

# Migration, diversity and Social Cohesion

## Part I

José  
Marques

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# Conventional wisdom about migration

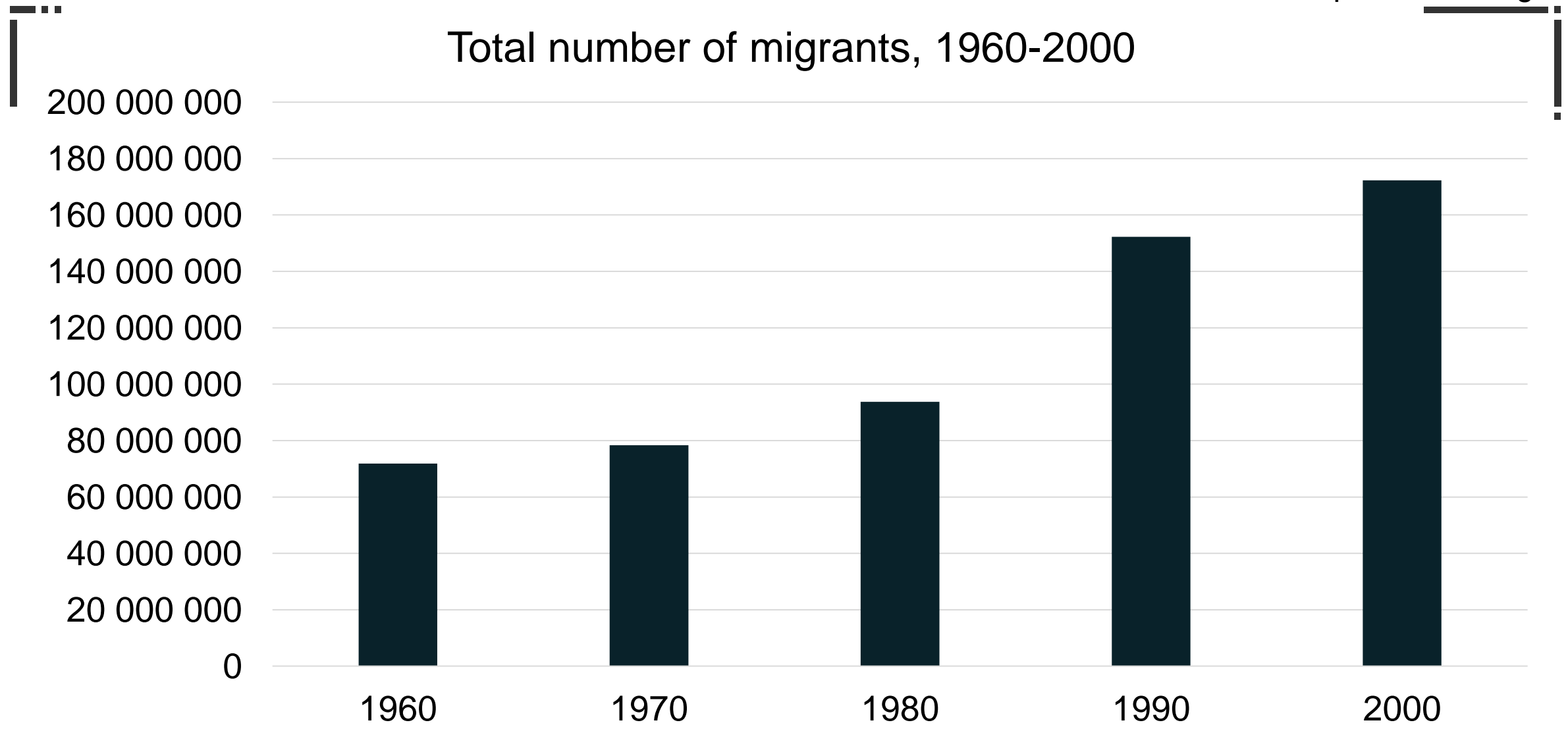
July 18<sup>th</sup> 2018

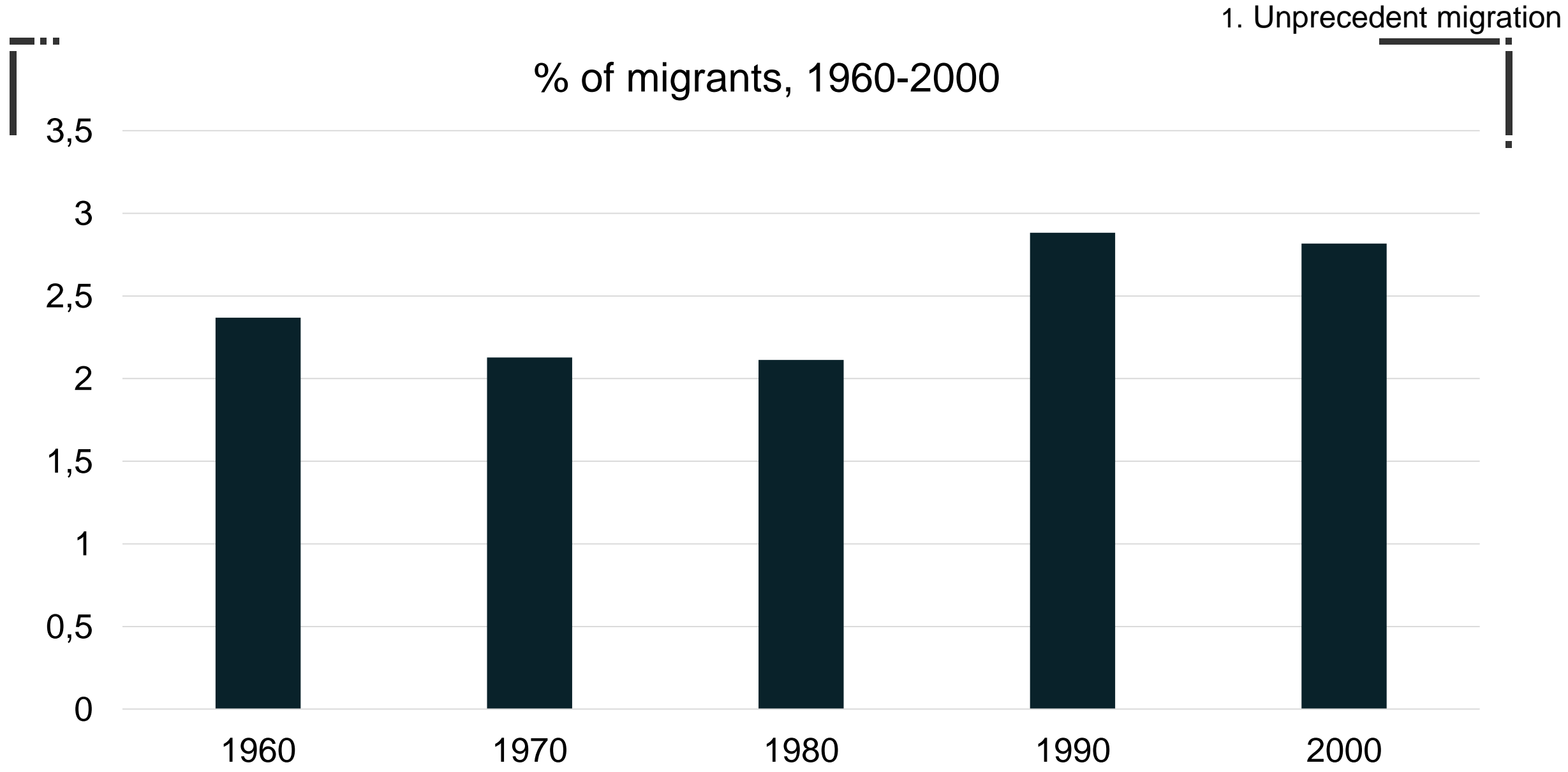
1. Unprecedented migration
2. Poverty as main reason form migration  
and development reduces migration
3. Migration policies are more restrictive
4. Closing borders reduces migration
5. Environmental change will lead to mass  
migration (based on: de Haas, 2017)

