

Cultural Intelligence: Use Case of Haitian Refugee

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Abstract:

After providing the exact background to Haitian migration and its multifaceted vulnerability, this paper argues that diaspora geographies largely explain the location of Haitian refugees and asylum seekers in North America and the French Caribbean. Is. We then explore the relationship between the evolution of immigration coverage and the improvement of recent immigration routes in the direction of South America, where the spread of the multidimensional nature of this immigration paved the way for the legalization of Haitian immigration, particularly But in Brazil. The complementary immigrant characteristics of Ecuador, Peru, Brazil, and Chile have created an entirely new local immigrant machine centered on southeastern and southern Brazil. This emerging South-South migration route is part of a larger Haitian migration machine that connects Latin America with North America and the Caribbean.

Keywords: Migration policy. Refugees. Haitians. Latin America. North America, the Caribbean.

Introduction

The complex roots of Haitian emigration have often left the field open to fluctuating and ambivalent migration policies in the countries of destination, considering Haitian migrants alternately as economic migrants or as refugees (Koh 2016, Faugas 2021). Indeed, any reflection on the Haitian refugee issue needs to consider the relation between the multidimensional (economic, ecological, political) vulnerability of local populations in the country of origin, the definition of migration policies in the countries of settlement, and the diversification of migrant destinations abroad. During their migration, individuals may be assigned to several categories, depending on the settlement context, changes in migration policies, and other factors. In the history of Haitian migration, the line has often remained blurred and oscillating between legal and illegal statuses. On two occasions, this situation has led to the invention of “hybrid” legal categories: the Cuban Haitian Entrant status was created in the US, in response to the massive influx of boats of people onto Florida shores, and a humanitarian migrant status was especially designed for recent Haitian migrants coming to Brazil, to address the complex causes of post-earthquake migration from Haiti (Castro 2018).

The changing macro-societal context in the country of origin, the permanent inflections of migration policies in the destination countries, and the economic opportunities offered by the employment markets abroad have impacted the geographical reorientation of migrant flows together with the redefinition of migrant categories. In the past few years, the Haitian migration experience has shown how the implementation of more and more restrictive policies in the Northern countries (namely France, the US, and Canada) has contributed to the emergence of new migration destinations in the South. The geographical diversification of Haiti’s international migration throughout the 2000s has entered a new phase after the 2010 earthquake. New migratory routes have emerged towards many countries across Latin America. The emergence of Brazil as a regional power, its privileged geopolitical relations with Haiti, and the opportunities of its employment market, explain to a large extent why this continental country has rapidly become an important pole of the Haitian diaspora.

After having presented the specific migration context of Haiti, we show that the geography of the diaspora explains the location of Haitian refugees and asylum seekers in North America and the French Caribbean territories. Then, we explore the relationship between the evolution of migration policies and the development of new migration routes towards South America, where the acknowledgment of the multidimensional nature of this migration by the local authorities has paved the way for the legalization of Haitians, particularly in Brazil. The complementary migration functions of Ecuador, Peru, Brazil and Chile created a new regional migration system, centered on the Southeast and the South of Brazil. This emerging South-South migration route is part of a larger Haitian migration system that connects Latin America to North America and the Caribbean (Faugas 2021).

Multidimensional vulnerability, Haitian emigration and refugee flows

The Caribbean Basin remains one of the areas in the world that is the most affected by emigration. According to the International Organization for Migration, five of the ten countries with the highest emigration rates in the world are in this region (Faugas 2021). In the Greater Antilles, over the 2010-2015 period, the yearly net migration rate ranges from -1.3 per 1000 in Cuba and -2.9 per 1000 in Haiti to -7.0 in Jamaica.¹ According to World Bank data, 1,377,000 Haitians were living abroad in 2013.² This slightly underestimates the significance of the phenomenon. The actual figure is probably closer to 1.5 million individuals, or the equivalent of 15 percent of Haiti's population (Castro 2018). Haitian emigration differs from that of the neighboring countries in volume and in the magnitude of its dispersal in North America, Europe, the Caribbean basin, and increasingly, South America.

Cultural Intelligence (CQ)), is supposed to be the main competence driver (PAIUC)

This can be explained by a distinctive local context, whose combination of various socio-economic, political and ecological factors have amplified the dynamics of emigration (Faugas 2022). In rural areas, demographic pressure on scarce land resources and the extension of erosion have aggravated living conditions among the peasantry. The process has been reinforced by the persistence of rudimentary agricultural techniques, and the indifference of the ruling classes towards the fate of peasants. This has resulted in the contraction of the arable land, and therefore the reduction of agricultural resources and the impoverishment of the peasantry. Over the last three decades, large-scale rural exodus has increased pressure on poorly diversified urban economies, where most of the jobs are in the informal sector. After 1986, the growth of slums and the "ruralization" of cities like Port-au-Prince and, to a lesser extent, Gonaïves and Cap-Haïtien, have rapidly changed urban environments, and daily survival strategies have become the norm for a growing share of the population.

In addition, the generalized economic insecurity, which strikes Haiti more than any other nation in the hemisphere, remains intimately linked to various other forms of insecurities that have run through the history of the country. Jointly with demographic and economic structural factors, the succession of major natural disasters over the last ten years (Hurricane Jeanne in 2004, four storms and hurricanes in 2008, and finally the earthquake of 2010) has brought about the extreme vulnerability of the Haitian society. The notion of vulnerability traditionally refers to "the diminished capacities of an individual or group to anticipate, cope with, resist and recover from the impact of a natural or man-made hazard". The notion of multidimensional vulnerability goes

further than this traditional acceptance, grasping in comprehensive terms the multifaceted character of insecurity in Haiti.

Conclusion

The articulation of socio-economic, political and ecological issues in the origin country has amplified the dynamics of emigration and led a few governments to deal with Haitian migration along lines other than binary ones, by creating an intermediary legal status between the refugee category and economic migration. Such a response takes into consideration the multidimensional vulnerability of the Haitian society. Notwithstanding contextual specificities, putting into perspective old migration patterns with new trends reveals some continuity across time and space in the Haitian diaspora.

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