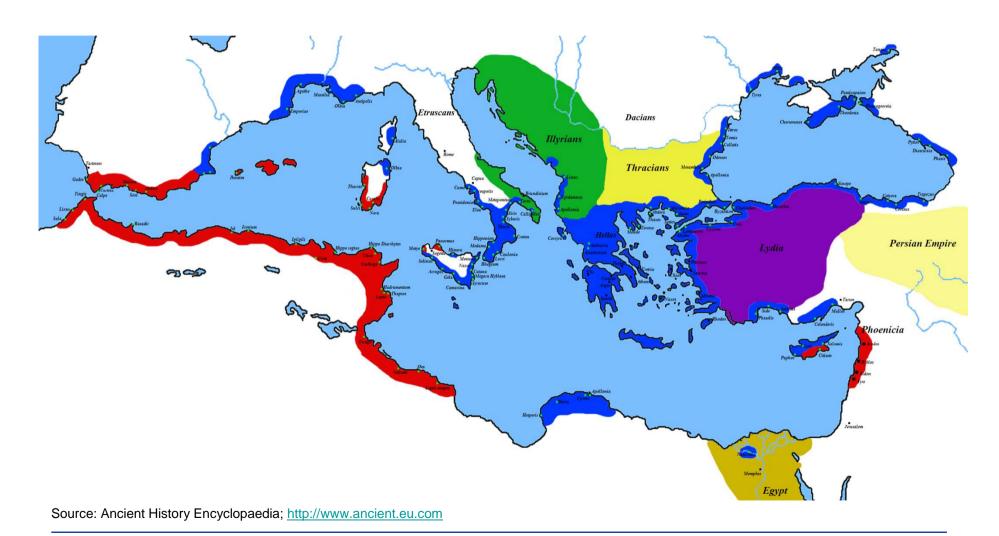
Greeks and Phoenicians





Greek and Phoenician colonies, 550 B.C.

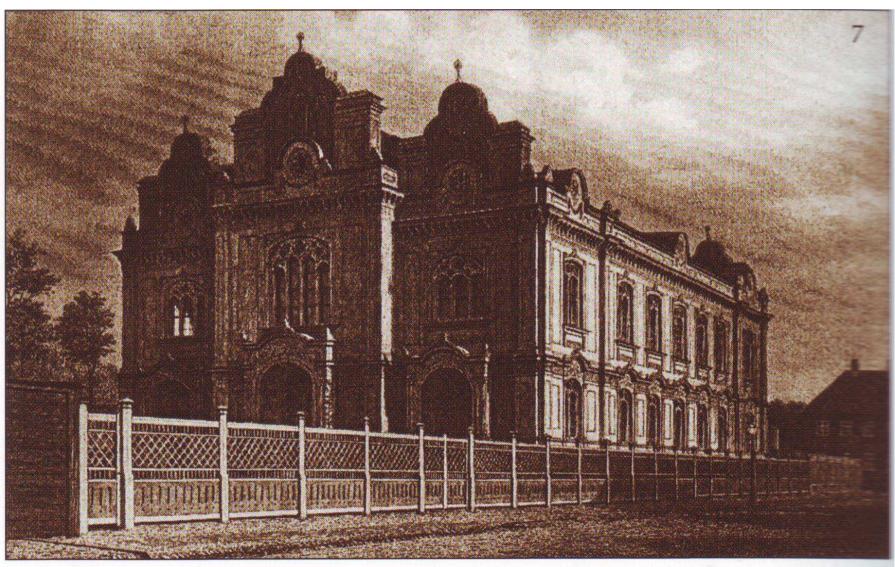




Jewish Diaspora



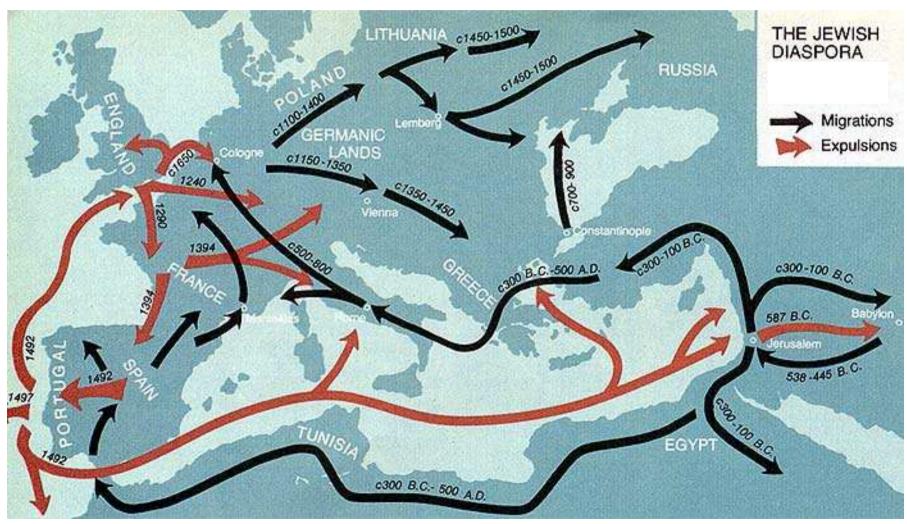
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Riga's main synagogue, 1870-1941

