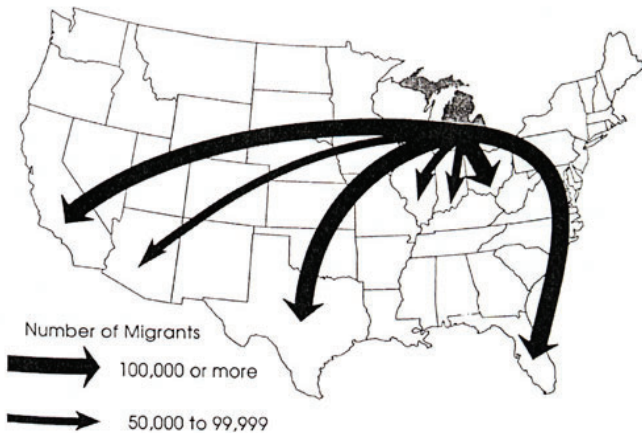


## Documents B.2 - Rustbelt to Sunbelt Migration and “White Flight”

**Context:** Suburban growth coincided with urban population decline, particularly from whites leaving Midwestern “rustbelt” states like Michigan, Indiana, New York, etc. This migration was prompted by many factors, including employment opportunities in defense-related industries in “sunbelt” states (California, Arizona, Texas, etc.), federal home loan and mortgage insurance programs, the development of air-conditioning technology, and declining industrial jobs in the rustbelt due to automation and rising global competition. While some historians refer to this movement as “white flight”, these rustbelt residents also helped create sunbelt suburbs in California and other Southern and Southwestern states.

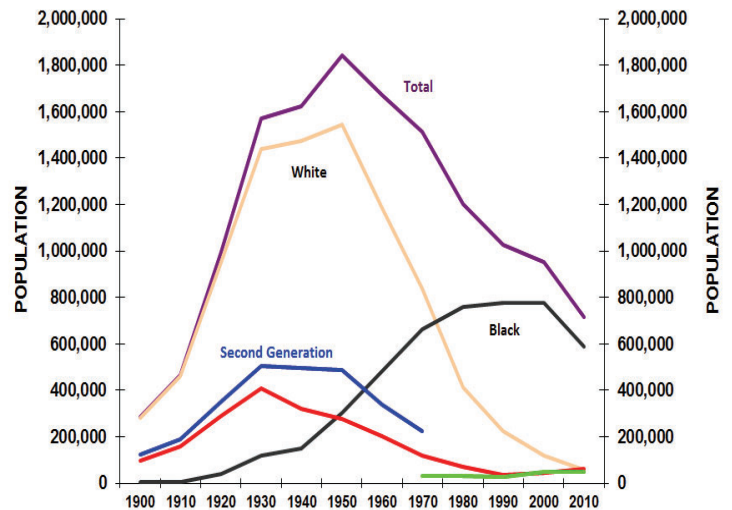
### Rustbelt to Sunbelt Migration from Michigan: 1976-1988

source: MSU's Geography Department <http://geo.msu.edu>



### Detroit, Michigan Population: 1900 - 2010

source: U.S. Census <http://www.detroit1701.org>



1. Using the map, where were Michigan residents moving to between 1976-1988? Why were they leaving the “rustbelt” for the “sunbelt”?
2. Using the map, how many Michigan residents moved to California between 1976-1988? How many Michigan residents moved to the other “sunbelt” states in the South and the Southwestern regions of the U.S.?
3. U.S. Census data shows that Detroit was the fastest growing U.S. city between 1900-1940. Using the Detroit population data above, what happened to the city’s overall population after 1960? Why do historians refer to the trends depicted in the map and graph as “white flight”?