

# China's Migration Policy and Direction of Improvement

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**Abstract**—Population migration, as a manifestation of globalization, has become a popular phenomenon in the XXI century. It affects the political, socio-economic and demographic development of countries all over the world and interaction and integration process among them. China has become the most dynamically growing participant in international migration processes with huge potential. The article is devoted to the study of the modern migration policy of China and the directions of its improvement. This paper examined the current state of China's migration policy from both theoretic and legal aspects, valued its place in international migration, and revealed the reasons for reforming and improving the state migration policy in China, which should result in improved coordination and management of migration processes. It is suggested that this policy will have a positive impact on the country's socio-economic development and the standard of living of the Chinese population.

**Keywords**—migration, emigration, immigration, international migration, globalization, international migration processes, labor migration, educational migration, irregular migration, migration policy, migration policy of China.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Migration, as a manifestation of globalization, has become a popular phenomenon in the twentieth century. It affects the political, socio-economic and demographic development of various countries of the world, interstate interaction and integration processes in the international community. At the same time, increased migration is exacerbating security and crime problems in the form of illegal migration, trafficking, xenophobia and terrorism. All of this draws close attention of international organizations, national governments, scientific communities and the general public to this phenomenon. In today's world, migration policy is seen as a socio-economic phenomenon that has a direct or indirect impact on the development of the world economy. Migration flows between countries have an important impact not only on macroeconomic growth, foreign exchange earnings and employment, but also on the a countries' environment culture and society as well as on the strengthening of peace and international cooperation. According to the International Organization for Migration, there are currently 214 million

international migrants in the world. One of the largest suppliers of them has traditionally been from China. China is now the fastest growing participant in international migration processes with enormous potential. The large population of the People's Republic of China, along with its high density, form objective prerequisites for the mass departure of Chinese citizens. The gradual lifting of restrictions on departure from China as part of opening up policies has created massive opportunities for migrants of the country. Therefore, the study of the issues of China's modern migration policy and the direction of its improvement is a hot topic of study.

## II. METHODS AND MATERIALS

The article uses the following methods of research: historical, logical, interdisciplinary approach, search, accumulation, grouping and processing of scientific information, analysis and synthesis, induction and deduction, statistical, graphic, etc., which will solve the tasks and achieve the goal of the study.

International migration refers to people who move across the border for resettlement in other countries, including temporary accommodation. Tourists and short-term business guests are not generally considered migrants. Migration can be divided into internal migration and cross-border migration, which in turn is divided into emigration and immigration. The problem of overcrowding has been one of the key issues for China throughout its history. The big size and high density of residents, combined with a limited resource base, raises issues of poor ecology, poverty and unemployment, which has led to the migration of the excess population in order to find a better life abroad. It should be noted that the advantage of increasing the scale of labor emigration was the increase in income and for relatives remaining in China. In China there is an opinion that if one person went abroad to work - one family began to live better. As reforms and economic modernization and liberalization of many areas of life have progressed, China's economy has developed. Improvements in improving living standards have contributed to the emergence of sufficient money for migration, including going abroad for education. Therefore, in the near future, we should expect an increase in

the migration flows of Chinese youth to study abroad. China's migration policy has Chinese characteristics in a sense. Describing China's migration policy, it should be noted that on the one hand, it includes a policy of attracting talent (highly skilled professionals) from abroad and a policy of returning Chinese students after graduation abroad. On the other hand, there has been a tough crackdown on illegal migrants entering China without permits, which has contributed to an increase in China's population due to undesirable migrants and increased competition in the labour market.

In order to attract highly qualified professionals from abroad, the Chinese Government is actively calling for the return to China of those citizens who have studied abroad. In 2018, the number of students studying abroad reached 662,000, an increase of 8.8% over 2017, and the number of returning Chinese students in 2018 reached 519 thousand (78%), an increase of 8% compared to 2017.

Figure 1 shows the number of Chinese students who returned to China after studying abroad between 2007 and 2018.



Source: Number of students studying abroad, returning to China, and trends in international education in 2019, URL: <http://www.chyxx.com/industry/202003/846042.html>

Fig. 1. Number of Chinese students studying abroad who returned to China after studying abroad between 2007 and 2018 (thousands)

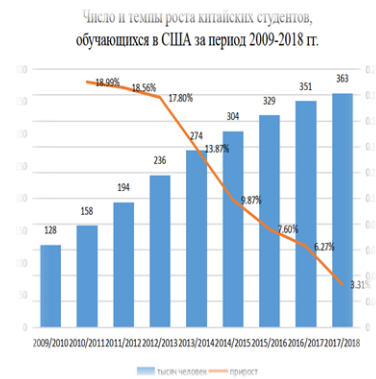
According to the data presented in Figure 1, it can be concluded that in 2007, after studying abroad, 44,000 Chinese students returned to China, and in 2018 519 thousand Chinese students returned home (11, 8 times more).

