

MOVEMENTS OF POPULATION  
WITHIN  
THAILAND

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Space does not permit a full analysis of the network of movements involved, nor the discussion of the factors determining the pattern of the movement.

It may be of interest that the hypothesis with which this author started to work on this subject was that internal migration in Thailand is a centripetal movement from rural to urban areas, that intra-regional migration is of small extent and conforms to the rural-urban pattern, and that the movement from the provinces to Bangkok, the commercial, cultural and the administrative centre of the country, is the dominant movement. But the results of his investigation are exactly the opposite.

Before proceeding further, it is necessary to indicate that in this paper 'Region' denotes the administrative region (there are altogether nine administrative regions); that since Pranakorn and Thonburi -- though two separate administrative areas -- are but one as a demographic area, they will therefore be so treated and designated by the term "Greater Bangkok"; and that the data on migration cover the period of 7 years from 1948 to 1954.

INTRA-REGIONAL AND INTER-REGIONAL MIGRATIONS

The volume of population movements has been great both in absolute as

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well as relative terms. The total number of migrants amounted to 5,606,714 persons, constituting 24.58 per cent of country's population (22,811,701) enumerated in 1956.

The author's investigation confirms Ravenstein's law of short-distance moves. Of all the migrants, 92.53 per cent moved within the same region, and there were no migrants moving between Region IX, the southern-most region, and Region VI in the northern part of the country.

The two largest numbers of migrants moving within the same region have been that of Region IV numbering 1,068,800 migrants and that of Region III numbering 824,714 migrants. These two regions, it should be pointed out, constitute the arid Northeast which in itself is a distinct economic and cultural area. The movement within Region VIII in the South involved 267,400 migrants, the smallest number.

Inter-regional migration, in contradistinction to intra-regional migration, involved a relatively small number of migrants. Of every 100 migrants only 8 moved between regions. Region I in the Central Plain, which includes Bangkok, absorbed the largest number of migrants totalling 161,320 people or 38.54 per cent of all the inter-regional migrants. Region VI, situated between the North and the Central Plain, attracted 82,600 migrants, the second largest number, of which 66.34 per cent moved from Region I, and 15.49 per cent from Region III. While Region IV, with 67,200 in-migrants, contained the third largest number, of which 85.71 per cent moved from Region III. In-migration to Region V in the extreme North involved the smallest number, 15,600 migrants, constituting only 3.75 per cent of the total number of inter-regional migrants.

#### RURAL—URBAN MIGRATIONS

With the exception of Greater Bangkok, Thailand has not yet arrived at a stage when population shifts are shifts from rural to urban areas. The movement has

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always predominantly been a movement between rural areas. Thus 89 out of 100 migrants moved to rural areas and only 11 moved to urban areas -- urban being defined as a Municipal area of 2,000 and over households.

It should, however, be indicated that it is characteristic of in-migration to Greater Bangkok that the number of migrants moving into its urban areas is several times more than the number moving into the suburbs, the ratio being 4 to 1.

#### IN-MIGRATION TO GREATER BANGKOK

Bangkok deserves special mention because of its great volume of in-migrants. In migration to Greater Bangkok involved 532,400 migrants, constituting 30.02 per cent of its population (1 773,321) enumerated in 1956. Of every 100 in-migrants, 90 were from the Central Plain; 5 from the Northeast; 3 from the North; and 2 from the South. Leaving aside the short-distance in-migration from the Central Plain to which Bangkok belongs, it should be noted that the largest number of in-migrants was from the Northeast.

It is of interest that in-migration to Greater Bangkok involved a number of migrants about three times more than the number of in-migrants to Region I, which is the largest number of migrants moving to any region.

#### SEX RATIOS

The total number of male migrants is, as in other countries, larger than that of the female migrants. To every 100 male migrants there were 95 females. Among the migrants moving to urban areas the ratio (100 to 86) was lower, while in rural areas the ratio (100 to 96) was higher.

