

Slavery/Forced Labor

Rapid increases over last 50 years; rapid increases over the last 10 years

SUPPLY FACTORS:

There has been a precipitous fall in the cost of slaves since WW II. The reason: the supply has increased dramatically. The move from subsistence farming to market oriented farming together with population growth creates a surplus population of poverty in rural and urban areas in developing countries.

Hunger prompts acceptance of fake “opportunities” to work. The poor parents may accede to the procurer's persuasion and let their children go.

Demand factors

- Enormous profits can be made; returns for investment in slavery in Alabama in 1850 were 5%, now the returns are double digit and may be as high as 800%. Slaves are disposable today. Slaves in India now cost 95% less (Bales, p.12-3). Everywhere slavery is illegal but corruption allows it to flourish. Police and other officials are paid off. Higher levels of poverty and corruption in a country are linked to higher levels of slavery (Bales, p.244-5). War and conflict also creates a demand for slaves.

24% of slaves are domestic workers

- As families become better off they create a **demand** for domestic workers. This is true in both developed and developing countries.

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES: IN-COUNTRY SLAVERY

- The new urban middle class in developing countries wants domestic workers, but the supply of adult domestic workers has fallen because the country is richer. This results in poor children being used for domestic tasks. The ILO defines all children under the age of 15 as victims (marriage also). The poor urban family needs money for food so they send their children to work as domestics. Example: Latin America

Developed and Oil Rich Countries: The Importation of Slaves

- The **demand** for domestic workers is high but the supply of in-country domestic workers is low or non-existent. The search for workers shifts to the developing countries. Modern means of transport enable middle **men** and **women** to efficiently move workers from their countries of origin. This is an opportunity for entrepreneurs to organize the importation of labor by illegal means. Profits are high.

Slavery of domestic workers in developed and oil rich countries

- 1. Take away passports and other ID's
- 2. No protection from violence, working 24 hours a day, no or low pay, etc.
- 3. Going to the authorities risks deportation or worse.
- 4. Isolation
- 5. No means of survival outside the family.
- These conditions are probably worse in the oil rich countries where the local authorities are aware of but ignore the slavery of domestic workers. In the US foreign diplomats have both the opportunity and the desire for domestic slaves imported from their own countries.

The US-all forms of trafficking

- TVPA-Trafficking Victims Protection Act (2000) definition involves force, fraud, coercion (or the case of a minor for sex acts without force, etc.)
- 14,500 to 17,500 slaves enter the US per year.
- What happens if these illegal immigrants are caught by the authorities? 5,000 slots available on T visas but these slots are not all used!
- Importation and consumption of goods produced by slave labor abroad: DOL annual list 2018. Boycott and lobby the corporations which use slave labor.