

# Rethinking Australian Migration

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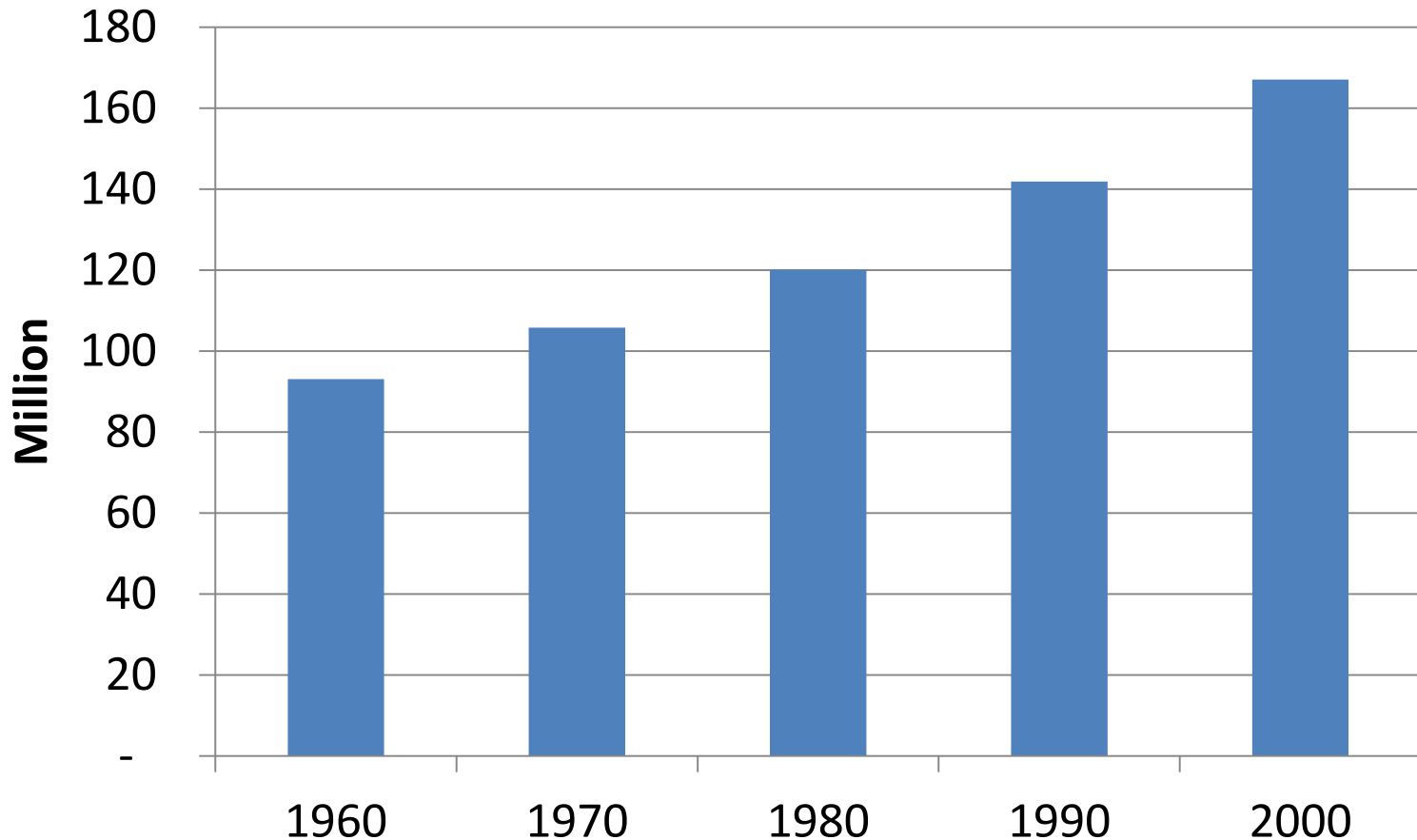
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# Challenges to Australian migration model