It appears that the farther migrants move the lower is the sex ratio. Thus to every 100 intra regional male migrants, 97 were females, and to every 100 inter-regional male migrants, 76 were females. Migrations between certain non-contiguous regions such as from Region III to Region IX and Region III to Region VII involved no females.

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## NET AND GROSS MIGRATION

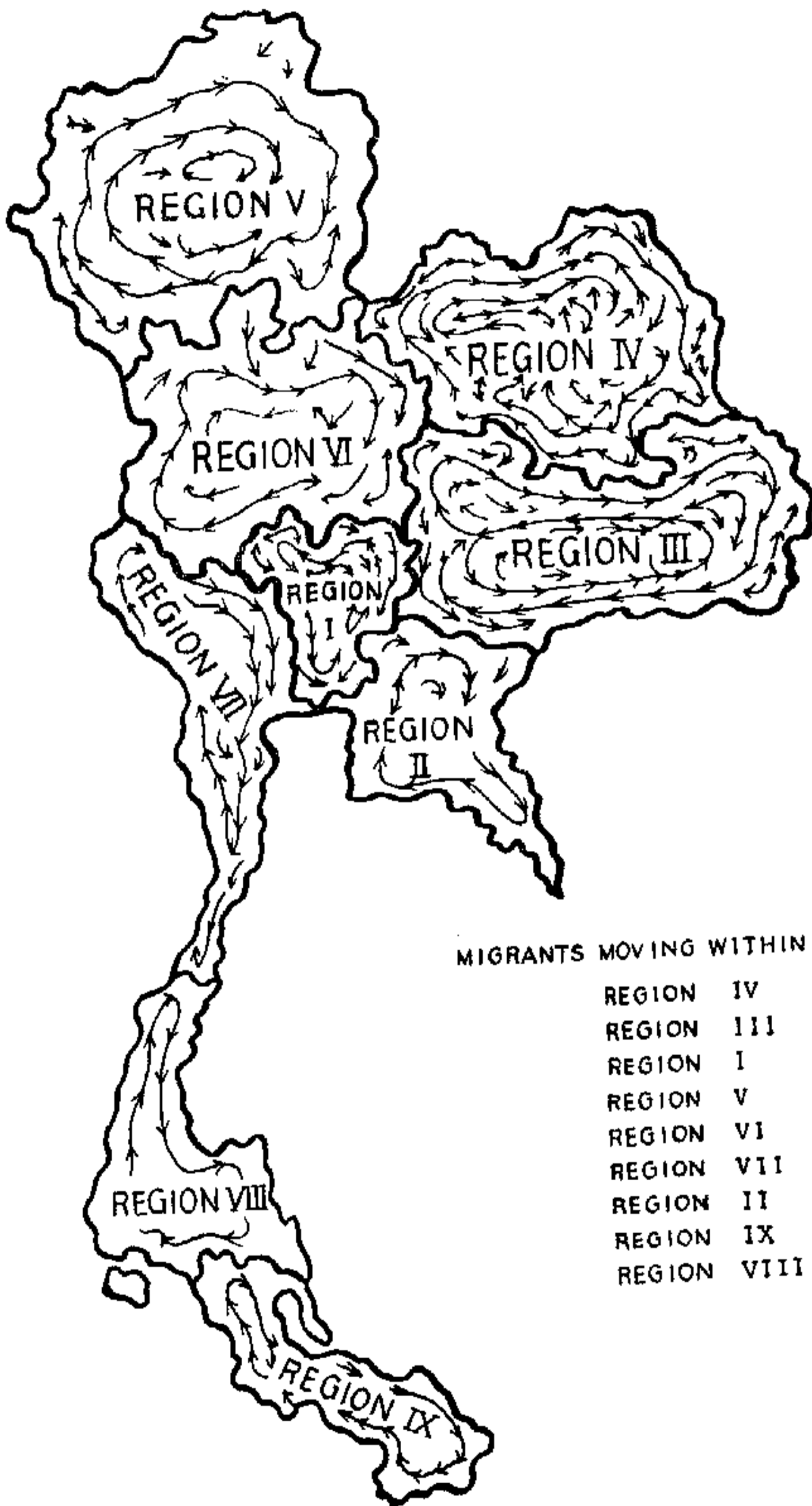
Taking each region as a unit, the streams of inter-regional migrants moved in opposing currents and left a net loss or gain depending upon its differential economic and cultural opportunities. The ratio of net to gross migration varied from 83.25 per cent to 8.20 per cent. For Region III the net loss was 83.25 persons for each 100 out-migrants; Region VII, 70.97 for 100; and Region II, 61.03 for 100. For Region VI the net gain was 66.39 persons for each 100 in-migrants; Region IV, 52.41 for 100; Region IX, 51.45 for 100; Region I, 33.67 for 100; Region VIII, 8.51 for 100; and for Region V the net gain was 8.20 persons for each 100 in-migrants.

