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## A Global Perspective On Migration And The Human Phenomenon

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**Abstract:** Migration is one of the most important phenomena that humans have encountered as a social and human being in the historical process. Although its causes and justifications vary depending on the conditions of the time, migratory movements are a determining concept for individuals, societies and states regarding their effects and dimensions. In this sense, migration, expressed as a change of place or space, is described as movement people make from their familiar environment to an unfamiliar one. In fact, the phenomenon of migration should not be seen as a mere spatial movement. However, while the phenomenon of migration impacts people and society, the changes in the world have also affected the phenomenon of migration in terms of scope and quality. In particular, globalization has led to the intensification and internationalization of migratory movements. The migration process, which gained momentum with globalization, has reached a mass scale after technological advances. This situation causes the phenomenon of migration to be perceived as a global problem regarding the migration rates experienced worldwide. This study attempts to reveal the impact of globalization on the phenomenon of migration within the framework of the human dimension of migration.

**Keywords:** *Migration, Human, Society, Globalization*

## Göç Ve İnsan Olgusuna Küresel Bir Bakıř

**Özet:** Göç, sosyal ve beřeri bir varlık olan insanın tarihsel süreçte karşı karşıya kaldığı en önemli olgulardan biridir. Nedenleri ve gerekçeleri dönemin koşulları bağlamında değışkenlik gösterse de etkileri ve boyutları açısından göç hareketleri bireyler, toplumlar ve devletler için belirleyici olan bir kavramdır. Göç, insanlar için zorunlu nedenlerden kaynaklanabildiği gibi bazı durumlarda da kendi istekleri doğrultusunda gerçekleşebilmektedir. Bu anlamda, yer veya mekan değışikliği olarak ifade edilen göç, insanların alışmış oldukları çevreden bilinmeyen bir çevreye doğru gerçekleřtirdikleri bir hareket olarak açıklanmaktadır. İnsanların yaşamış oldukları çevreden başka bir çevreye gitme isteğ i siyasi, ekonomik, dini, toplumsal ve coğrafi nedenlerden kaynaklanabilmektedir. Ancak, göç olgusu insan için sadece mekansal bir hareket olarak düşünülmemelidir. Nitekim göçle birlikte insanlar kendi kültürlerinden biriktirmiş oldukları değerleri de kendileriyle birlikte göç ettikleri topluma taşımaktadırlar. Bu durumda göç sonrasında yaşanan toplumsal dönüşümünün bir göstergesidir. Bununla birlikte, göç olgusu insan ve toplum üzerinde etkili olurken, dünyada yaşanan değışimlerde göç olgusunu kapsam ve nitelik açısından etkilemiştir. Özellikle küreselleşme süreci göç hareketlerinin yoğunlaşmasına ve uluslararası bir nitelik kazanmasına neden olmuştur. Küreselleşme süreciyle ivme kazanan göç süreci teknolojik ilerlemelerin etkisiyle kitlesel bir boyuta ulaşmıştır. Bu durum, dünya genelinde yaşanan göç oranlarına bakıldığında göç olgusunun küresel bir sorun olarak algılanmasına neden olmaktadır. Bu çalışmada; göçün insani boyutu çerçevesinde küreselleşmenin göç olgusu üzerindeki etkileri ortaya konmaya çalışılacaktır.

**Anahtar Sözcükler:** *Göç, İnsan, Toplum, Küreselleşme*

## **1. Introduction**

Migration is one of the key concepts associated with human history. This phenomenon is an action performed by humans and many living things. However, migration is a concept primarily associated with human beings. Throughout history, the effects of migration, regarding its causes and consequences, have been felt in different dimensions at the individual, societal and state levels.

Migration, characterized as geographical mobility or a change of place, occurs due to people's changed needs and expectations. In this sense, migratory movements can occur due to people's desire to achieve better living conditions than the current ones or due to compelling reasons. Whatever the reason, migratory movements cause changes in humanity's social accumulation and understanding. The phenomenon of migration is not only a geographical change of place for people. Migration also leads to changes in people's world of values.