Jewish Diaspora, 547 BC - 1500 AD

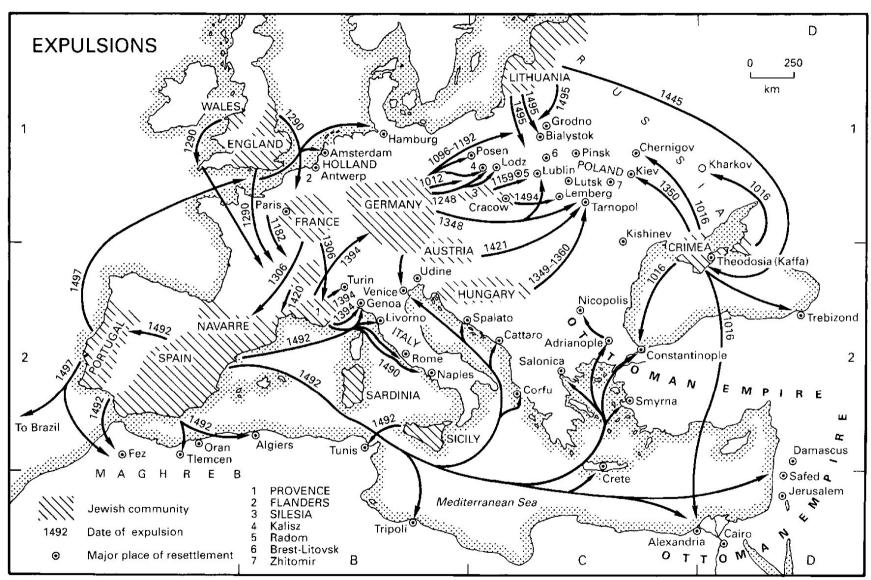




Source: World Jewish Congress

Jewish Diaspora, 1000 – 1500

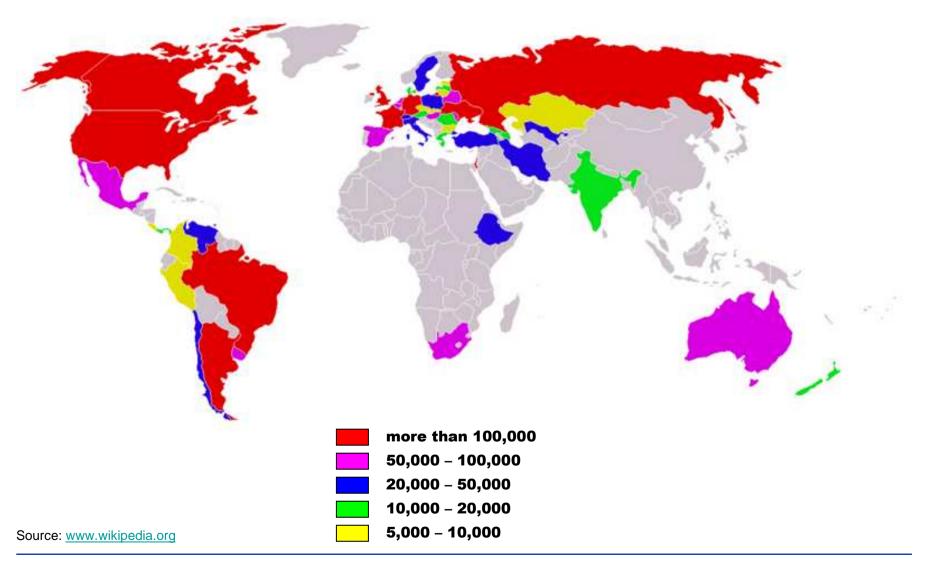




Source: World Jewish Congress

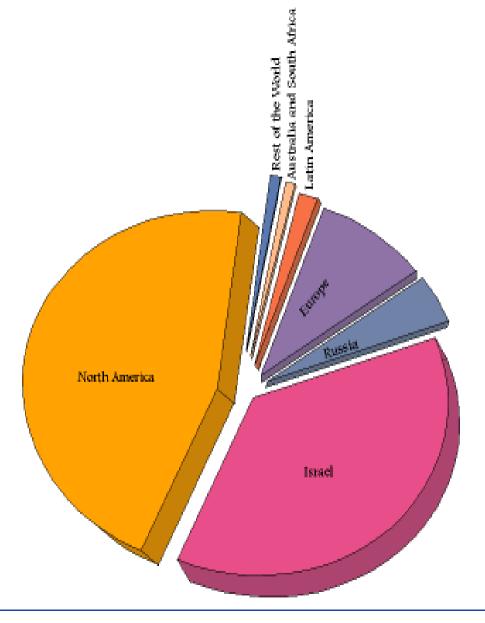
Jewish Diaspora today





Jewish Diaspora today





Source: World Jewish Congress

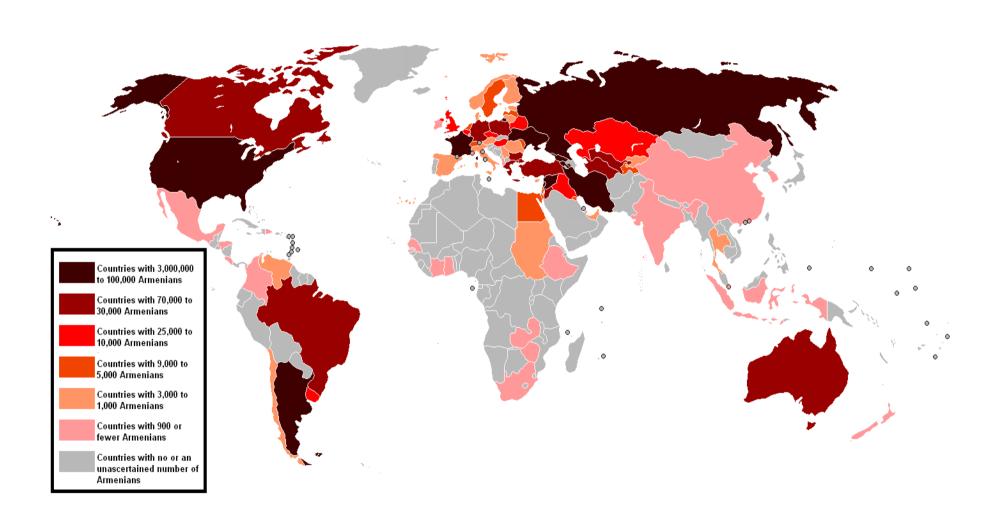
Armenian Diaspora





Armenian Diaspora

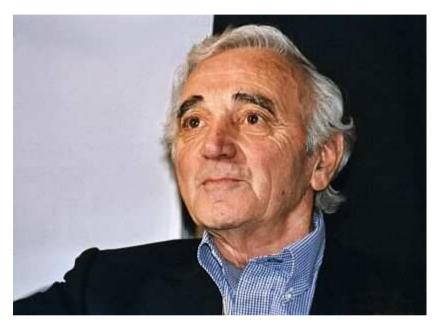




Source: www.wikipedia.org

Armenian Diaspora





Charles Aznavour(ian), Famous French singer



Cher(ilyn Sarkissian), Famous US singer

Ethnic German Diaspora

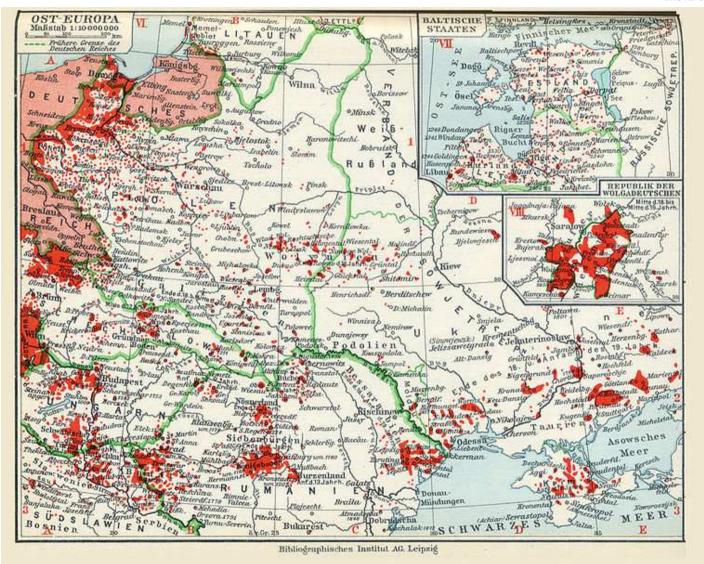




Ethnic German Diaspora



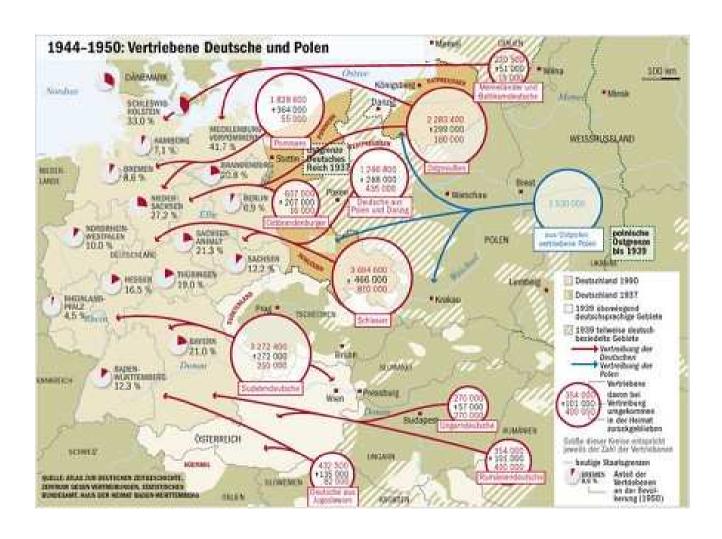
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Source: www.wikipedia.org

Ethnic German Diaspora

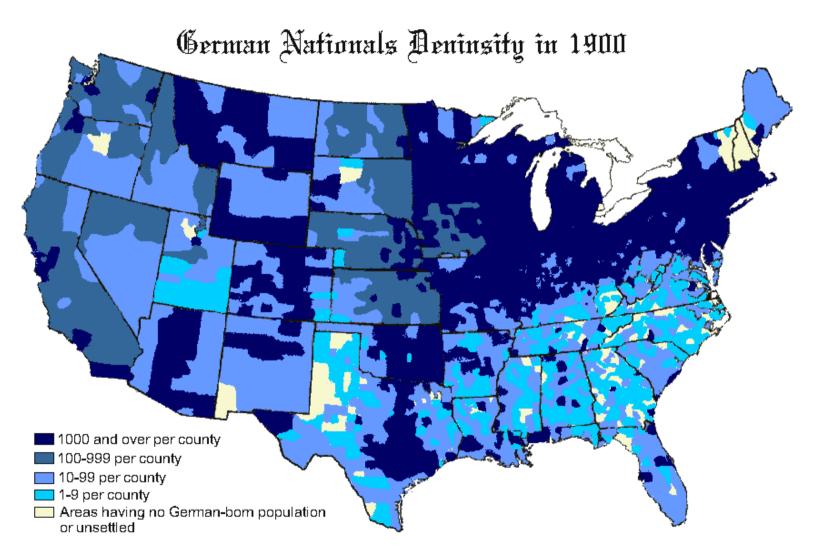




Source: www.wikipedia.org

Ethnic German Diaspora?





Source: http://www.rollintl.com

Ethnic German Diaspora?