The main countries where Chinese students go to study are: Australia (152,06 thousand in 2018), the United States (363,000 in 2018), Russia (294,000 in 2018).

Figure 2 shows the number and rate of growth of Chinese students studying in the U.S. between 2009 and 2018.

The number of Chinese students studying in the United States accounts for more than 50% of the total number of Chinese students studying abroad. The increase in the number of Chinese students studying in the United States has a direct impact on the overall rate of growth in the number of students studying abroad. Since the 2012/2013 academic year, the growth rate of Chinese students studying in the U.S. has decreased (see Figure 2). For example, in the 2013/2014 academic year, the rate of increase in the number of Chinese students U.S. students accounted for 13.87% compared to the 2012/2013 academic year, down 3.93% in the 2016/2017 academic year compared to the 2015/2016 academic year this figure decreased by 1.33 and amounted to 6.27%, in the 2017/2018 academic year compared to the 2016/2017 academic year, this figure decreased by 2.96% to 3.31%. In

the 2017/2018 academic year, the number of Chinese students studying in the United States was 363,000, which is 2.8 times more than 2009/2010 academic year. Thus, in recent years there has been a decline in the number of Chinese students studying in the United States, which has clearly slowed the increase in the overall rate of growth in the number of Chinese students studying abroad.



Source: Analysis of the number of Chinese students studying abroad, the number of students returning to China, and trends in international education in 2019, URL: <http://www.chyxx.com/industry/202003/846042.html>

Fig. 2. Number and growth rate of Chinese students studying in the U.S. (thousands)

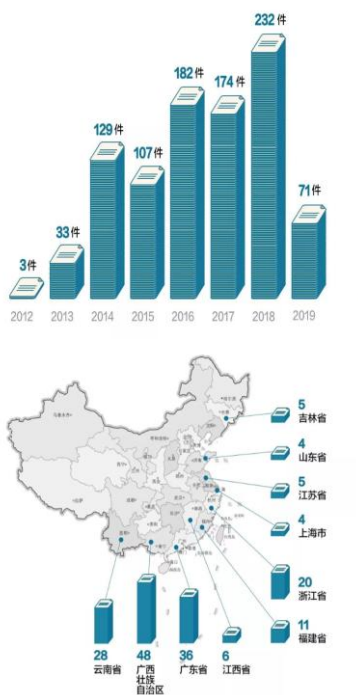
On the other hand, the Chinese government has actively encouraged the immigration of foreign professionals to China. To do this, the Foreign Entry and Exit Control Act provides that foreigners who, under Chinese law, have investments in China or perform economic, scientific, technical, cultural cooperation with Chinese industrial enterprises and economic organizations, as well as other foreigners who require a long stay in China, on the basis of the permission of the competent authorities of the Chinese government, may be entitled to live in the country for a long time or permanently residency. In order to create the most favoured regime for foreign professionals and investors to enter and work in the country, the Chinese Government has drafted a number of laws and by-laws on entry and exit, as well as long-term residence or permanent residence of foreigners [14].

Despite the measures taken by the state, the situation with illegal migration in China has worsened in recent years. The latest official statistics on the number of illegal migrants in China are not yet available. But Ujiang's website provides information on the increase in court decisions to deport illegal migrants from China (from 3 to 232 court cases from 2012 to 2018, or 77 times), which can serve as an indicator of an increase in the number of court cases on this issue [13].

Figure 3 shows the provinces of The People's Republic of China where illegal migrants live and countries that supply illegal migrants to the country between 2012 and 2019.

With the improvement of china's socio-economic development, the country's attractiveness to illegal immigration has increased. Particularly attractive provinces of the People's Republic of China for illegal immigration have been Guangxi, Guangdong, Yunnan and Jilin, which are geographically close to the country of residence of illegal migrants, as well as Fujian and zhejiang, which have a high level of economic development in comparison with other provinces of China. Myanmar (including border residents), Vietnam (including border residents), South Korea, Japan, the

United States, Russia, Mongolia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore were among the top ten countries in terms of the number of foreign visitors to China in 2018.



Source: Illegal migration of foreigners to China, URL: [https://www.sohu.com/a/351815609\\_611053](https://www.sohu.com/a/351815609_611053)

Fig. 3. Provinces of residence in China and countries that supply illegal migrants between 2012 and 2019

China has actively developed international cooperation to prevent illegal migration. China not only strongly fights illegal migration on its own at home, but has also developed cooperation in this area with more than 40 countries, including the United States, Canada, the European Union and Russia.