Many innovations and advances have been made in the social sphere during the transition from the modern to the postmodern period. In particular, globalization has transformed social structures and institutions at various levels. This transformation process has also complicated the scope and meaning of the concept of migration. The migration movements that initially occurred at the local or national levels have gained a transnational character with the impact of globalization. As globalization has reshaped social spheres in political, economic and cultural terms, conflicts and crises occurring on the global scale have given migration a mass scale and international character.

The globalization and intensification of migratory movements have created several problems. In particular, the internationalization of migration waves has been perceived as a security threat by nation-states. In addition, controlling and managing migratory movements is also one of the problems states face. Therefore, the concept of migration, which has gained a global dimension today, should remain relevant in any period, considering the migration rates experienced worldwide.

This study will address the concept of migration as a human characteristic and discuss the dimensions of migration and migration typologies. Then, it will attempt to reveal the threats and opportunities that the new dimensions of the migration phenomenon will bring within the framework of the relationship between globalization and migration.

## **2. Migration and Human**

The phenomenon of migration, which is as old as human history, is generally expressed as spatial displacement. Human beings are not the only creatures to engage in spatial displacement as an essential condition of survival. Considering many creatures, such as monarch butterflies flying about 5000 km, blue whales migrating 8500 km, and northern terns with their round-trip migration route of 80,000 km, migration is considered a natural and obligatory part of life (Yaman, 2019). From a natural and historical point of view, migration is expressed as a fact that is specific to the nature of human beings, as it is to most species (McNeil, 1984). Within this reality, the phenomenon of migration as a human activity has different consequences. However, migration has apparent multidimensional effects on people and space in political, economic, social and cultural dimensions. It is crucial to reveal migration's scope, causes, consequences and dimensions, which is a factual reality for all species in the living world.

### **2.1. The Concept of Migration**

The century we are in is defined as the age of migration. In addition to the historical south-north line, today's migratory movements can also occur between south-south and north-north countries. Migration, which affects the daily lives of both the people of the country of migration and the migrants, leads to different policies, discourses, and administrative and legal practices that are shaped according to ideological approaches (Gezici Yalçın, 2017).

Migration, which covers a wide range of societal levels ranging from individuals to entire societies, states to international organizations, is defined as the geographical relocation of people due to social, economic, political or natural reasons. This act of relocation can take place within the same state or across international borders (Adıgüzel, 2018). In this sense, migration can be defined as people

leaving the place where they live for natural or unnatural reasons (Sezik, 2022). Similarly, migration is the change of people's settlement in a geographical area or between administrative areas (Yaman, 2019).

In addition to these definitions, the International Organization for Migration (IOM: 2009) defines migration as the movement of people within a country or across international borders, regardless of its cause, duration and structure. At the same time, migration in the form of the movement of people is expected to take place at a specified time and over a considerable distance (Erder, 1986).

The concept of migration can also be defined in geographical, economic and demographic terms. Accordingly, migration is defined as a change of space in the field of geography, a movement due to the production factors in the field of the economy, and a population movement in the field of demography (Yalçın, 2004).

The migration movement, whose main actor is the human being, may sometimes occur by people's own will and sometimes due to compelling reasons. However, the factors such as technological progress, industrialization and urbanization have changed the social structure, leading to the acceleration of migration movements (Arslan & Akan, 2008). Migration and settlement is a much longer-term process which can span the rest of the migrant's life and affect subsequent generations. Migration is a collective action caused by social change and affects the whole society in both the receiving and sending countries (Castles & Miller, 2008).

People can continue their lives within or outside a country's borders by leaving their birthplace, either compulsorily or voluntarily. Through migration, individuals and societies physically change their places and reshape all the relationships surrounding their individual and social lives. In addition to their tangible and visible belongings, people take all their experiences, languages, cultures, memories, and dreams with them while migrating (Adigüzel, 2018).

According to Akhtar (2018), migration from one country to another is characterized as a chaotic psychosocial process with significant and long-lasting effects on individuals' identities. Leaving one's country causes significant losses. It is well known that after migration, people often leave the food they are used to, the local music, the social traditions they do not question, and their language. In contrast, it can be said that the new country offers strange-tasting foods, new songs, different political issues, a foreign language, colorless holidays, unknown heroes, a history that is not spiritually acquired, and a visually unfamiliar landscape. On the other hand, these losses can provide new spiritual growth and transformation opportunities, offering new models of identification, different meta-identities, and fresh ideals. Migration thus results in a sudden change from a predictable mainstream environment to a strange and unpredictable one.