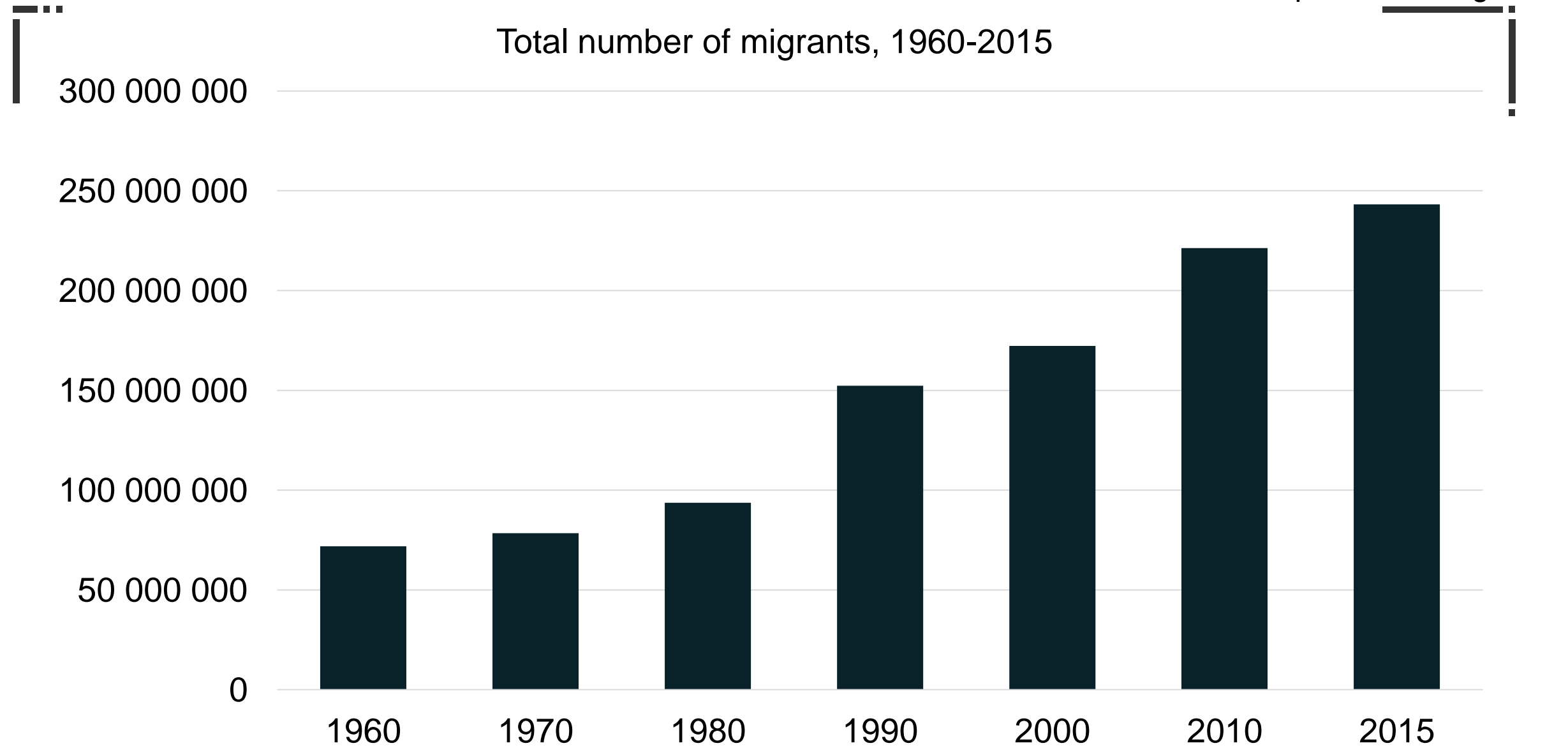
- We live in a period of migration that has no parallel with previous periods:
  - Why?
    - Globalization (cultural integration, generalization of 'occidental'/European way of life...)
    - Evolution in transport and communication technologies
    - Increasing inequality at global level