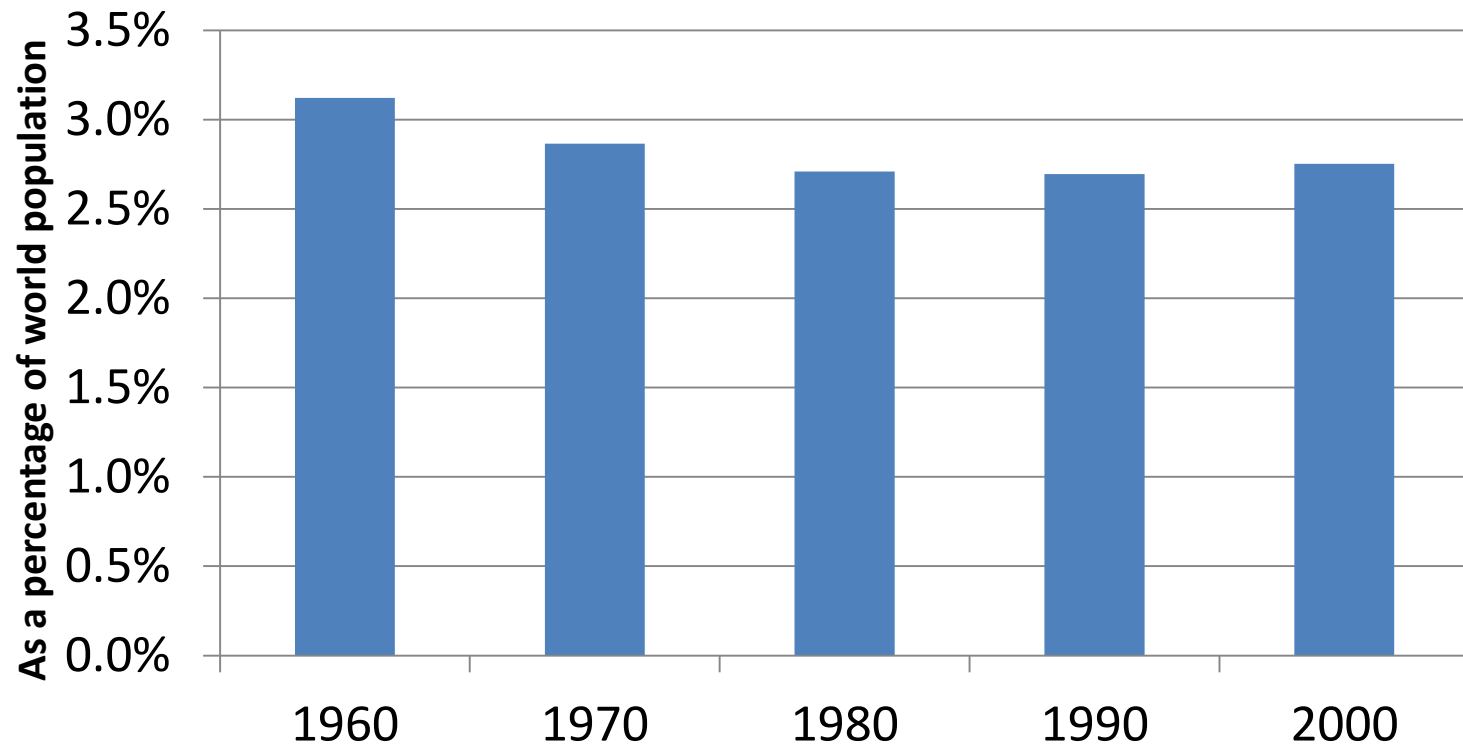
1. Changes in global and regional migration
2. From population-building to economic migration
3. The growth of temporary migration
  - National or transnational belonging?
  - Significance for settlement, citizenship, social entitlements?
4. Multiculturalism: citizenship rights or social cohesion and security?
5. The 'asylum crisis' as a distraction