German Gref, Former Russian Minister for Economy and Trade, CEO & Chairman of Sberbank



Karl-Heinz Lambertz, First Minister, German speaking community, Belgium



Klaus Johannis, Mayor of Sibiu

Ethnic Russian Diaspora

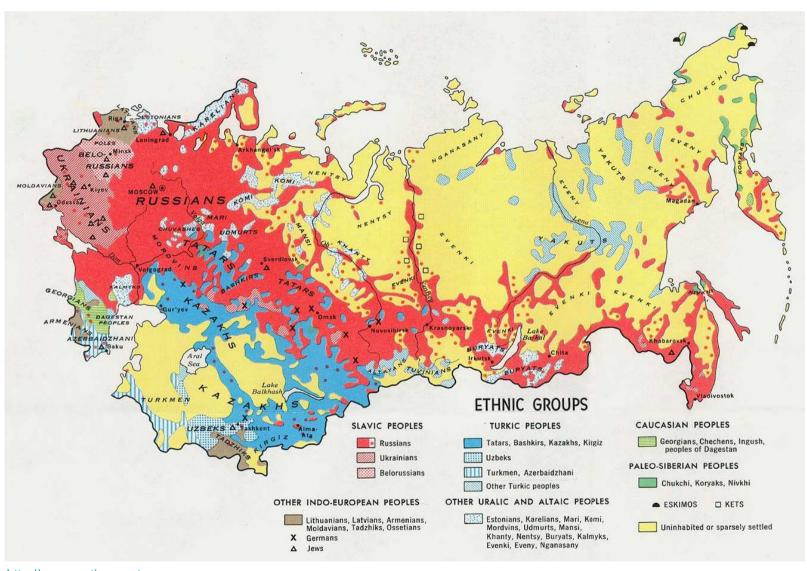




Soviet Bronze Soldier monument relocated from Tallinn to Tonismagi

Ethnic Russians





Source: http://maps.nationmaster.com

Ethnic Russian Diaspora



Boundary expresentation is not necessarily authoritative. Sweden Finland Significant concentration of ethnic Russians Scattered presence of ethnic Russians Russia Population totals for the Battic states taken from The World Factbook 1994. Population totals for all other countries taken from CIS Statistical Bulletin #20. Jone 1994. Poland MINSK MOSCOW Belarus Mongolia, Slovakia Hungary Romania Kazakhstan Black Sea China Turkey DUSHANBE Tajikistan Turkmenistan Cyprus ASHGABAT Syria Iran Afghanistan India Iraq 500 Nonetes Pakistan 500 Vilia

Source: http://maps.nationmaster.com

Ethnic Russian Diaspora?