Migration should be considered not only as a spatial phenomenon but also as a social movement. This is because migrants affect the existing social structure to survive in the place where they migrate. If the number of migrants is small, the established structure can absorb newcomers. However, if the number of migrants is high, they can alter the established structure and functioning (Erder, 2015). In this sense, migration is social mobility. Migration prevents cultures from remaining as homogeneous structures, allowing different cultures to interact and create new syntheses (Erkan, 2018).

There are different approaches to the phenomenon of migration in the literature. According to the macroeconomic perspective, the first approach, migration, is a matter of supply and demand, i.e., establishing a balance that meets the economy's needs by moving the population from underdeveloped to developed regions. Proponents of the microeconomic perspective argue that the rational preferences of individuals cause migration. Second, those who advocate the world-system theory argue that migration should be evaluated on the basis of center-periphery relations. According to this approach, the leading cause of migration is the world market, which has existed since the 16<sup>th</sup> century. International migration emerges due to the ruptures and movements caused by capitalist development. The third approach is the theoretical perspective emphasizing the transnational aspect of migration in the 1990s. According to this approach, there is a transnational space between sending countries, receiving countries and migrant groups, and migration consists of three levels: micro, macro, and intermediate. The micro level, which includes individual autonomy, is described as the ability to decide to leave or stay. At the macro level, political, economic, and cultural structures function as a world system with countries that

receive and send migration. The intermediate level consists of social and symbolic networks and resources owned by individuals and groups that move (Gezici Yalçın, 2017).

## 2.2. The Types of Migration

As a reality that has been going on for centuries, migrations cause power struggles between states and impact the shaping of today's world through the encounters of societies with different cultures, getting to know each other and the relationships that have developed between them. The analysis of the history of migration shows that it has occurred for different reasons. There have been migrations at different times for environmental reasons, such as hunger, famine, and natural disasters, or for forced reasons, such as political pressure and war. Today, the main reason for migration around the world is economic. In addition, the transportation and communication opportunities that have emerged with globalization facilitate people's access to information and increase the socio-cultural and economic contacts of societies in different regions, accelerating migration (Yaman, 2019).

According to Giddens (2012), there are four migration models associated with migratory movements,

- **Classical Migration Model:** This model applies to countries that have developed as immigrant nations, such as the United States, Canada, and Australia. In this model, immigration is encouraged, and emigration is kept through specific quotas. These countries offer citizenship to newcomers as a favor.
- **Colonial Model of Migration:** It is expressed as a model established in countries such as the United Kingdom and France, where those from colonies are preferred to those from other countries. In particular, migrants from Commonwealth countries in the UK reflect this trend.
- **Guest worker model:** Countries like Germany, Belgium, and Switzerland follow this third path. In this model, immigrants are admitted to the country to meet the needs of the labor market. However, immigrants do not have citizenship right, regardless of the length of their stay.
- **Illegal (irregular) migration model:** This model is becoming more common as many developed countries have tightened their immigration laws. Migrants who enter the country clandestinely or under the guise of not being migrants can often live illegally outside official society's borders. Examples of this can be seen in the illegal Mexican population in the southern states of the United States or in the growing business of smuggling international migrants across national borders.

Faist (2003) classifies migration categories under five different headings: area (local-international), time (temporary-permanent), size (individual-group-mass), reason (voluntary-compulsory), and legal status (legal-illegal).

Migration is divided into different categories according to destination, means used, legality and duration. It is defined as internal migration when it occurs within the borders of the same country and as external migration from one country to another. Migration can be voluntary or forced for reasons such as war, natural disasters, poverty and hunger. In addition, migration can take place legally or in the form of illegal migration, the number and volume of which is constantly increasing today.

The phenomenon of migration can be experienced as individual or mass migration. The decision to migrate is determined by the push factors of the quitted region and attracting factors of the destination region. Push factors include unemployment, poverty, division of agricultural land, lack of education and health, war and natural disasters. Attractive factors can be summarized as a stable structure, job opportunities, welfare, security, health and education opportunities in the destination country (Erkan, 2018).