# World migrant population



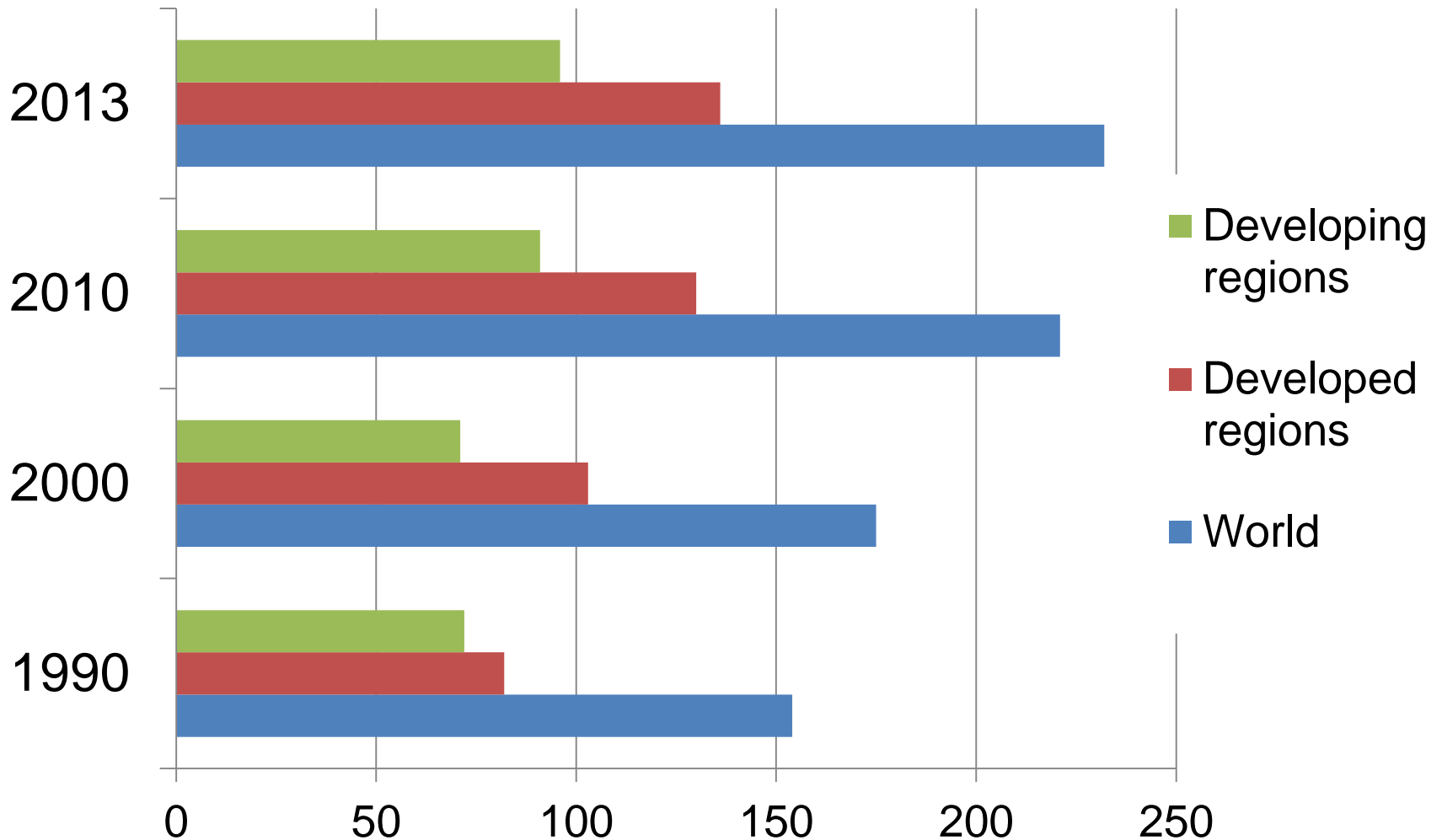
Data source: Global Bilateral Migration Database