1. Unprecedented migration

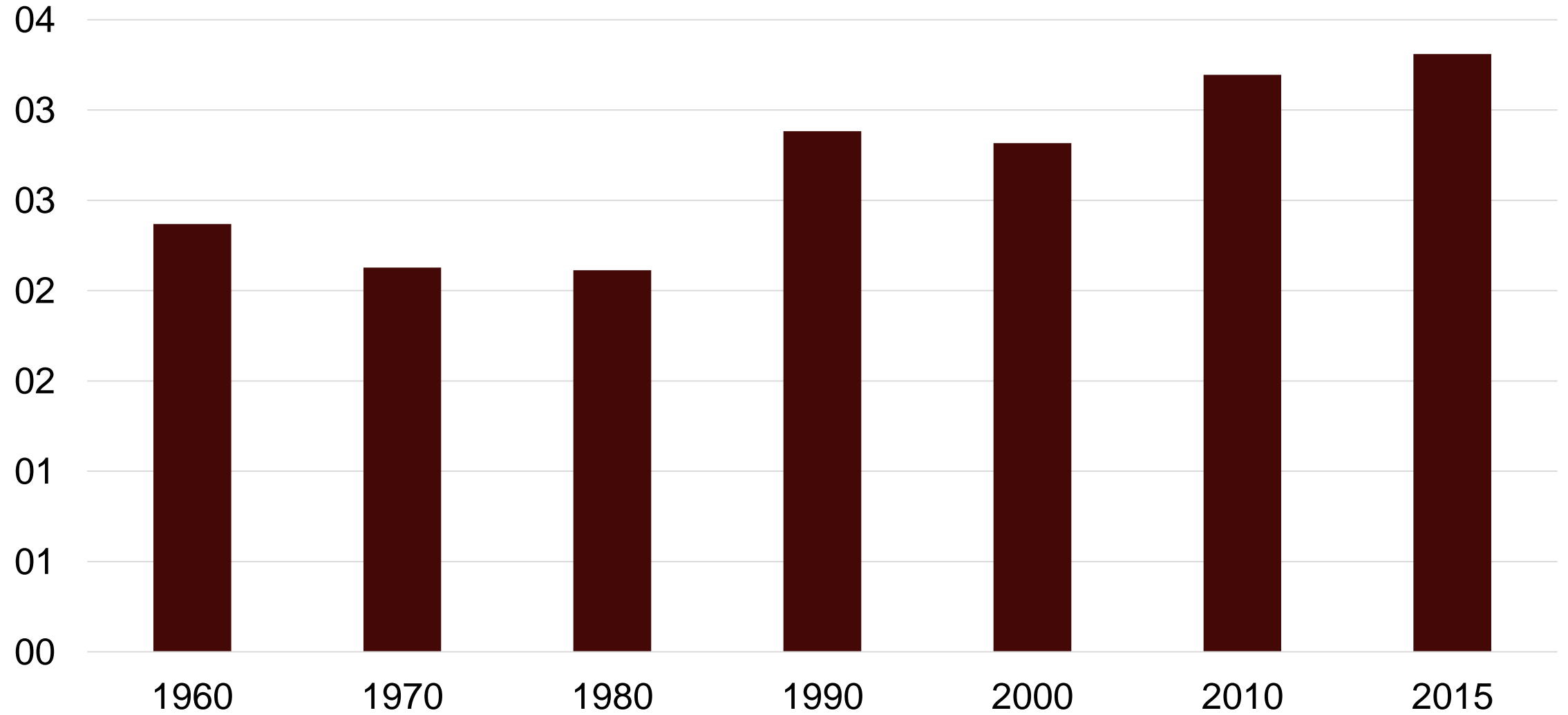
## Total number of migrants, 1960-2000







% of migrants, 1960-2015



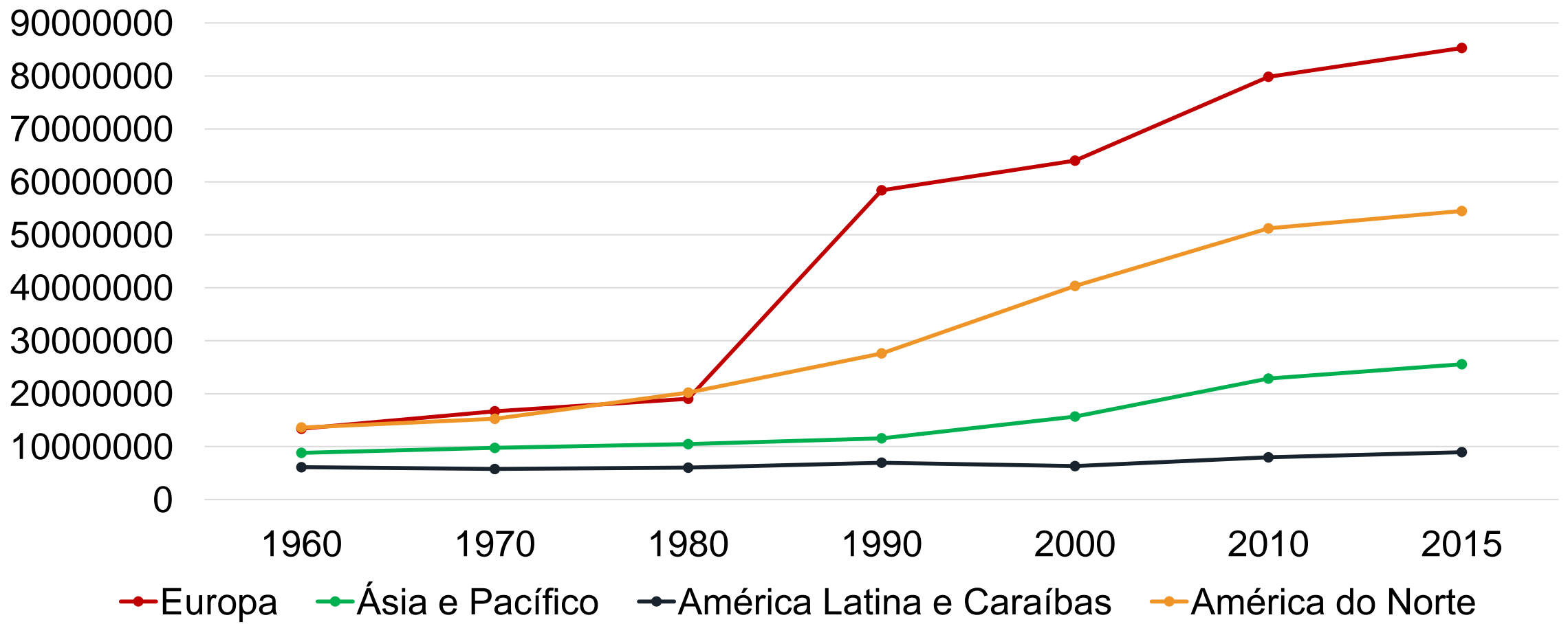
1. Unprecedented migration

- Are we **really** living in a period of unprecedented mass migration?
  - Why do we think we live in an age of mass migration?
    - Are the numbers incorrect?
    - ... or did the nature and/or the perception of migration changed?



### Regional differences in the evolution of the volume of migrants

## Volume of migrants in different continents, 1960-2015



- Are we **really** living in a period of unprecedented mass migration?
  - What can be different from previous periods?
    - Increasing transnational life's and identities
    - More non-migratory mobility (tourism, business, pendular movements)
    - We live in 'an age of involuntary immobility' (Jorgen Carling)
    - We live in societies obsessed with migration