Nils Ušakovs, Mayor of Riga



Ualikhan Qaisarov, candidate for Kazakhstan's presidential election 2011, disqualified for 28 spelling errors

Roma Diaspora

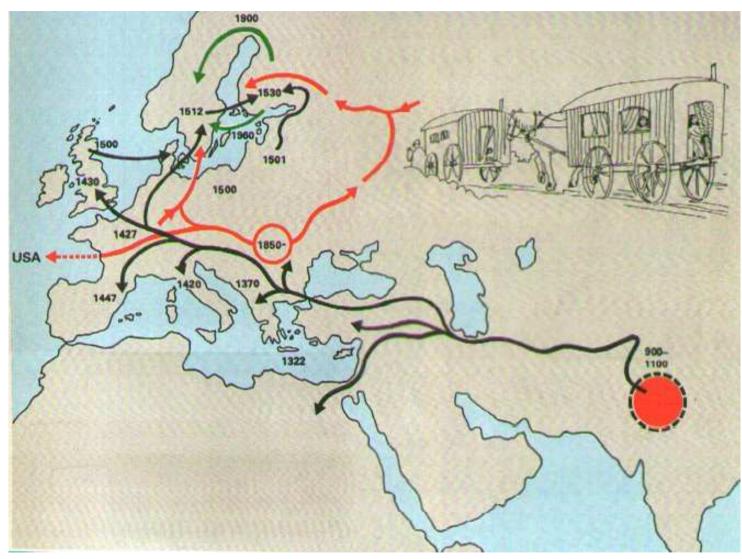




Austrian supermarket initiative: donating money to a school for Roma children in Hungary

Roma Diaspora

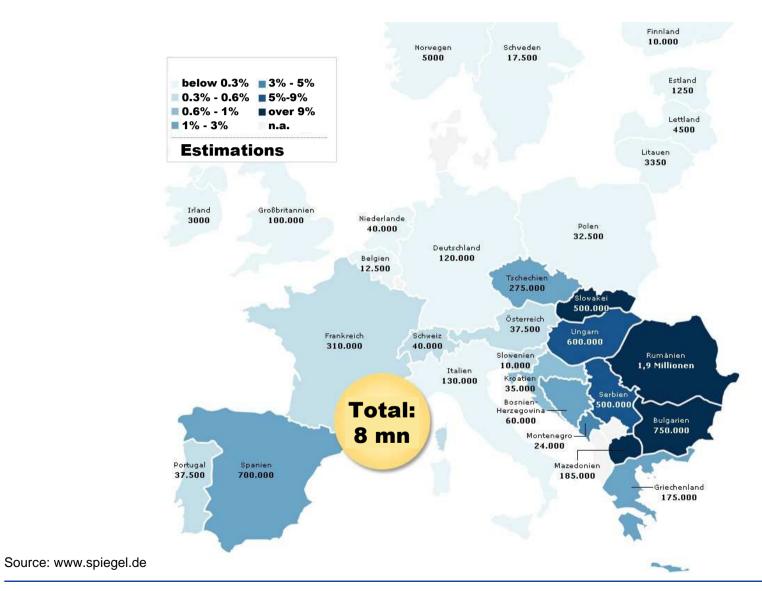




Source: http://www.vurdon.it

Roma Diaspora today





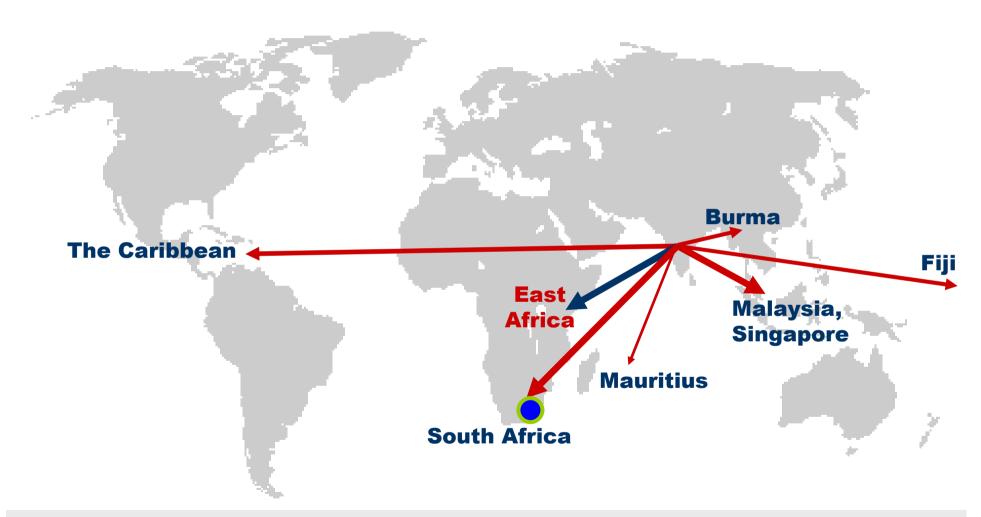
Indian Diaspora





Indian Diaspora, 1850-1940

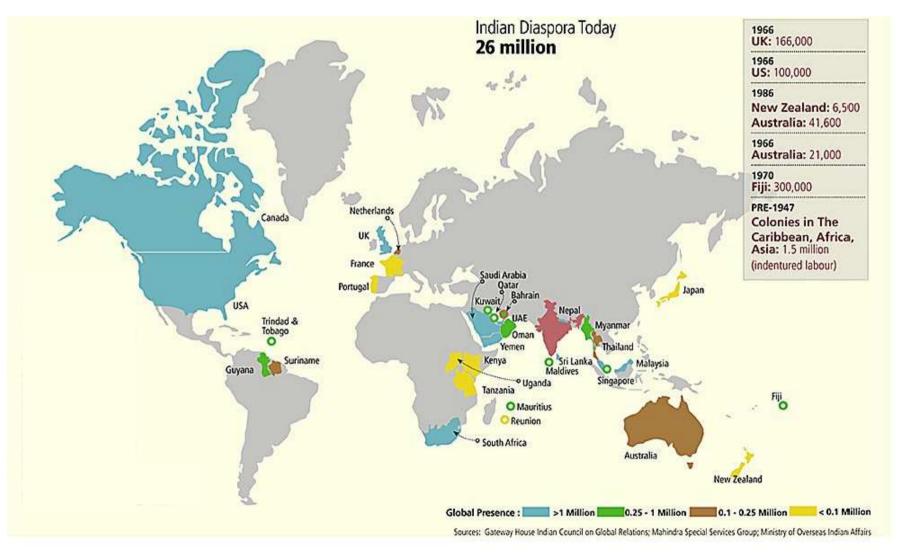




Where did Mahatma Gandhi start his political career?