## International migrants, relative to world population

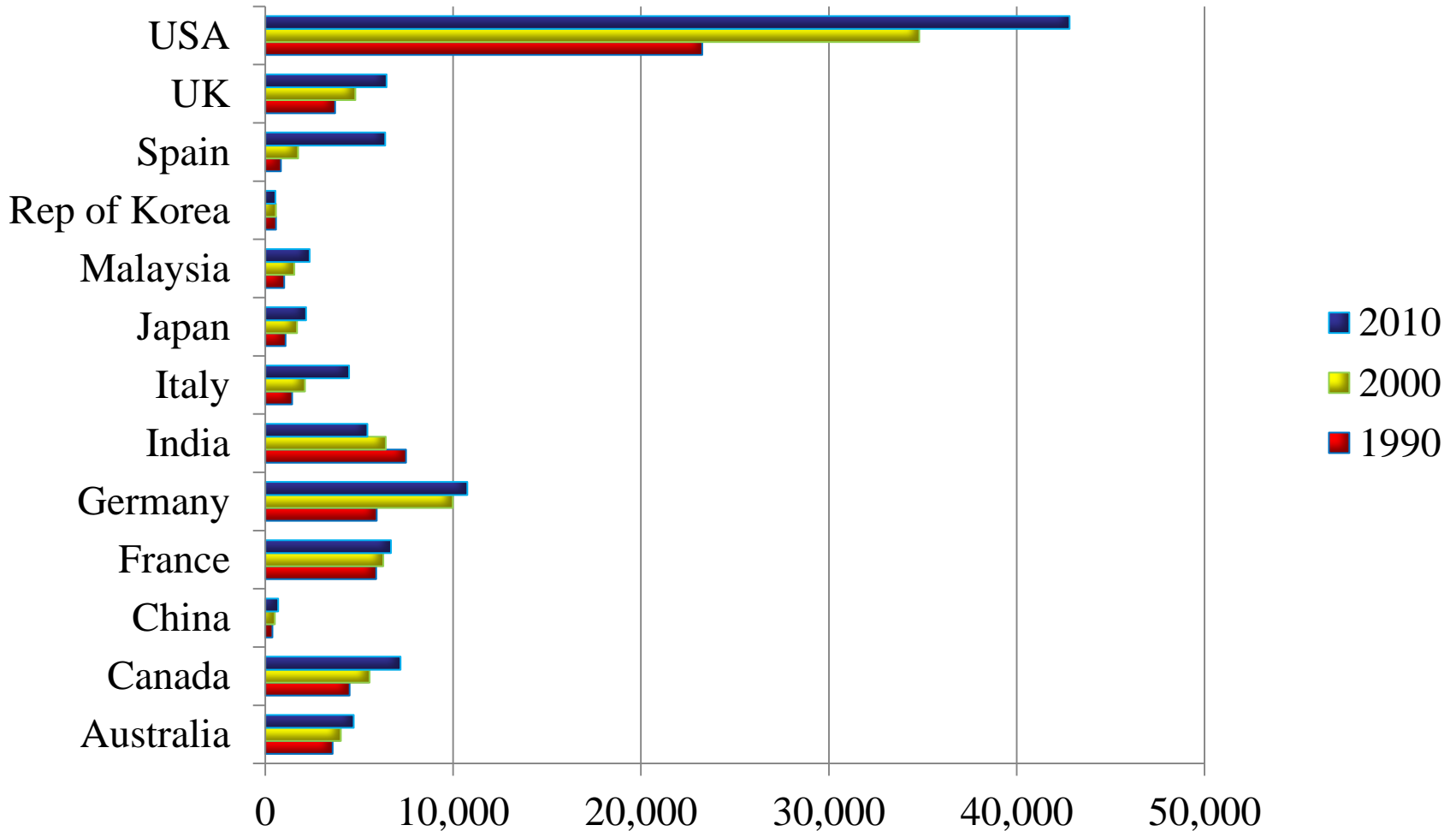