According to media reports, the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) listed illegal migrants repatriated in 2017 with more than 15,000 people and repatriated a total of 180 countries in the destination country, including 209 stateless persons. In this list, the number of Chinese citizens is the largest - 2,066, followed by India and Latin America, 1029 and 977 respectively. The statistics of repatriated Chinese citizens increased sharply in 2017 compared to previous years (in 2013, 618 people were repatriated; in 2015 - 605 people; in January-September 2016 - 324 people). It is projected that the number of repatriated Chinese nationals will average about 400 Chinese nationals annually. But compared to 2016, the number of repatriated Chinese nationals is growing rapidly in 2017, and according to the analysis, this may be due to some cases of migration fraud.

According to data released by CBSA, there are seven main reasons for the deportation of Chinese citizens from Canada:

1. False information to obtain preferential right to an invitation to work from the migration service.
2. False information about experience in the required specialty.
3. False information about the time of residence in Canada when applying for a New Maple Leaf Card.

4. False information about the time of residence in Canada when applying for naturalization.
5. False application for a fictitious marriage.
6. Fake marriage application for immigration status.
7. Fake rating statement when applying for an extension of a student visa.

In many countries of the world, special migration laws have long been adopted and are in place, which are an important means of regulating migration. In China, it was decided to improve migration legislation, provided that foreign experience of migration legislation will be used.

After years of economic development in China, more and more Chinese citizens prefer to live abroad, and now the list of countries in which Chinese expats live abroad is very wide. The Chinese Government has taken serious steps to improve the national migration policy, namely, the reforms have affected the national administrative authorities for the coordination and regulation of migration processes, the strengthening of Chinese legislation on migration regulation, and the emphasis on strengthening the control of illegal migration in China, etc.

On March 13, 2018, the Council of State formally submitted an institutional reform plan for consideration by the 13th National People's Congress. The State Institutional Reform Plan refers to the establishment of a national migration administration, which for the first time in China has established a special agency for the coordination and management of migration affairs. The National Migration Administration is administered by the Ministry of Public Security and will integrate the functions of citizens' entry and exit management and border inspection. This agency will serve as both a coordinating agency and a management agency: in terms of coordination, the agency will become the core of China's migration policy, and will oversee the coordination of the "Three Unrelated" (illegal employment, illegal entry, illegal residence).

The establishment of a national migration administration is not only a deepening and extension of previous measures to reform the central government, which are aimed at deepening reforms for the legal residence of foreigners, but also generalizing and advancing migration policy reforms in Beijing, Shanghai, Zhejiang and other local authorities, as well as adapting to China's global status in the world, not only in terms of GNP but also in terms of international migration.

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

International migration thus refers to people who move across the border for resettlement in other countries, including temporary accommodation, and tourists and short-term business guests are not generally considered migrants. Migration can be divided into internal migration and cross-border migration, which in turn is divided into emigration and immigration. The problem of overcrowding has been one of the key issues for China throughout its history. High numbers and high population densities, combined with a limited resource base, raise questions for the Chinese government about poor ecology, poverty and unemployment, which has led to the "pushing out" of the state of the excess population in order to find a better life abroad (labour migration). It should be noted that the advantage of increasing the scale of labor emigration was the increase in income and deductions

for relatives remaining in China. In China there is an opinion that if one person went abroad to work - one family began to live better. As a result of the implementation of reforms and economic modernization and liberalization of many areas of life, the growth rate of China's economy has increased. Improved living standards have contributed to the emergence of enough money for migration, including for Chinese youth to go abroad to study.

China's migration policy has a "Chinese specificity" in a sense. The characteristics of China's migration policy, on the one hand, include a policy on talent (highly skilled professionals) and a policy of returning Chinese students studying abroad. The number of students returning to China after studying abroad is gradually increasing, from 44,000 in 2007 to 519,000 in 2019 (growth of 11, 8 times). There is an active involvement from abroad of highly qualified specialists for use in various fields of science, technology, production of China (at the moment in China for a long time there are about 3000 foreign specialists who are going to apply for permanent residence in China). The migration policy of the Chinese government is constantly being improved and corrected. The Chinese government is working hard to identify and repatriate illegal migrants who are increasing China's population, increasing unemployment, increasing competition in the labour market and increasing pressure on China's state budget.

#### IV. CONCLUSIONS

Thus, the following results were obtained during the study process.

1. China's large population and high population density, combined with limited resources, contribute to increased labour emigration, resulting in an increase in income and cash contributions for relatives remaining in China.

2. "Chinese specifics" of China's migration policy: on the one hand, actively attract talents (highly skilled professionals) to the country and facilitate the return of Chinese students studying abroad to their homeland. On the other hand, the number of illegal migrants is actively hindered.

3. The direction of improving china's national migration policy is the creation of the National Migration Administration, which for the first time in China has established a special Agency for the Coordination and Management of Migration Affairs, which will lead the coordination of the "Three Unrelated" (illegal employment, illegal entry, illegal residence).

4. The long-term implementation of China's migration policy should result in improved coordination and management of migration processes, which will have a positive impact on the country's socio-economic development and the standard of living of the Chinese population.

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