



Figure 4.3 International Demographic Trends

developing countries is causing the foreign-born share of the population in developed countries as a whole to rise (World Bank, 1995) (See Figure 4.3). And, it is becoming more diverse (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development [OECD], 2000).

Box 4.1 The Women Who Leave, the Children Who Follow: Enrique's Story

In search of work and escape from poverty and hunger, many mothers from Central America and Mexico enter the United States illegally and leave their young children behind in the care of relatives. Every year an estimated 48,000 youngsters from Central America and Mexico enter the United States illegally in an effort to reunite with their mothers. They travel any way they can, and thousands ride the tops and sides of freight trains. <http://www.latimes.com/news/specials/enrique/la-enr2-h2psson1-ph>photoThey leap on and off rolling train cars. They forage for food and water. Bandits prey on them. So do street gangsters, who have made the train tops their new turf. These trains have gained the nickname, *los trenes del muerte*—the trains of death. None of the youngsters have proper papers. Many are caught by the Mexican police or by *la migra*, the Mexican immigration authorities, who send them back to their home countries. Enrique's story is a typical one:

Enrique was 5 years old when his mother, Lourdes, left him in his hometown Tegucigalpa, in Honduras, to immigrate illegally to the United States. Left by her husband, Enrique's father, and without any

means to support her son, her older daughter Belky, and herself, Lourdes decided to go to the United States, make money, and send it home until she could afford to bring her children to be with her. When she left, she promised to come back for them soon. She never returned. Throughout his childhood, moving from one family member to the other, Enrique dreamed of reuniting with his mother. At age 17, after six failed attempts to travel to the United States illegally, he was finally reunited with his mother in North Carolina. A few months later he learned that Maria Isabel, the girlfriend he left back in Honduras, had given birth to their daughter. Enrique now sends money to bring Maria Isabel to the United States. In an ironic twist of fate, both Enrique and Maria Isabel decided to leave the baby behind with Maria Isabel's mother until they have enough money to send for her (Nazario, 2002).⁷

Mexicans, for instance, now account for the greatest share of foreign-born in the current U.S. population; but as recently as 1970, people born in Italy, Germany, and the United Kingdom, as well as in Canada, each outnumbered the Mexican-born (OECD, 2000). Today's fast-growing immigrant groups in the United States include people from the Philippines, Korea, and India, leading Chesnais to remark that the United States "is no longer primarily a European country" (2000). Or take Sweden, a major contributor to the U.S. population in the nineteenth century. Migration into Sweden turned positive (i.e., more people entered than left) during the 1960s (Council of Europe, 2000). Now there are more Swedes who were born in Iran than in Norway, more born in Iraq than in Germany, and more born in Turkey or Chile than in the United States or the United Kingdom (OECD, 2000).

Box 4.2 The Price of Migration for Women From the Philippines

Since she migrated from the Philippines 10 years ago, Marie has worked in the United States illegally as a caregiver to elderly people. When she works in a private home, room and board are provided, enabling Marie to send over 75% of her earnings to her family in the Philippines. She is expected to be on call 24 hours a day without overtime pay. From her meager wages, Marie cannot afford the trip back home to see her family.

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