Trafficking humans in sociological perspective

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The theoretical context

Initiation versus perpetuation of migration (Massey et al, 1997)

Initiation
Neoclassical Economics, New Household economics,
Dual Labor Market Theory, World Systems Theory

Perpetuation
Network Theory, Institutional Theory, Cumulative Causation
The Institutional Theory

Based on the Weberian theory of bureaucracy

The functional model:
Organisations are useful (provide services for the migrants and other actors)
but their behaviour is strongly influenced by organizational self-interest

Types
NGO sector (humanitarian organizations),
market actors (formal and informal (petty or large-scale criminal organizations))
Bureaucracies (state and international organizations)
Smuggling or trafficking

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Smuggling</th>
<th>Trafficking</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>consent between customer and smuggler, interaction between smuggler</td>
<td>trafficking victims are subject to coercive, and deceptive actions (initial consent is rendered meaningless in the course of trafficking)</td>
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<td>contractual agreement that typically terminates upon arrival (upon payment)</td>
<td>often involves cycle(s?) of exploitation</td>
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<td>profit is derived from transportation and facilitation of illegal entry or stay</td>
<td>profit originates from various forms of exploitation – all based on the defencelessness of the victims</td>
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<td>underlying infrastructure becomes increasingly intricate but mostly glocal</td>
<td>underlying infrastructure becomes increasingly intricate but often global</td>
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<td>complex networks of many individual players, easily adaptable to shifting circumstances of supply and demand</td>
<td>complex networks of many organisations, capital intensive and strongly influence supply and (solvent) demand</td>
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<td>Examples: Coyotes, Man in Black 1</td>
<td>Examples: Snakeheads, Lethal Weapon 4 or Premium Rush</td>
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Some examples of trafficking fees

Service charge

Afghanistan $25,000 to London / $700 to Iran
Asia $10,000 to Australia
China $50,000 to USA / $41,800 to UK
Cuba $10,000 to USA
Kosovo – EU (through Hungary) less than Eur 1000

Selling price

Babies in Nigeria $2,650, in China $7,800 in Indonesia $160 to $250
Children in Thailand $25 typical price to “rent” a child beggar, $300 for Cambodian Children, in the United Kingdom $25,000

Teenage girls in Iraq $5,000 for Virgins, $2,500 for Non-Virgins
Woman in Pakistan $342, from Moldova $2,685 in Moscow

http://www.havocscape.com/black-market-prices/human-smuggling-fees/
The phases and main trafficking routes to the USA from Latin- and Central America
The European illegal border crossing routes

Type of trafficking being reported

- 63% Sex trafficking
- 23% Labor trafficking
- 10% Not specified
- 3% Sex and Labor trafficking
- 1% International marriage brokering/personal sexual servitude