



**“Migrants are a threat to the security and stability of a country today.” Comment.**

Thesis: While there are grounds to accuse migrants for being a destabilising force as seeds of conflict are easily sown by citizens' fear of the foreign, it is not the case in reality as successful attempts to integrate the migrants into the society will mitigate the threat they pose to countries.

We should be wary of migrants when the citizens suffer at the expense of migrants. As more countries face economic slowdown and budget constraints in recent years, locals may become unhappy that their government is prioritising the welfare of migrants but providing public housing and unemployment benefits with tax revenues. The allocation of resources to the migrants is traded off with the wellbeing of the local citizens. This breeds resentment amongst them, leading to conflicts and tensions that destabilise society. For instance, in the United Kingdom, the government provides accommodation and monthly allowances to refugees and unemployed migrants. By doing so, the government has less resources to devote to funding other sectors such as boosting the defence of the country or improving the education sector, trading the welfare of migrants with the safety and literacy rates of citizens. My point is further illustrated by the impacts of illegal immigrants of South Americans have on the citizens fiscally. With a stronger currency against the South American currency, any money that gets remitted back is of much higher value and hence drives the migration of these illegal immigrants into America. As these workers are illegal in US, they do not exist in the eyes of the government, and employers need not pay taxes to hire them, lowering the cost of production for employers. This attracts employers to hire the cheaper foreign labour, giving rise to an oversupply of cheap labour competing with other lawful American workers in the economy. The influx of cheap low-skilled workers meant that the average American low-skilled worker will have his job replaced by immigrants or suffer a significant pay cut. This depresses the average incomes in the country and widens the income gap of the rich and the poor in the US. Hence migrants threaten the livelihood of the citizens and instead of benefitting citizens, migration instead has resulted in economic instability.

However, to claim that migrants always pose more problems for the host country would be too narrow as this view fails to consider that migration should be encouraged when a nation is facing a demographic crisis and is unable to address it on its own. In countries facing an ageing population and low birth rates, migrants have provided the necessary manpower to boost economic growth, especially in labour intensive industries or to fill the void that locals are unwilling to. For instance, Singapore is facing an aging population with a shrinking workforce with low fertility rates. By artificially increasing the population size, more jobs are taken up to keep the economy going. Many of these jobs are shunned by locals for being too dirty or physically demanding. In Singapore, many migrants are domestic helpers, construction workers and even nurses, where the high demand for such workers in the industry are not met by locals. This explains the Population White Paper in 2013 where the government aims to increase its population by 30% by allowing granting more citizenships to foreigners to ensure sustainability economic growth despite the shrinking local workforce. Therefore, migrants can bolster the effects of a smaller labour force, ensuring economic growth in the country. In this case, migration should be welcomed.

In present times, the influx of migrants has occurred on a larger scale at a faster rate. As compared to the past, after the initial waves of migrants, many countries had very tight controls for immigration, which curbed the influx of migrants. Unfettered and unregulated migration allows for the increase of hate crimes stemmed from discrimination and social issues than

**Commented [CMW1]:** You have to ensure that your thesis indeed capture the moral of the story, it is not just one point. It is not just fear of the foreign, what about the very real security concerns?

**Commented [CMW2]:** You did try to ATQ but it is not convincing how tensions would end up as threat. This is the crux of the paragraph that you need to prove. Links: Migrant → Economic resentment → Tension → Escalate into conflict. Examples cannot just focus on one

**Commented [CMW3]:** Examples did not show the security and stability being threatened. You must always recall the question even when you are writing your example, do not get carried away!

**Commented [CMW4]:** Why would you consider this to be economic instability? What is unstable about it?

**Commented [CMW5]:** \*\*\*Very grave error! Benefits DOES NOT mean that there is no threat. You are supposed to focus on whether there is a threat. The benefit has to be related to the given factor of (security and stability). Think of an analogy.



before migration was introduced. For example, the perpetrators of many terrorist attacks around the world are indeed done by migrants, including the Berlin Market attack and the Paris attacks. More recently, in the Rohingya crisis, the eruption of deadly violence in Myanmar triggered an exodus of half a million Muslims to Bangladesh. The overwhelming inflow of Rohingya led to a strain of resources of the Bangladesh and poses a potential threat to its internal stability. On the other hand, migrants are subjected to attacks by the locals as well. In 2017, a politician from the National Democratic Party of Germany is jailed for 8 years for burning down a sports hall that was used to house migrants in West Berlin. Thus, unregulated mass migration can be damaging for the society if the migrants hold vastly different ideologies which are incompatible with the norms and values of the existing society. The differences will be magnified, sparking off the manifestation of hatred between migrants and citizens, resulting in a volatile society.