Indian Diaspora today

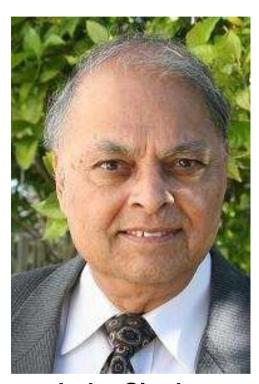




Source: Forbes India

Indian Diaspora?





Inder Singh,
Chairman, Global
Organization of
People of Indian
Origin (GOPIO)



Bobby Jindal, Governor, Louisiana



Kamla Persad Bissessar, Prime Minister, Trinidad & Tobago

Chinese Diaspora





Chinese Diaspora, 1850-1920

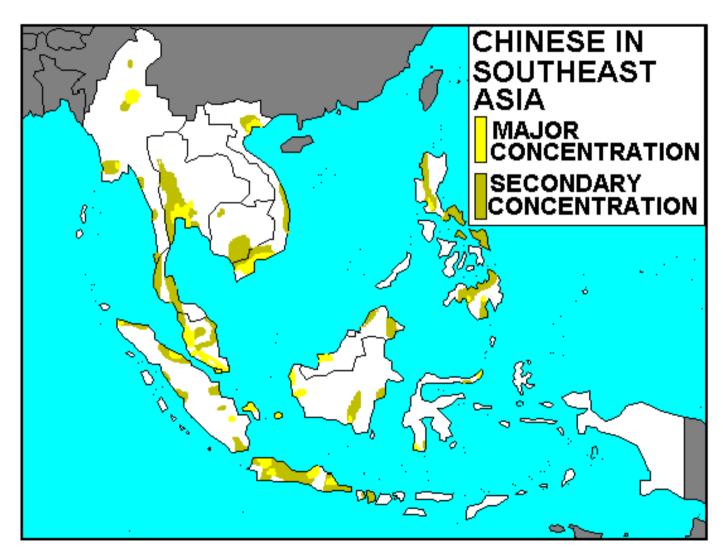




Large scale export/import of Chinese labor

Chinese Diaspora in Southeast Asia

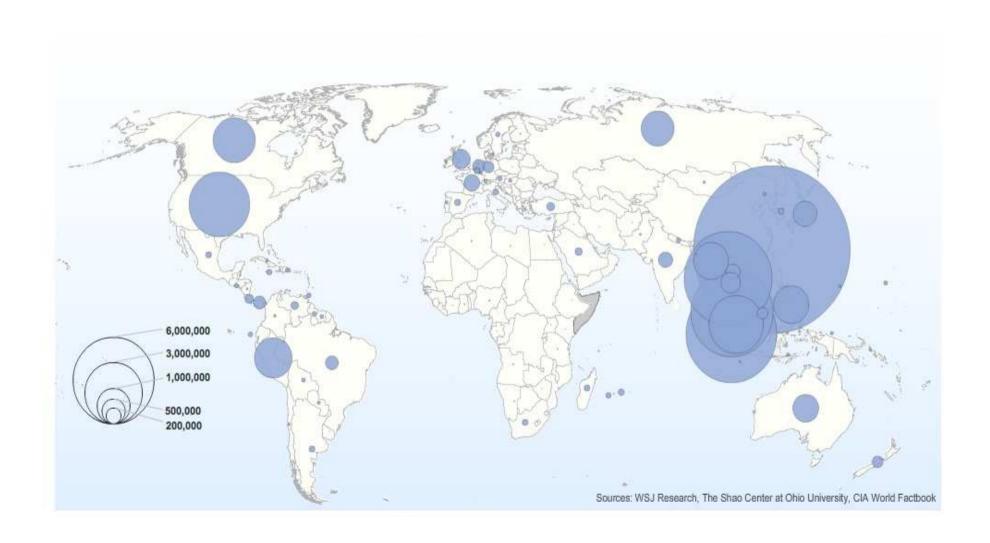




Source: http://greenefutures.blogspot.com

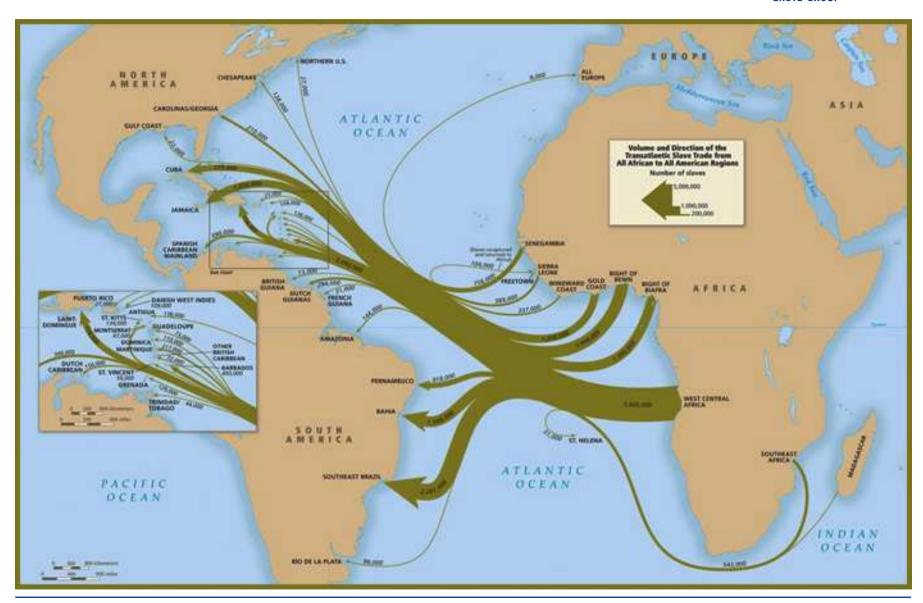
Chinese Diaspora today





African Diaspora(s)?