Petersen (1958), categorizes migration throughout history into several typologies: primitive, forced, exile, free, and mass migration. Primitive migration is due to the inability of people to resist natural forces and has no relation with the level of primitiveness. Forced and exile migrations are experienced under the influence of the state or a social institution that wields power equivalent to the state. The situation in which migrants completely lose control over their decision to migrate is called

forced migration; impelled migration, on the other hand, is the situation in which they retain partial control. Free migration is a typology of small-scale migration in which the choice is entirely under the control of the individual. On the other hand, mass migration occurs when a few pioneers freely migrate to another place and establish contacts for those who will come after them. As a result, migration to the destination begins to increase. This migration movement becomes mass and collective.

Identifying the causes of migratory movements due to different situations will also make it possible to predict the aspects that will emerge after the migration process. In addition to knowing the reasons for the types of migration experienced throughout history, the magnitude of these migrations is also crucial regarding the impact of migration.

### 2.3. The Dimensions of Migration

The conditions surrounding migration and the motives behind undertaking such a major step play an essential role in determining the psychological events following it. Different dimensions come to the fore in this process. First, whether migration is temporary or permanent makes a big difference. The position of a diplomat assigned to a foreign country for a certain period is not the same as that of an immigrant who leaves his/her country to settle in a new land. The second is whether migrants made this decision by their own choice, directly affecting the subsequent integration process. The third is whether the person can revisit his/her country after migration, which impacts the outcomes of the migration process. The last one is the reasons for leaving their country, which determine their success level in adapting to the new environment (Akhtar, 2018).

While new migratory flows emerge in response to economic change, political struggles, and violent conflict, long-established forms of migration continue to exist within the new forms worldwide. Migration trends in our time can be categorized under five headings (Castles & Miller, 2008):

- ***The globalization of migration:*** The scope of migration is expanding and globalizing in nature. Thus, migration-receiving countries accept migrants from different economic, social and cultural backgrounds.
- ***The acceleration of migration:*** Cross-border migration flows are increasing worldwide. This quantitative increase has required governments to develop new migration policies to address the current situation. Government policies may be effective in addressing the challenges posed by international migration flows.
- ***The differentiation of migration:*** Migration today is not limited to labor migration for most countries; they face different types of migration, such as migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. Governments often try to control migration flows, but migration chains beginning in one type of movement continue in other forms.
- ***The feminization of migration:*** In the past, most labor migration and many refugee movements were male-dominated, and women were often included in the family reunification category. While the gender gap was an integral part of the history of global migration, women have played a central role in labor migration, and their visibility within migration movements has increased significantly.
- ***The increasing politicization of migration:*** Domestic politics, bilateral-regional relations and national security policies of states worldwide are increasingly influenced by international migration.

Regarding migration, accepted as a feature of human nature, it can be said that people in today's world have less freedom and ability to migrate than in the past. With this characteristic, migration became one of the essential issues and problems of modern times. Migration leads to the reshaping of societies' social structures. If a society believes that immigrants will contribute to its economic and cultural life, it adopts a positive attitude towards immigrants. However, in the case of several political and individual motivations that immigrants lead to moral degeneration in the social structure, criminal acts, drug abuse, diseases, and unemployment are argued it has a negative attitude towards immigrants (Nas, 2018).

There are constant changes in the spatial distribution of people within a social system. Changing places where people live has two different dimensions: the social system and the individual. Parallel to the changes in production, transportation and communication technologies within the social system and the social system's external relations, pressure is born for change in the spatial organization. Migration redistributes labor to make production more efficient and allows the spatial distribution to adapt better to new conditions. On the other hand, individuals want to realize their motives at the highest level in the society in which they live. In this case, migration increases the opportunities available to people and provides them with professional and social mobility (Tekeli, 2015).

However, the migration of people searching for better living conditions brings several unexpected and unpredictable consequences in the places that become migration destinations. Particularly in companies with a large number of employees in developed countries, the fact that people from different countries come to work and speak different languages creates situations that negatively affect communication and interaction at work and workplace relationships. At the same time, this situation has a different economic impact on individuals and societies in the immigrant-receiving and sending countries. Reducing costs in good and service production due to the emerging cheap labor potential is a positive feature; meanwhile, reducing employee wages is a negative feature. This situation may also lead to conflicts between the locals and migrants (Nas, 2018).