In conclusion, it seems adequately clear that the pattern of the movement emerging from the above analysis is that population movements are movements between rural areas but, none the less, of short-distance moves. It might be safe to say that the present pattern of population movements will continue until such time as there is a much greater expansion of commerce and industry

### ย่อเรื่อง

การศึกษาเรื่องการเคลื่อนย้ายของประชากรในประเทศไทยนี้ อาจารย์ อุดต วัชรวิญญู เดชาธิการมหาวิทยาลัยธรรมศาสตร์ ได้จำกัดระยะเวลาที่ศึกษาและค้นคว้าเพียงปี พ.ศ. ๒๔๙๓ ถึง พ.ศ. ๒๔๙๗ จากข้อเท็จจริงที่ปรากฏได้ปรากฏว่า ประชากรเคลื่อนย้ายวนเวียน อยู่ในเขตชนบท คือจากชนบทหนึ่งไปยังอีกชนบทหนึ่งในภาคเดียวกัน มากกว่าที่จะเคลื่อนย้าย จากชนบทมาสู่ตัวเมืองหรือเคลื่อนย้ายไปสู่ภาคอื่นเป็นระยะทางไกล ทั้งนี้ ยกเว้นเฉพาะจังหวัด พระนครและธนบุรี ซึ่งมีประชากรอพยพเข้ามาอยู่ในเขตเทศบาลต้องมากที่สุด ในจำนวน ประชากรที่อพยพมาสู่จังหวัดพระนครและธนบุรี ถ้าไม่นับประชากรซึ่งอพยพจากท้องที่ต่าง ๆ ใน ภาคกลางด้วยกันแล้ว ประชากรภาคอีสานที่อพยพมาสู่จังหวัดพระนครและธนบุรีมีจำนวนมาก กว่าภาคอื่น ๆ ผู้เขียนเข้าใจว่าแบบแผนแห่งการเคลื่อนย้ายของพลเมืองในประเทศไทยคงจะเป็นอยู่ตง น จนกว่าการค้าและอุตสาหกรรมจะขยายตัวยิ่งขึ้น.