African Diaspora?



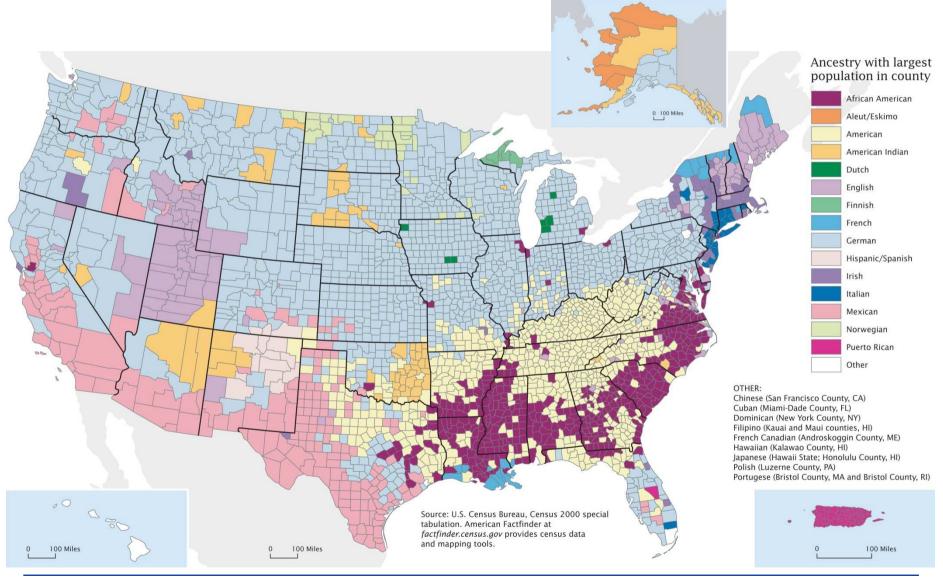


Barack Hussein Obama US president

Population by largest ancestry group, ERSTE **US** counties, census 2000



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Why should we take an interest in Diasporas?

Diaspora quarters around the world













There are several types of Diasporas



- Diasporas identifying / not identifying with a particular homeland (Indians abroad vs. Gypsies; Africans in Europe vs. African Americans)
- Diasporas supporting / not supporting a particular nation state abroad considered as homeland (Armenians, Jews vs. Cubans abroad)
- Diasporas looking for "repatriation", change of borders, creation of new nation states (Kosovo-Albanians abroad, Irish Diaspora, ethnic Germans)

There are also several types of Diaspora involvement



- Sending remittances
- Contributing to community development
- Paying taxes
- Voting from abroad
- Lobbying for the cause of the (former) homeland
- Investing in the (former) homeland
- Supporting ethnic conflicts, regime change, etc.





Economic aspects



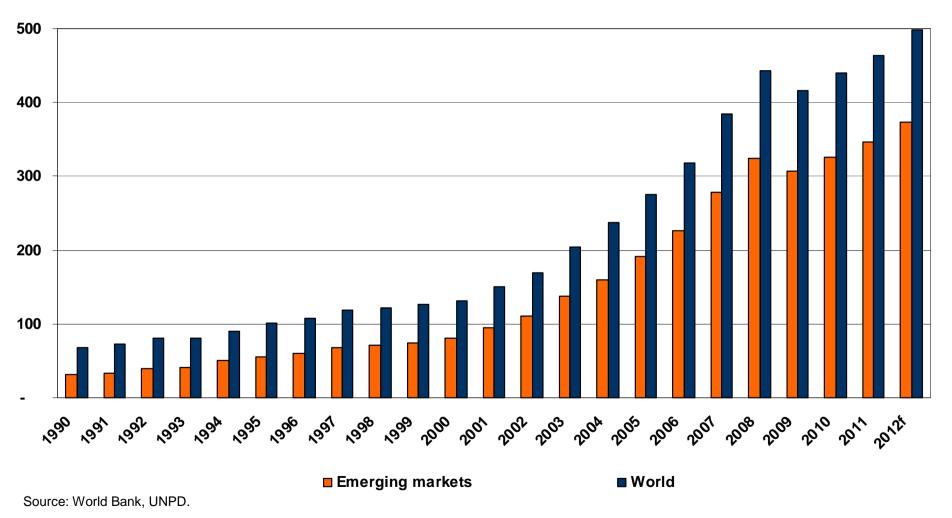


From host to home countries: Remittances

Global remittances amount to over 400 billion US-\$ per year



Remittances to emerging markets and total, 1990-2012, in billion US-\$



Over 300 billion US\$ are sent to emerging markets every year



Asia and Oceania

Remittances to emerging markets, 2010







Investments in the former homeland

Diaspora investments

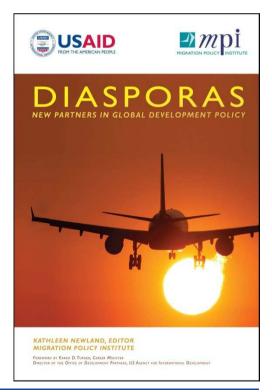
Largest flows:

- Chinese investments from Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, US to mainland China
- Indian Diaspora from UK + US investing in India
- Israeli + Indian Diaspora bonds