At the same time, the intensification of migratory movements from individual to mass scale also affects urban living spaces. Hence, the need for new city settlement areas has increased with migration. The attitude of public authorities towards this need is vital in urban planning. This situation can lead to many problems, especially unplanned urbanization and infrastructure, related to incorrect planning (Kıray, 1998). Therefore, the migration process affects and changes the existing structure regarding urbanization and urban culture.

Population growth due to migration leads to sharing problems in cities' political, economic and social spheres. The resulting competitive environment increases the sense of micro and ethnic nationalism due to individuals' fear of losing what they own, feeding the social polarization and tensions in cities and paving the way for the formation of an exclusionary politicization process with a high level of polarization. Adopting such a politicization process in a country hinders the development of a democratic culture (Ekici & Tuncel, 2015).

### **3. Globalization and Migration**

It is argued that modernity has brought significant transformations from agriculture to industry in economic terms, from rural communities to urban societies in social terms, and from empire-vassal relations to nation-states and citizenship in political terms. In this respect, it would not be wrong to say that migratory movements were limited in the pre-modern period and that the phenomenon now defined as migration is more a phenomenon of modern society. While this conclusion applies to local migrations, it is more valid for international migration, which has become widespread since the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and has developed with the establishment of the world system as a system of nation-states (İçduygu, 2010).

Globalization, described as a consequence of Western modernization, means local formations being shaped by events many kilometers away or, conversely, the intensification of social relations worldwide, linking distant localities (Giddens, 2009). According to Bauman, globalization is explained as the redistribution of privileges and restrictions, wealth and poverty, resources and helplessness, power and powerlessness, and freedom and constraints (Bauman, 1999). In this respect, globalization processes are thought to produce different outcomes for different individuals, communities, nations and states. Therefore, it would be unreasonable to expect those differently affected by these processes to have similar attitudes and behaviors (Bülbül, 2009).

With globalization, borders between cultures, societies and states have become highly permeable and flexible. However, these permeable and flexible borders have been limited by capital, knowledge and technology advancements. On the other hand, migration and migrants continue to threaten states from various angles. Since modern political units are based on the planned and nation-

state systems, migrants with different historical, cultural, ethnic, and linguistic affiliations can disrupt nation-states' and national societies' economic, political, and social order (Nas, 2018).

In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the passage of citizens from one country to another is controlled by institutionalized systems such as passports or visas within the framework of an international system divided into nation-states. For nation-states defined by their borders, legitimate sovereignty is the factor that determines the border crossings of foreigners and the conditions of their stay in the country. As international migratory movements intensify worldwide due to increasing global integration in our era, each country faces international migration at different levels and responds differently based on its own economic, political and social structure (İçduygu, 2010).

Individuals, the main actors in international migration, consider many factors, such as work, housing, health, education, the political sphere of the destination country, its geographical proximity to their home country, and whether they have relatives there. Moreover, migrants also evaluate the destination country in the context of their security. Individuals tend to migrate primarily for economic security; however, in cases such as civil wars, international migrants' life safety becomes crucial. International migration is perceived as a security problem within states regarding different dimensions, especially illegal migrants, border protection, and ethnic conflicts (Kalaycı, 2019).

In the last half-century, international migration movements have continued as a process that affects five continents; they are based on various factors, continue to question the concept of nation, and demographically involve millions of people (Abadan-Unat, 2022: 4). In the era of globalization, migration has intensified geographically and most of the countries in the world are involved in the migration process as destination countries, source countries, transit countries, or all at the same time (Kara, 2017).

The prominent dimensions in the relationship between globalization and international migration can be grouped under three headings (İçduygu, 2010). Firstly, globalization has intensified the possibilities and, therefore, the probability for people to migrate. States face difficulties in controlling borders and monitoring the conditions of foreigners' stay within borders due to the emergence of different types of migration and the greater intensity of geographical mobility. Second, the nation-state's position in the relationship between globalization and international migration has changed. Almost every country has become a receiving country on the one hand and a sending country on the other. The emergence of new terms, such as transnational spaces, undermines the idea that nation-states are the main actors. Third, international migration has become a global governance issue. Indeed, regarding its causes and consequences, international migration in the era of globalization reflects a phenomenon involving many actors, including migrants, receiving countries, sending countries, transit countries and international organizations.