# Conventional wisdom about migration

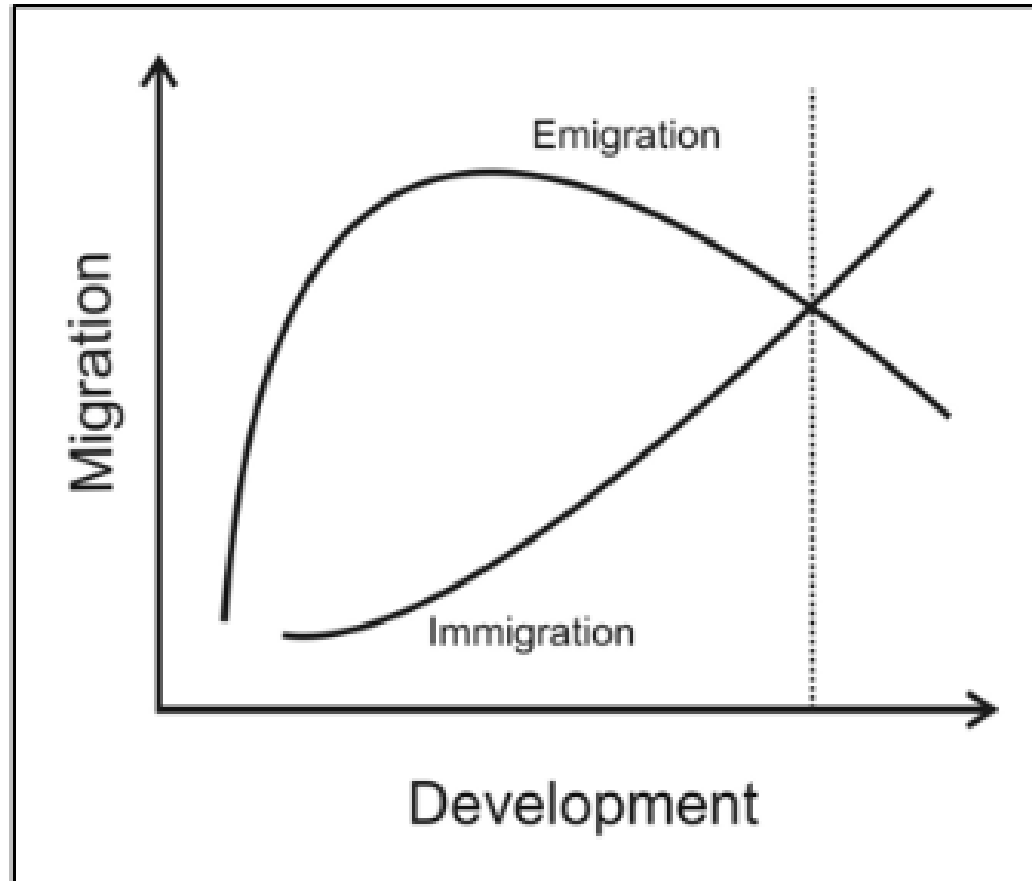
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## 2. Poverty as main reason form migration



## 2. Poverty as the main reason for migration and development reduces migration



Source: de Haas, Hein (2010) *Migration transitions - a theoretical and empirical inquiry into the developmental drivers of international migration*. IMI working paper 24. [International Migration Institute](https://www.migrationinstitute.org/), University of Oxford.

- Relation between development and migration is not a linear one
- Paradoxically, the initial phase of development even intensify more emigration movements

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3. Migration policies are more restrictive