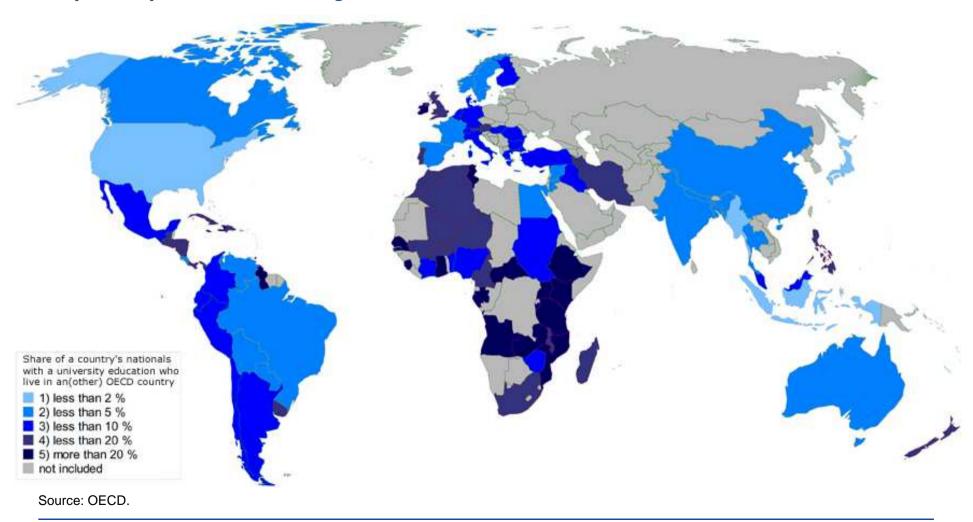




From home to host countries: Brain drain

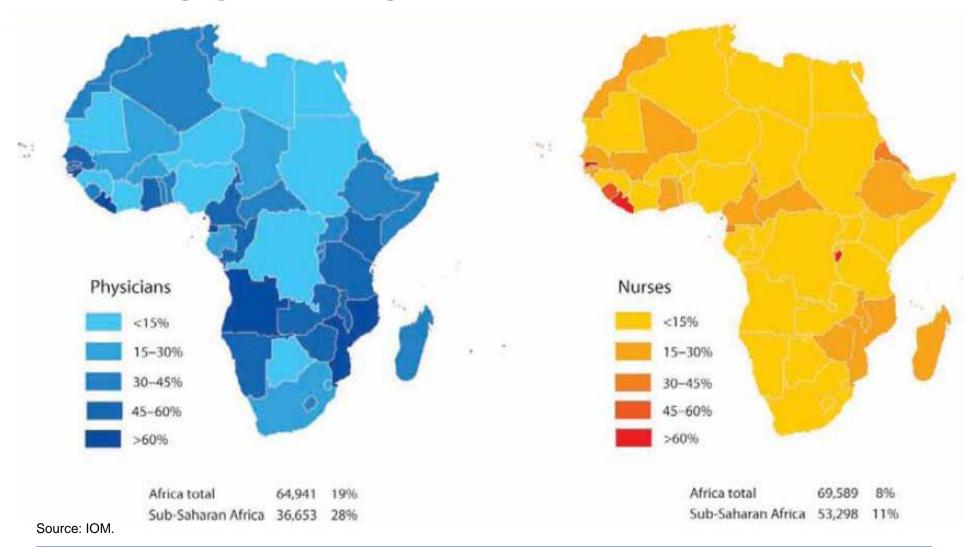
Good for the host country, but brain drain is of great disadvantage for the home country

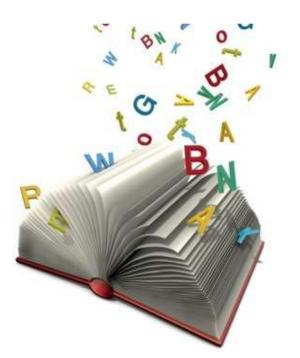
Share of a country's nationals with university education living in an(other) OECD country



In Africa, up to 60% of the highly skilled in the health care sector emigrate

Share of highly skilled emigrants in the health care sector





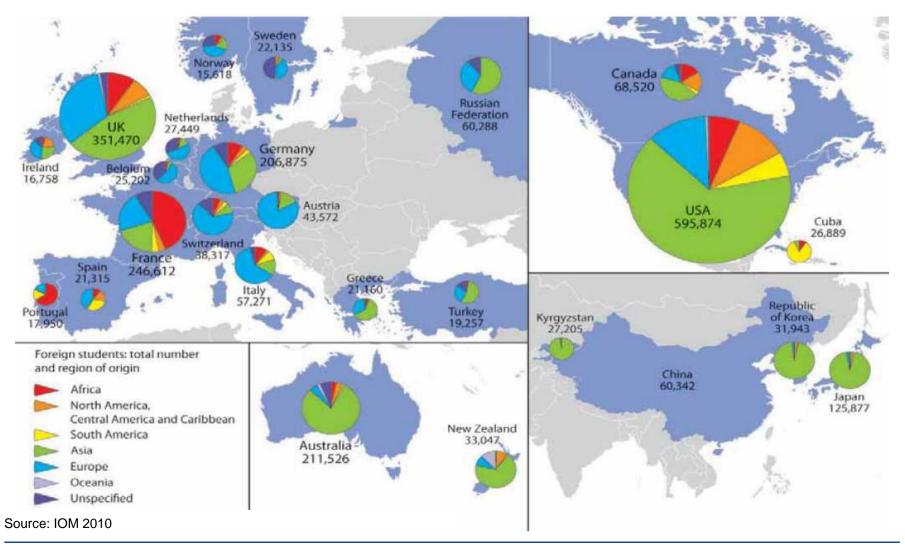


Gaining higher education abroad

Some 3 million people are living abroad for educational reasons



Migration of international students







Social and cultural aspects





Identity Loyalty Citizenship

Language and citizenship



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Religion and traditions





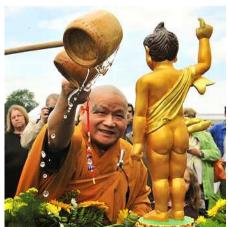












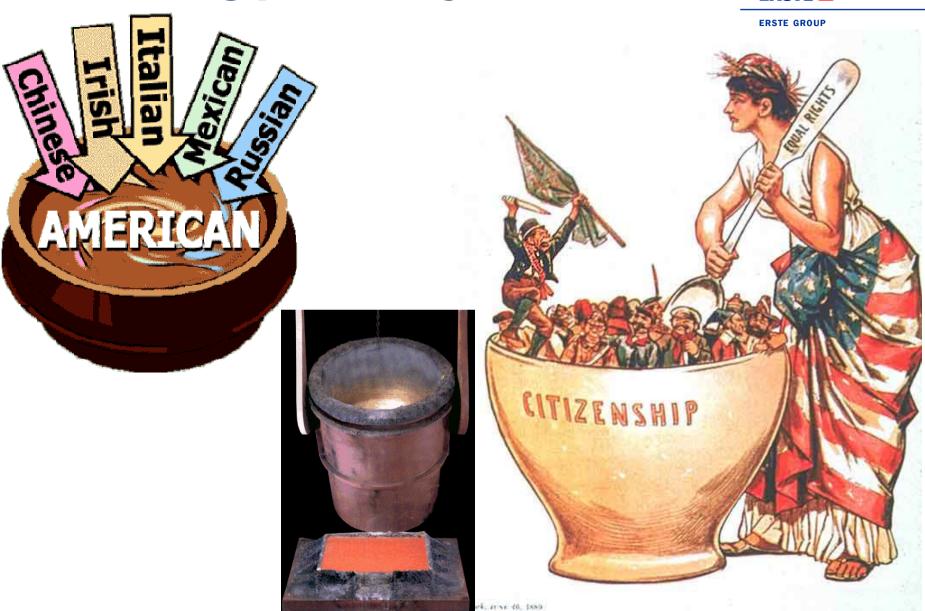




Integration vs. Diaspora?

