



Human Migration and Social Integration

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ABSTRACT The new migratory flows no longer respond to the need for labour but are, in general, determined by abnormal political, economic and social conditions in the country of origin. Consequently, the impact on immigrants of the new reality becomes extremely traumatic and is very likely to be psychological destabilization. The mass flights we witness must be viewed in this context, above all in Italy. All the studies of stress linked to migration should be approached with this mind. To this end a new index has been proposed for the evaluation of socio-anthropological stress (A. De Lucia et al., 1999). Also in order to contrast any attempt to find in migratory flows a possible source of contamination at the level of hygiene and health, an exhaustive study is being carried out on the causes of hospital admission to some hospitals in the south of Italy in the period 1991-2000. As it emerges from an initial investigation there are almost no differences with regard to infectious diseases, between the immigrant and indigenous populations, we believe we can propose further scientific research in order to evaluate the degree of integration of those populations. Until now it has always been said that the level of civilization of a population is to be measured by the attention it offers to its non-productive element (children, old people and the handicapped), we feel this affirmation should be applied not only to the indigenous population, but also to that of immigrants.

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