### 3. Migration policies are more restrictive

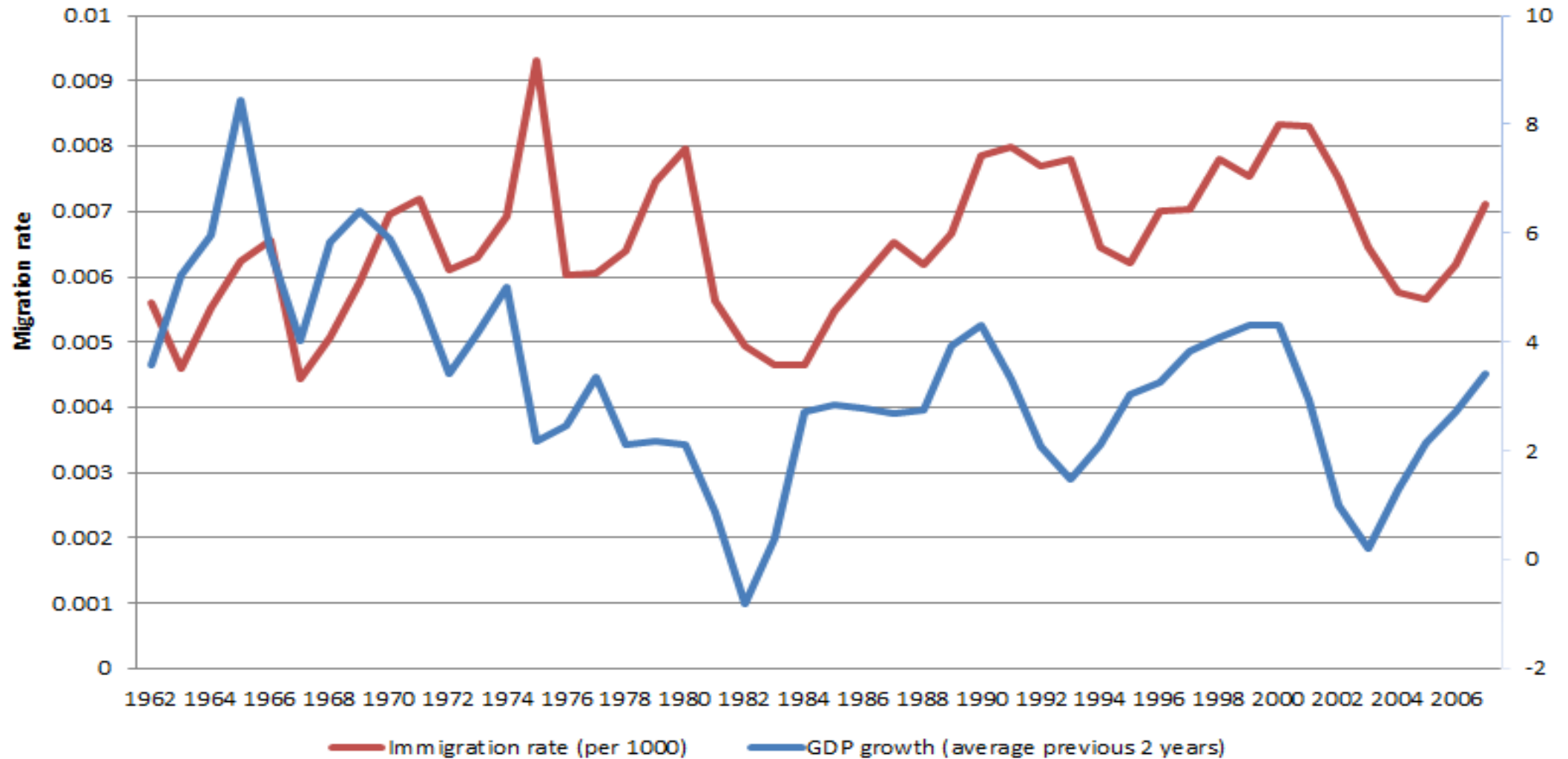
- Only for some groups (non-qualified, refugees, etc.)
- Restrictive borders didn't apply to some groups (highly skilled - for whom the borders are increasingly open)
- Origin countries have been abolishing exit controls which facilitates emigration (restrictions to emigration are lesser and lesser)

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### Immigration and economic growth (Netherlands)




- The importance of the supply and demand factors
- Policies can not change the structural causes of migration
- Migration restrictions change the way that people use to migrate (from labour migration to family migration or asylum applicants)

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<b>Conventional wisdom about migration</b>	<b>Research on migration shows</b>
We live in a world of unprecedented migration	Global migration is actually not exceptionally high
Poverty as main reason for migration and development reduces migration	Development can lead to more migration
Migration policies are more restrictive	Migration policies privilege specific kinds of migrants
Closing borders reduces migration	Restrictive migration policies have unintended consequences
Environmental change will lead to mass migration	Impact on environmental changes on migration are ambiguous

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- Why is the subject important:
    - migrant societies
    - diverse society
    - spots of hyperdiversity (cities where we experience the intersection of different forms of diversity)
  - National or international migratory flows as one of the main forces of social transformation



## References

Carling, J. (2002). Migration in the age of involuntary immobility: Theoretical reflections and Cape Verdean experiences. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 28:1, 5-42

Castles, S., and Miller, M. (1993). *The Age of Migration: International Population Movements in the Modern World*. New York: Guilford Press.

De Haas, H. (2017). Myten der Migration. *Der Spiegel* 8/2017. pp: 61-63