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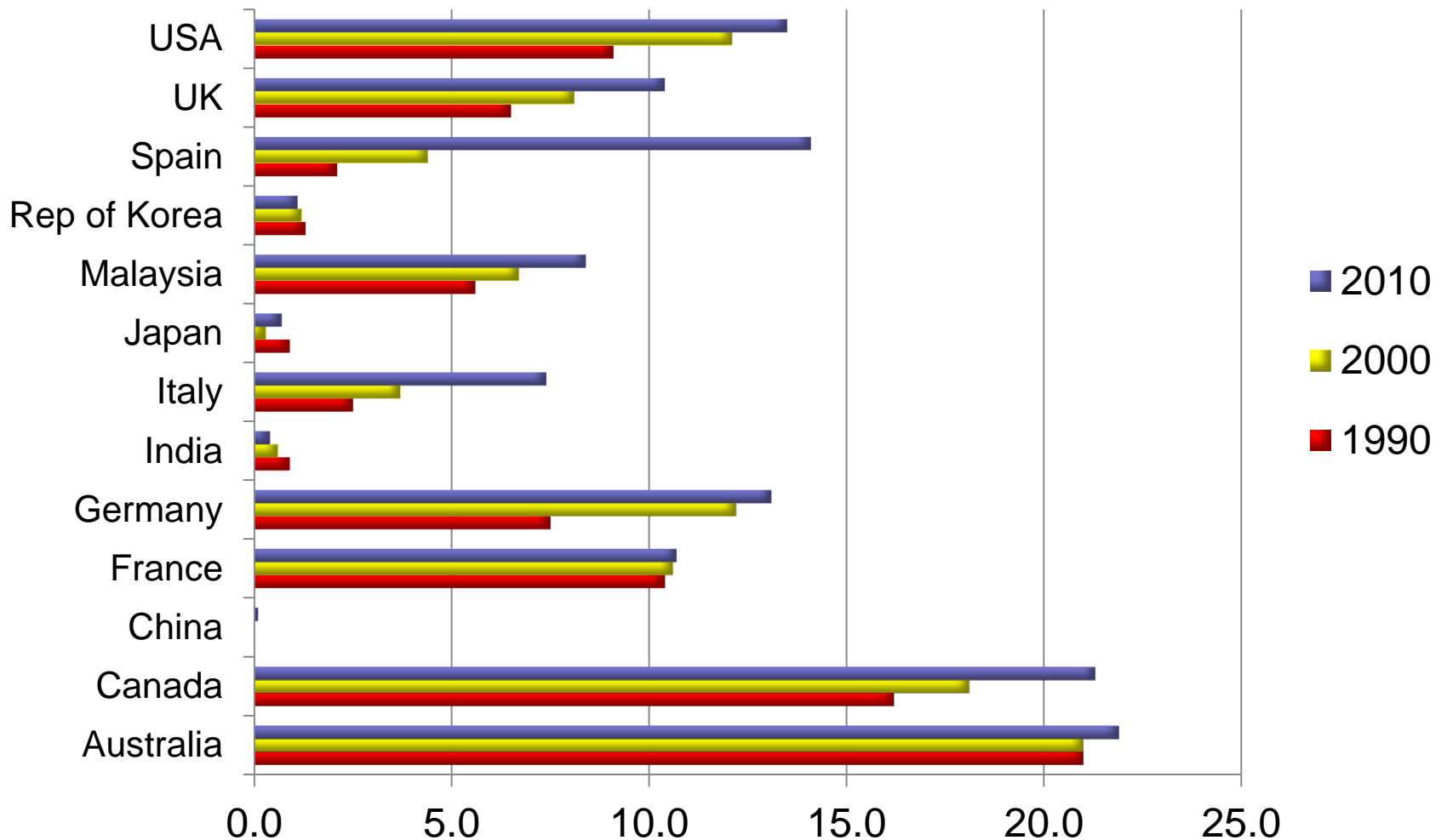
# World Migrant Stock (millions)



