

## 17.8 Fleeing Poverty and War in Sub-Saharan Africa

**Background:** According to the Pew Research Center international migration from countries in sub-Saharan Africa to Western Europe and the United States dramatically increased from 2010 to 2017 including nearly 1 million asylum seekers. Nearly three-quarters of Europe's sub-Saharan immigrant population is concentrated in just four countries: the United Kingdom France, Italy, and Portugal. Unless conditions drastically improve in the immediate future, the migration stream will probably increase. A Pew survey in conducted in Senegal, Ghana and Nigeria, found that more than a third questioned planned to migrate in the next five years. **Source:** <http://www.pewglobal.org/2018/03/22/at-least-a-million-sub-saharan-africans-moved-to-europe-since-2010/>

### Questions

1. According to section A, why are refugees fleeing West Africa?
2. What does the phrase "Barcelona or death" mean?
3. Why is the trip from West Africa to Europe so dangerous?
4. How has globalization impacted on the people of Senegal?

### Migrants, Bound for Spain, Set Off a Boom

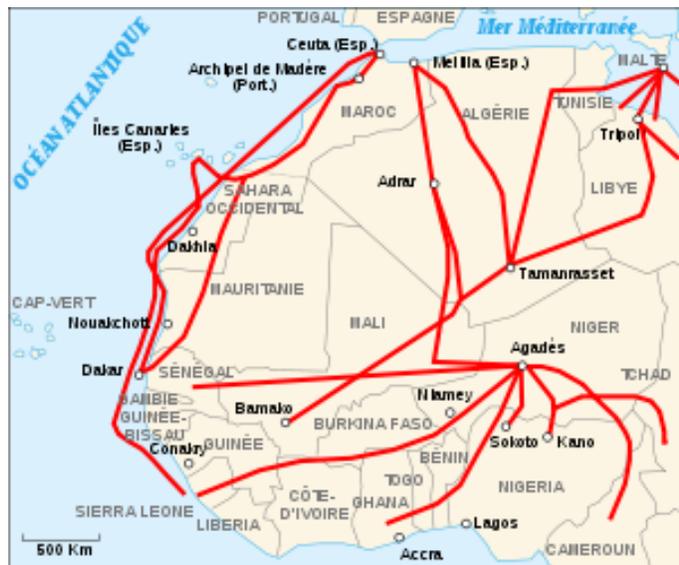
by Meg Bortin, New York Times, June 19, 2006, A4

A. People along this stretch of Africa's west coast always enjoyed warm waters, a mild climate and an abundance of fruit and fish. But then, said Babacar Diop, 42 and unemployed, "foreigners emptied the seas." Industrial trawlers from France, Japan, China and South Korea came in such numbers that catches of tuna and shark grew rare. "The Japanese took all the big fish," said Moustafa Elhadj Sow, 26, a boat painter in this fishing city of 300,000. "Now all that's left is herring."



Senegalese refugees trying to sail to Europe

B. So some residents of Mbour have found a new source of income: smuggling Senegalese and other West Africans 800 miles to the Canary Islands of Spain, as they aim for what local newspapers call "the dream of El Dorado": jobs in Europe. It is a dangerous voyage. People here have a fatalistic saying in French and Wolof, a Senegalese language: "Barcelone ou barxax" -- Barcelona or death.



Dangerous trip from West Africa to Europe

C. This year, more than 10,000 migrants have reached the Canaries. Many go aboard large, canoe-shaped fishing boats known as pirogues. "Fishermen have discovered trafficking in migrants as a new and more lucrative job," said Antonio Mazzitelli, regional representative for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. "If the situation continues, there will not be enough boats for fishing."