Due to the increased connectivity due to globalisation, migration leads to the transfer of religious and cultural practices. In the past, only the more skilful workers have the means to migrate, while in current times, there is a rapid influx of both high-skilled and low-skilled workers around the world. While it is possible that cultural differences between the locals and migrants get more apparent, careful attempts to foster integration of the foreign workers into the local culture can mitigate fears of the strange foreign values. As people get more educated today, they are more receptive to new ideas and there is a healthy acceptance and exchange of cultures, deviating from the negative idea of exclusivity. For instance, Chinese cuisines such as the 'Sichuan Mala Hotpot' dish is gaining popularity in Asian countries outside of China as the Chinese labourers bring a part of China around to share. Similarly, through the sharing of food cultures, there is wide acceptance of the Indian and Mexican food in the US and Indian food is popular in the United Kingdom. When the local population embraces these foreign cultures, harmonious existence become much easier with the adoption of a common identity. Some migrants even settle down in host countries to create hybrid families and cultures. This strengthens the social fabric of the countries as the lives of the local people and new migrants become intertwined with one another. With increased understanding and the assimilation of immigrants, there will be less to be cautious about each other, reducing chances of conflicts when both parties do not have to be suspicious of one other's hidden agenda.

Besides natural driving forces of globalisation, governments can be the push factor to bridge the divides that lead to discord between cultures. With ample governmental resources, the governments can reach out to the people to correct prejudices and eradicate discrimination with education. By correcting biasness, the ground for constructive healthy relations between cultures is set. A prime example of such peaceful coexistence is seen in the United States. In a society emerging from the devastation of the September 11 tragedy, when radical Islamists crashed the airliners into the World Trade Centre, striking at the heart of America, it was easy for people to fall prey to xenophobic sentiments. However, the Americans proved themselves better. Emerging from the catastrophe as a united nation, the government has built an interfaith centre at the site of the former World Trade Centre, called the Park51, to not fall into the traps of extremist ideologies to cast differences of the various cultures, but to strengthen the bonds between members of different cultures. Also in Singapore, who has always prided herself for social harmony despite the myriad of cultures and races, has taken similar approaches to ensure that citizens accept differences of the foreigners. For instance, there are attempts to foster bonds between migrant workers and local Singaporeans through events. As part of the GetActive! Singapore campaign, a joint event organised by a migrant workers dormitory, Tuas View Dormitory and Sport Singapore, the event saw foreign workers and

**Commented [CMW6]:** This is from whose perspective? Your thesis is focusing on what the indigenous population would do, but now your example looks at what the migrants would do. So which is it?

**Commented [CMW7]:** Stability is precisely the main claim. You have to be able to explain this, not just form a casual link! This is exactly where the argument lies. Think back to C. What does instability look like? Intro needs to define.

**Commented [CMW8]:** If you start with a mini-CA, do not have too many sentences. It becomes confusing as to what stand the BP is proving.

**Commented [CMW9]:** How is this related to security and stability?

**Commented [CMW10]:** A part of this should have been reflected in the TS. Remember that it is the outline not tip of the iceberg!

**Commented [CMW11]:** The essay has completely gone on to discuss discrimination instead. This is why you have to be wary of tapping on existing knowledge. Cannot just simply force fit into the question. Should have been a greater point about how governmental policies are stringent; careful about what migrants they accept.

**Commented [CMW12]:** I get your point. But there are 2 links here really. It is about how acceptance = no conflict = stability.

## ZASCENSION ESSAY COMMENTARY



Singaporeans engaging in games and communicating. Such events provide the opportunity for deliberate interactions between locals and foreigners, promoting understanding between the two distinct groups and promoting multiculturalism. Therefore, migration should be embraced for it will not pose problems to society when the invisible barriers that exist between different cultures are broken down to be replaced by mutual understanding and trust.