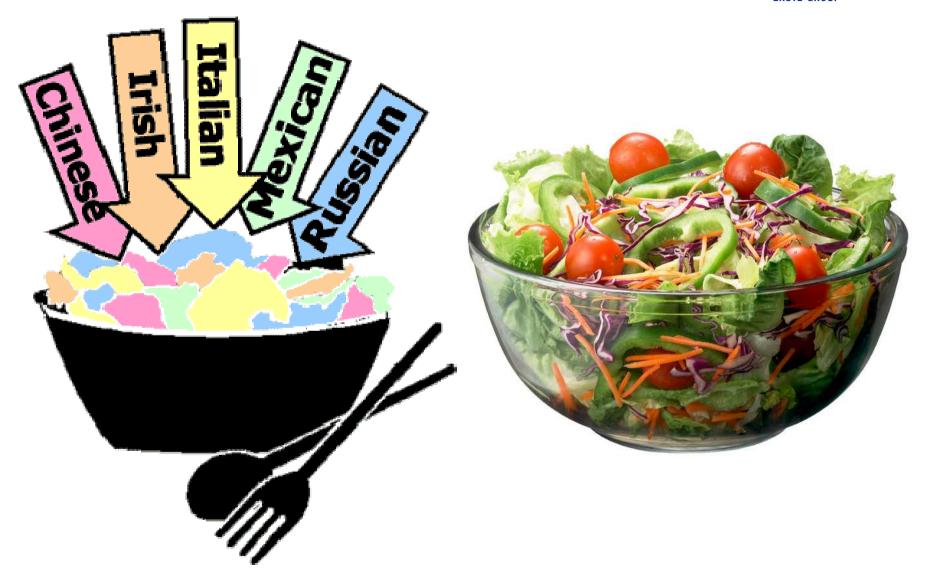
The melting pot theory





The salad bowl theory







Get Involved,

Dude



Political involvement

Political involvement back home – A few examples





Vaira Vike Freiberga, Canadian university professor, former president of Latvia



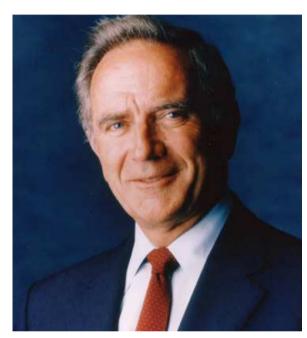
Imran Khan,
Oxford graduate, world
class cricket player, founder
of Pakistan's Islamist
Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party

Political involvement back home – A few examples





Radosław Sikorski,
Oxford graduate, former
freelancer journalist and
Mujahideen-combatant in
Afghanistan,
current Foreign Minister of
Poland



Milan Panić, US entrepreneur, former Prime Minister of Yugoslavia

Voting rights?





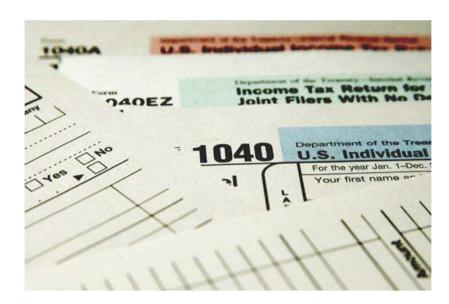


Mexican presidential candidate Josefina Vazquez Mota adresses a Hispanic audience in San Antonio (TX)

Taxation?







- Some countries try to tax their citizens wherever they live
- The most prominent examples are the US and the Philippines
- Other countries try to tax remittances







Outlook: What could be done?





Mobility of skills through circular migration could be an advantage for home countries!

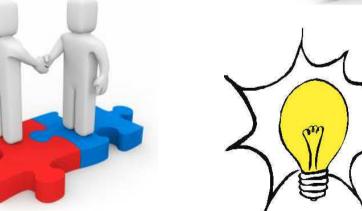
Migrants can return with ...



- additional knowledge,
- improved skills,
- new business ideas,
- established trade relations
- money















How can countries empower their Diasporas abroad while keeping them engaged with their former homeland?



- Since the 1990s: Regular visits of Diasporas around the world by Indian presidents, prime ministers, union ministers
- Since 1999: Person of Indian Origin Card (PIO card) available to former Indian citizens and their non-Indian-born descendants
- Since 2005: Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) restricted to those whose parents or grandparents had Indian citizenship in 1950
- Both grant practical parity with Indian citizens but do not permit voting, standing for election, or government employment

Source: Migration Policy Institute



- Since 2003: Diaspora conferences (Pravasi Bharatiya Divas) as a platform for interaction between overseas Indians, the Indian government, and interested segments of the Indian society
- Since 2004: The Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs reaching out to the Diaspora: "Know India"-Program for Diaspora youth, annual awards for eminent Diaspora personalities
- Since 2007: Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre assists Indians abroad to invest in India
- Since 2009: Global Advisory Council to the Prime Minister, consisting of Indian scholars, scientists, politicians, and businessmen living abroad

Source: Migration Policy Institute





Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs Vayalar Ravi lighting the lamp to inaugurate the first Gujarati Convention in New Jersey







Public diplomacy: Indian Independence Day celebrations on Aug. 15

From repression via neglect to proactive engagement of Diasporas



- In the past many governments either restricted emigration and saw those leaving as traitors,
- Or facilitated emigration in the hope of getting rid of underemployed workers, political opponents, members of ethno-religious minorities.
- As a result emigrants were often ignored or neglected by their (former) home countries.

From repression via neglect to proactive engagement of Diasporas



- Today a growing number of sending countries begins to understand the potential of emigrants and Diasporas.
- Some countries have developed smart migration and Diaspora policies.



Thank you for your attention!



rainer.muenz@erstegroup.com