# Immigrants by country, 1990-2010 (thousands)



# Immigrants as a percentage of the population by country, 1990-2010



# The global governance deficit

- Lack of legal norms and institutions to regulate migration
- 1990 UN Convention on Rights of Migrant workers – ratified by just 44 countries by 2010
  - Australia has not ratified the 1990 Convention
- 2003: Global Commission on Migration and Development
  - Migration driven by ‘demography, development and democracy’
- 2006 and 2013: UN High Level Dialogue on Migration and Development
- 2007-14 Global Forum on Migration and Development



# Asian migration data

Estimate: 5-6 million migrants in 2009

## Destinations:

- 2.8 million to Middle East
- 350,000 to East Asian industrial countries (Taiwan, Hong Kong, Korea, Japan)
- Malaysia – 279,000; Singapore 142,000
- Central Asia to Russian Federation (numbers not known)
- Australia and New Zealand

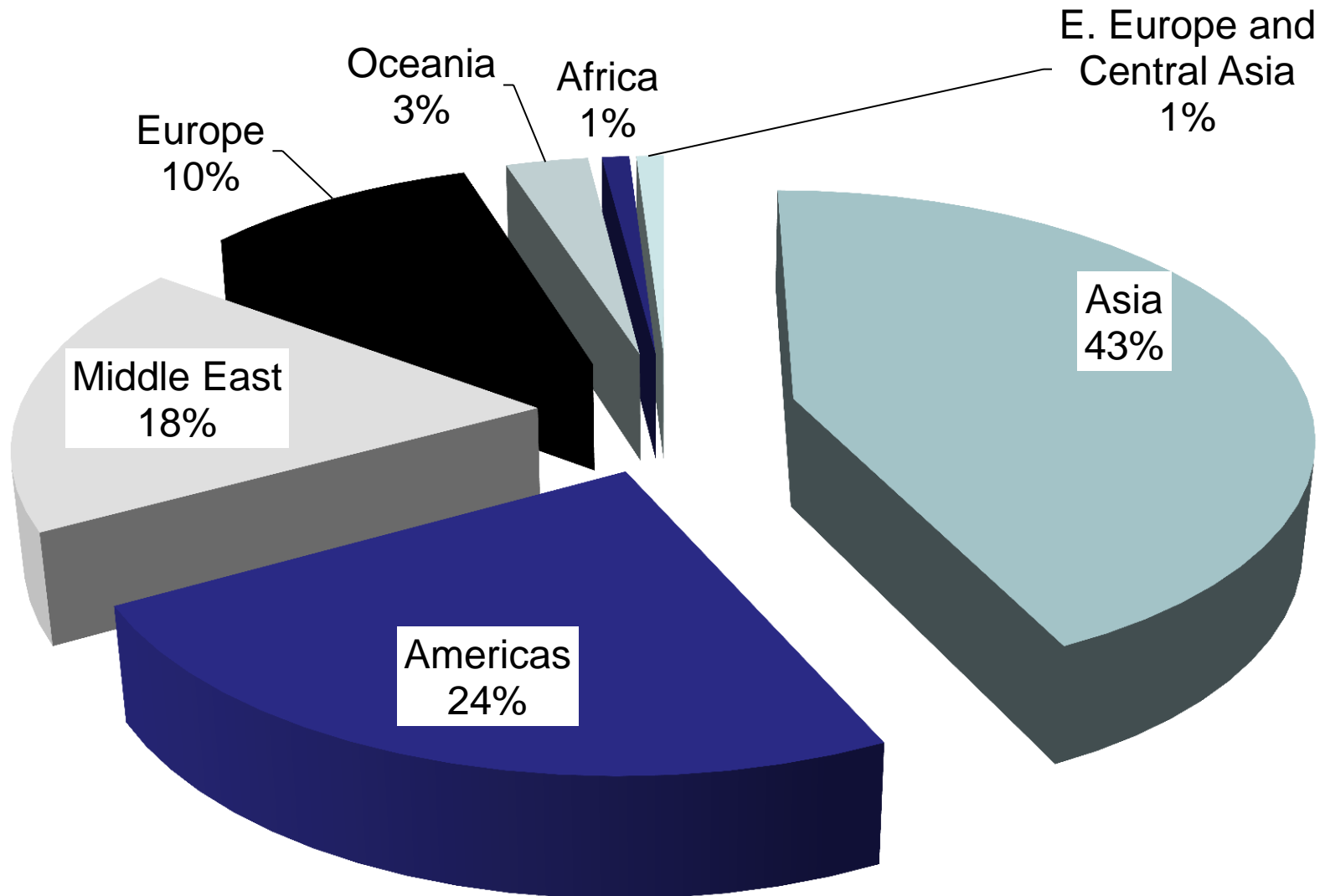
## Main origin areas:

India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, China, Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam

# Asian migration: the new complexity

- Skilled migration to N. America, Oceania, Europe
  - Leading often to family reunion and settlement
- Temporary labour migration : Gulf region, new industrial centres in East and SE Asia (e.g. S. Korea, Malaysia)
- Skilled migration to Hong Kong, Singapore, Korea, China
  - Global and regional competition for skills
- Marriage migration to Japan, Taiwan, S. Korea
  - Soon to China and India too?
- Educational migration to Europe, N. America, Australia
  - Increasingly to China, Thailand, Singapore etc?
- Refugee flows continue

# Asian migrants by region of destination, 2000, per cent



# Challenges to Australian assumptions

## Long-standing beliefs

1. Controllable borders
2. Australian government decides who comes
3. Availability of skills and labour
4. Predominance of settler migration
5. One-way migration
6. Most entrants want to stay and become citizens
7. National identity – redefined as multicultural

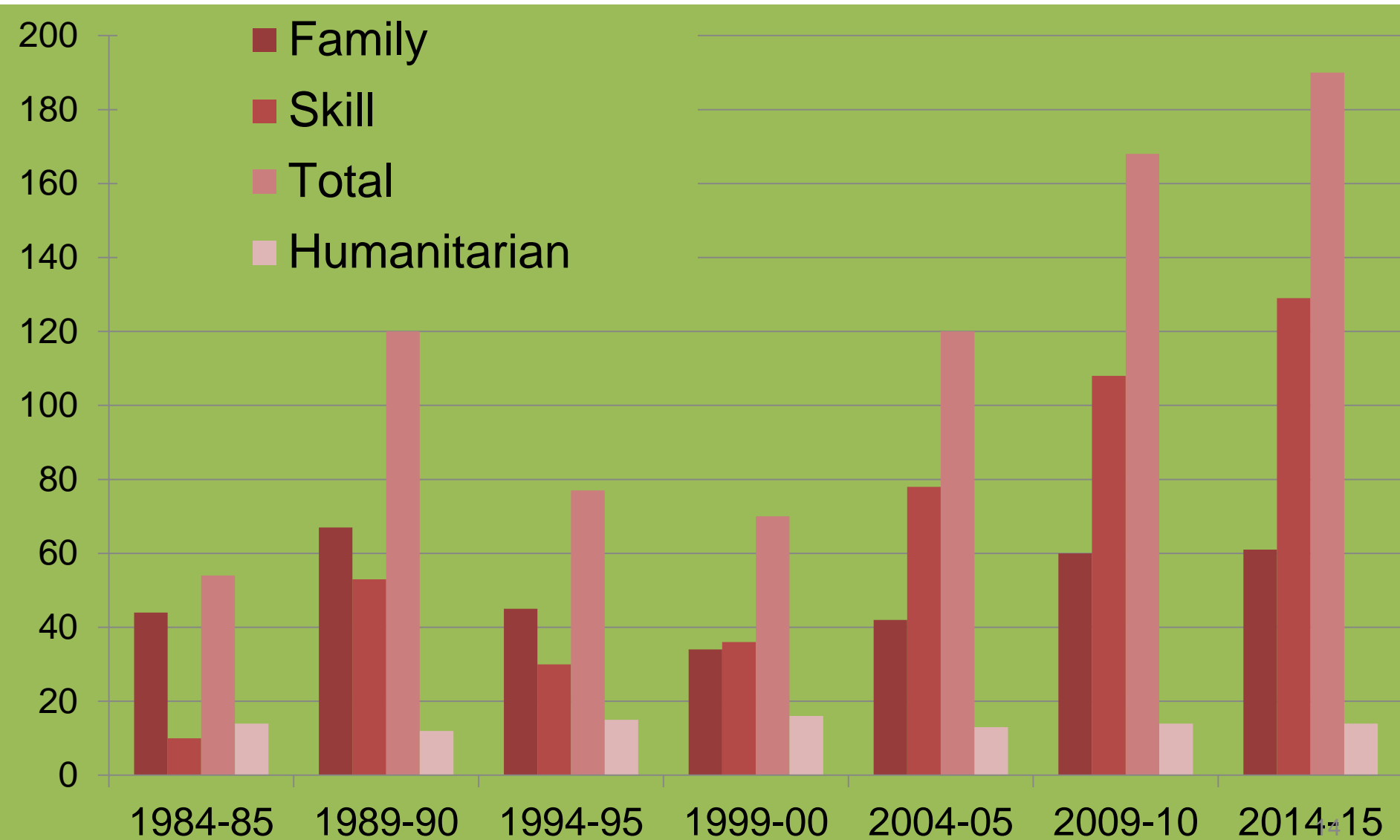
## Emerging situations

1. Porous borders
2. Markets, families, individuals (and government) decide
3. Competition for skill / labour
4. Complexity: settlers, temporary migrants, students
5. Multi-directional migration
6. Diverse and changing motivations
7. Transnational identities

# Migration Program and Humanitarian Program

	Migration Program (thousands)			Humanitarian Program (thousands)
Year	Family	Skill	<b>Total</b>	
1984-85	44	10	<b>54</b>	14
1989-90	67	53	<b>120</b>	12
1994-95	45	30	<b>77</b>	15
1999-00	34	36	<b>70</b>	16
2004-05	42	78	<b>120</b>	13
2009-10	60	108	<b>168</b>	14
2014-15	61	129	<b>190</b>	14

# Migration and Humanitarian Programs



# Australia's Population

	2001 Census	2011 Census
<b>Total population (millions)</b>	18.8	21.5
<b>Overseas born (millions)</b>	4.1	5.3
<b>Overseas born (% of population)</b>	21.9	24.6
<b>Born in non-main English speaking country (% of population)</b>	13.3	15.7
<b>Australian born with one or both parents born overseas (% of pop.)</b>	18.5	18.9

## Temporary migrants to Australia (thous.)

YEAR	457 Visas temp. business	International students	Working Holiday Makers	Skilled grad.	Others	Total
1996-7	26	113				
2000-01	37	147				
2004-05	50	175				
2008-9	101	320				
2011-12	125	253	223	40	38	659



# Temporary Migrants in Australia: Stock 31 December 2013

**Total temporary** **1,821,930**

Of which (main categories):

- Student visas 444,140
- Working Holidaymakers 178,980
- Temporary skilled 457 visas 169,070
- NZ 444 Visas 625,370

# Emigration from Australia

Australians have joined the global labour market

2009-10: 86,277 permanent emigrants

– 50% of emigrants were born overseas

The Australian DIASPORA

1981-2: 88,000 people

2008-9: 326,000 people

# Australia's comparative advantage

- Australia may lose out in future competition if policies are purely economically based
- We need to emphasise other factors:
  - Strong rights for permanent residents
  - Support for family migration
  - Easy access to citizenship
  - Attractive lifestyle
  - Good environment
  - Security
  - Multiculturalism

# Australia's multicultural model

- Family migration and permanent settlement
- Easy access to citizenship
- Right to learn English

Multiculturalism : key principles (from 1989)

1. Right to maintain culture, religion, language
2. Right to equal participation in all social areas
3. Duty of state to fight racism and discrimination
4. Obligations: democracy, rule of law, gender equality

Reversal of trend since 1996:

- Abandonment of rights-based model
- 2007 *Australian Citizenship Act*
- Emphasis on 'harmony', 'social cohesion' and 'security'