**Table 1:** International Immigration, 1970-2020

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of International Migrants</b>	<b>The ratio of Migrants to the World Population (%)</b>
1970	84,460,125	2.3
1975	90,368,010	2.2
1980	101,983,149	2.3
1985	113,206,691	2.3
1990	152,986,157	2.9
1995	161,289,976	2.8
2000	173,230,585	2.8
2005	191,446,828	2.9
2010	220,983,187	3.2
2015	247,958,644	3.4
2020	280,598,105	3.6

*Source: IOM, 2022: 23*

According to Table 1, World Migration Report 2022 data show that international migrant mobility has increased constantly over the past 50 years. In 2020, the number of international migrants is about 281 million.

According to the World Migration Report (IOM, 2022), the analysis of the international migrant population shows that Europe has become the largest destination for international migrants, with 87 million migrants, followed by Asia with 87 million migrants, North America with 59 million migrants and Africa with 25 million migrants.

International migration is one of the most critical factors determining countries' domestic and foreign policies today. The attraction of relatively developed countries, on the one hand, the economic problems and socio-political conflicts in poor countries and the conflicts in Syria after the Arab Spring, on the other hand, have caused millions of people to migrate to many countries, especially Turkey. This wave of cross-border migration has become a global problem. This situation is perceived as a threat to the country's identity by the people in the country of immigration. Especially after the Syrian crisis, it is said that the concerns and negative feelings towards migrants have increased among Europeans (Bozkurt, 2019).

In today's international migration movements, there is a negative perception of migrants due to issues such as Islamization, increased crime rates, employment at low wages, and using the country's resources. In addition, receiving countries perceive migration as a security problem. Immigrants are predominantly seen as a threat to society's culture and social structure in the context of local-national sensitivities.

Because of these characteristics, it is clear that migration is an issue that needs to be analyzed from various aspects. Predicting the dynamics of the migration process, which has different components and multidimensional effects in every aspect, is of great importance in solving the problems that arise with migration.

#### 4. Conclusion

Migration is not an action unique to humans; it is a concept that began with the planet's existence and is an action performed by many living beings. However, it is a concept primarily associated with humans. These migratory movements, which were carried out by the first human communities in order to survive, began to occur for different purposes over time as interactions among people intensified, human and world history was formed, nations were influenced by each other, cultural changes were experienced, geographies were gradually reshaped, and states were established and destroyed (Patat, 2019).

It is an accepted historical reality that people leave their places and migrate to other places for various reasons. In this sense, migratory movements have occurred in all periods of history. The phenomenon of migration has reached political, economic and social dimensions in terms of its effects and has produced new results.

By studying the literature on migration, it is understood that migration is the relocation movement of people due to different expectations and aspirations. This movement can be realized by people's own will, or it can be caused by compelling reasons. People migrate to reach a better place for their wishes; they have had to migrate to continue their lives due to natural disasters, famine, war, epidemic diseases, ethnic pressures and conflicts. This situation is of great importance in understanding the impact of the migration phenomenon in different dimensions, which occurs for various reasons and justifications. Migration is a process that affects individuals, societies and States, and it is not a phenomenon limited to the sending countries, the receiving countries and the migrants themselves.

Migration movements, which initially occurred on a local and national scale, have changed in size and scope since the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and have gained a global identity. Globalization has transformed conventional structures with its political, economic, social, and cultural effects, impacting migration as well. In particular, technological progress and the development of communication technologies have intensified migratory movements and given them an international character. Migratory movements reaching mass scales and crossing national borders have created fundamental problems, especially for nation-states. Security is at the forefront of these problems; migrants are seen as a factor that threatens the existence of nation-states. Migrants from different ethnic and national backgrounds profoundly impact the social structure and culture of the country of origin.

Regarding the global migratory movements in recent years, we can see that states and individuals have a negative attitude towards migrants. However, despite this negative perception, it is a reality that migration movements cannot be stopped in the current era. It should not be forgotten that changing conditions at the global level facilitate migration movements. This situation requires developing new public policies for international migration movements. Therefore, the global dimension of the migration phenomenon, which has become more chaotic, should be resolved through common policies established in the international environment.

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