# INTRA-REGIONAL MIGRATION

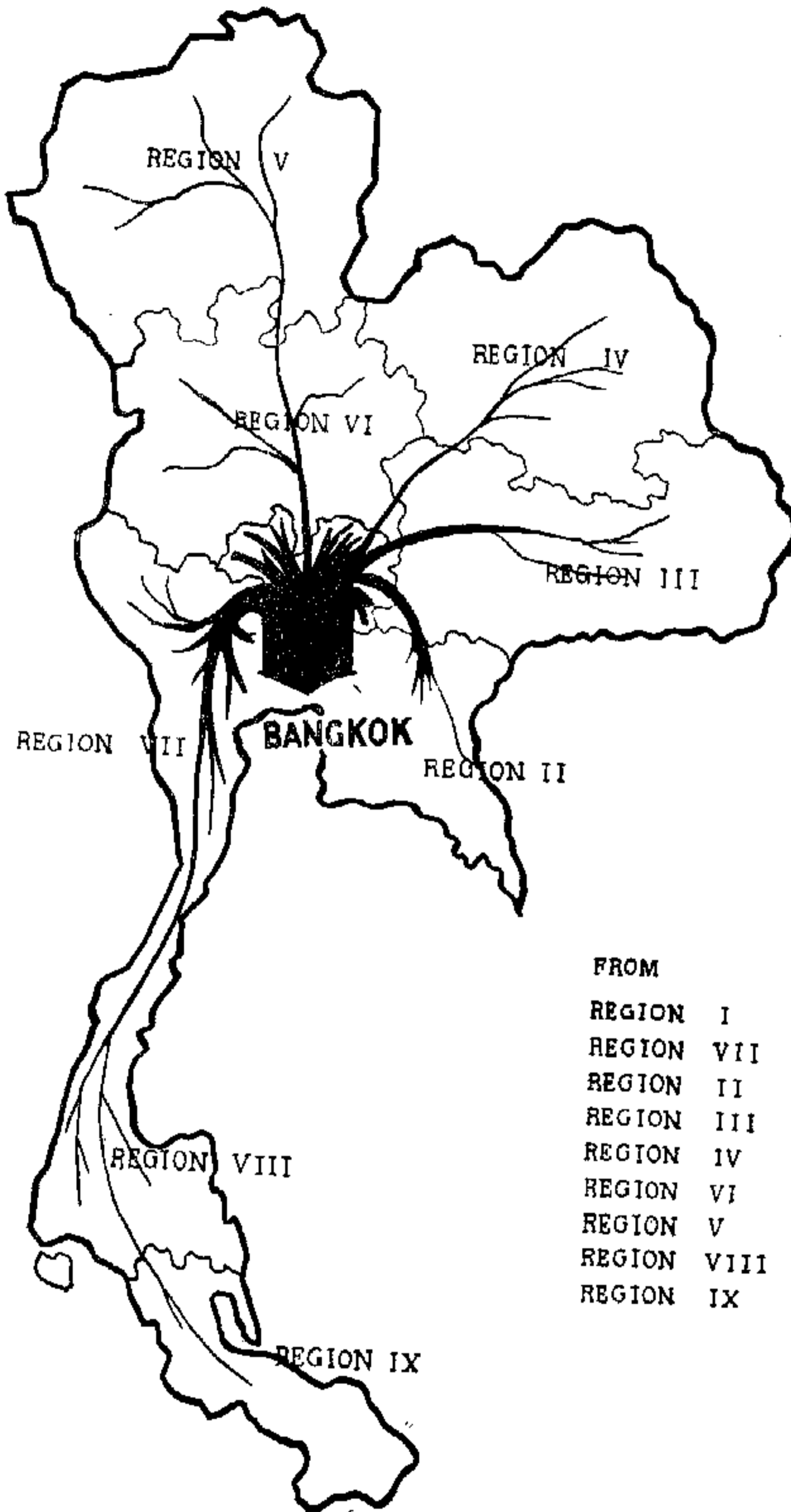


MIGRANTS MOVING WITHIN

THOUSANDS

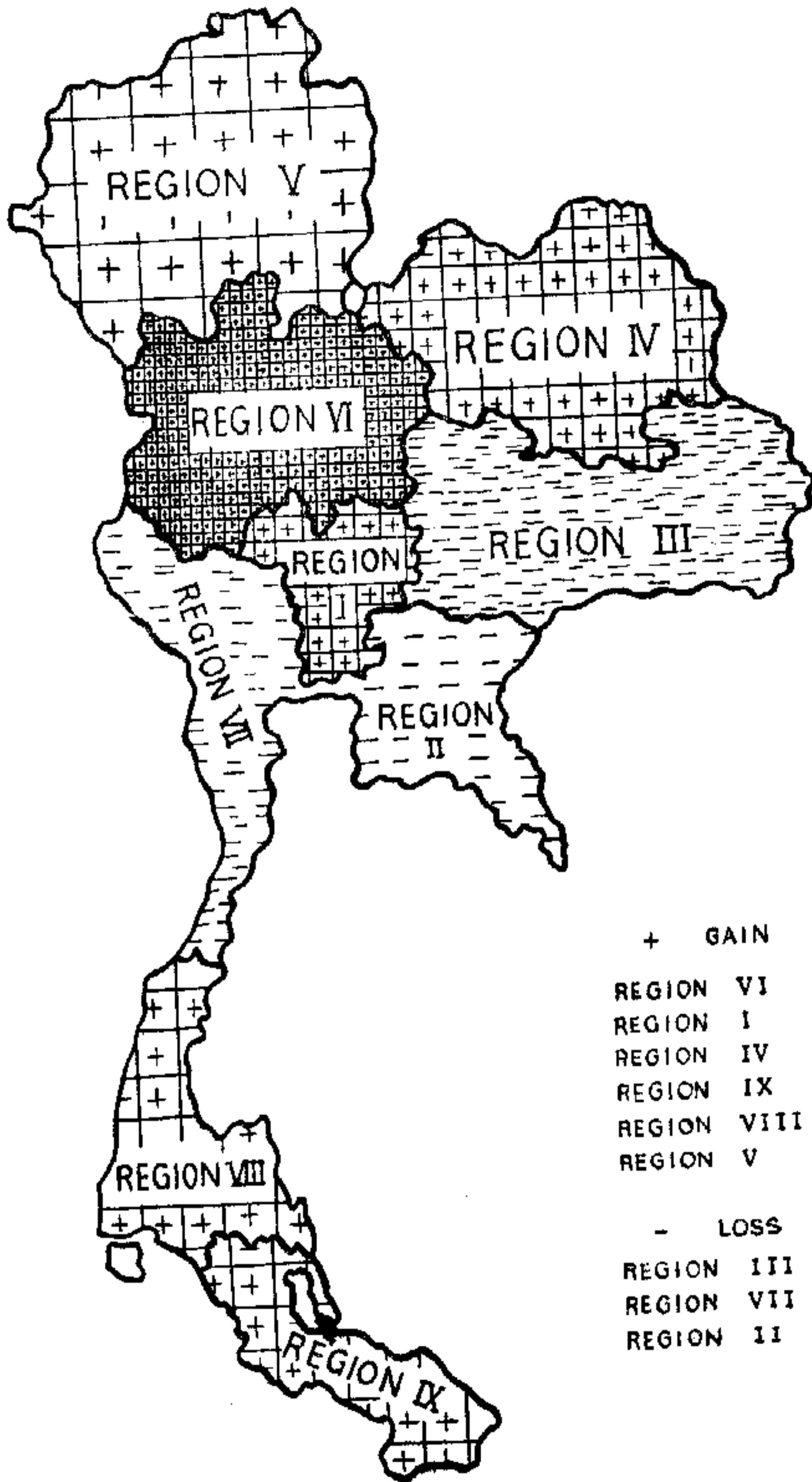
REGION IV	1,069
REGION III	825
REGION I	792
REGION V	670
REGION VI	580
REGION VII	381
REGION II	306
REGION IX	300
REGION VIII	267

# IN-MIGRATION TO GREATER BANGKOK



FROM	THOUSANDS
REGION I	408
REGION VII	40
REGION II	35
REGION III	17
REGION IV	9
REGION VI	9
REGION V	5.2
REGION VIII	5.1
REGION IX	4

NET MIGRATION



+ GAIN		THOUSANDS
REGION VI		55
REGION I		54
REGION IV		35
REGION IX		11
REGION VIII		1
REGION V		1
- LOSS		
REGION III		84
REGION VII		43
REGION II		30