# From multicultural to transnational citizenship?

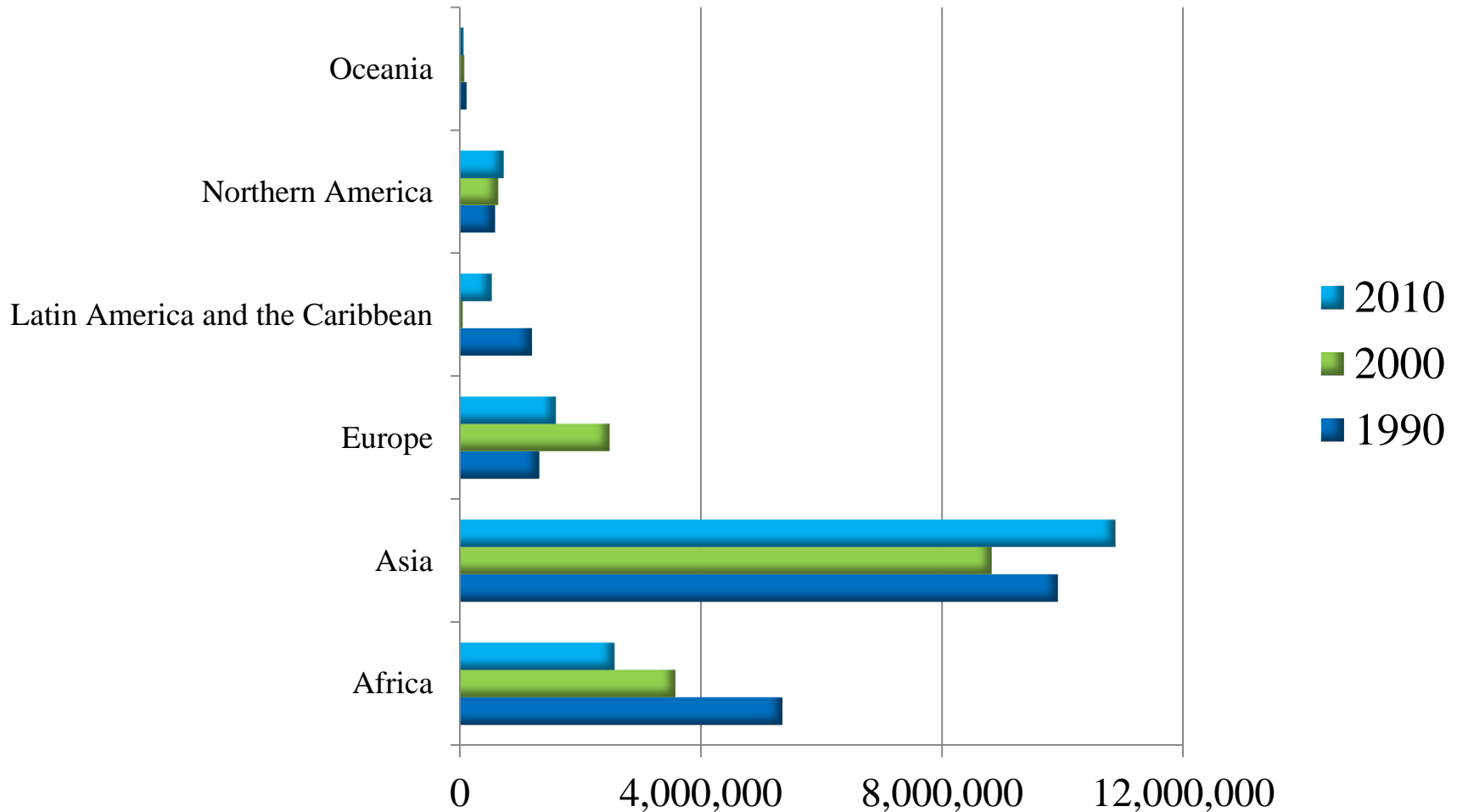
The new challenge:

- do temporary migrants want to become Australians?
- What types of settlement fit for flexible mobility?
- What does this mean for the Australian model?

Possible approaches

- Multiple citizenships – perhaps with active and dormant rights
- Multiple belongings
- Flexible identities
- Portable rights

# Estimated refugees by major area, 1990-2010



# Australia's ambivalence: refugees are resettled but asylum seekers are excluded

Refugees: 700,000 since 1945:

- Post-war DPs part of Australia's population strategy
- Fraser Govt. admitted Indo-Chinese
- Today: 6000 refugees resettled per year with UNHCR
- Humanitarian program of 14,000 a year

Asylum: numbers very small compared with Europe

- Harder to control borders
- Fear of invasion
- Competition between parties on who can seem toughest

# Conclusions

- The Australian model of immigration and multiculturalism has been highly successful
- But major changes in the character of migration and in the aspirations and opportunities of migrants make it necessary to rethink
- The challenge: to maintain the principles of equity and inclusion in new forms
- The key issue: what sort of society do we want in the 21<sup>st</sup> century – and how can immigration contribute?



# THE END

## RESOURCES:

Social Transformation and International Migration  
(STIM) Project website:

[http://sydney.edu.au/arts/transformation\\_migration/index.shtml](http://sydney.edu.au/arts/transformation_migration/index.shtml)

*The Age of Migration: International Population Movements in the  
Modern World*

<http://www.age-of-migration.com>