



Migration, Diaspora and Development in the Caribbean

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Caribbean Development Problematique

- Mode of insertion into Global Political Economy:
 - Traditional exports in decline (e.g. sugar, bananas) and high indebtedness
 - FDI skewed towards imports and energy sector
 - New sectors have not expanded share of global value-added (e.g. tourism, export-oriented manufacturing, cultural industries)
 - Decline in geopolitical importance (e.g. aid fatigue)
 - Rise of diasporic political economy & brain drain
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Caribbean Development Problematique (cont'd)

- Social Structure of Accumulation
 - Rising inequality and unemployment
 - Rising poverty and hunger
 - Crisis of Social Injustice
 - Rising crime, violence and social insecurity
 - High prevalence of HIV/AIDs
 - Migration of entrepreneurs, graduates, medical & teaching professionals, women
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Migration & Development: The Balance Sheet

■ Positive

- Remittances
- Vent for surplus population
- Skills transfer
- Diasporic investments
- Diasporic exports
- Diasporic tourism
- Diasporic lobby
- Regional & hemispheric integration

■ Negative

- Unearned income a disincentive
- Brain drain
- Educational investment & taxes foregone
- Family breakup
- Culture of emigration
- Mobile populations & HIV/AIDS
- Deportees & crime

Remittances & Other Financial Flows to the Caribbean, 1996 and 2001 (US\$bn)

Year	Remittances	FDI	ODA
1996	2.4	0.7	0.7
2001	4.5	2.7	0.5

Remittances compared to other Inflows and Key Economic Sectors, 1999

Countries	Remittances US\$m	Tourism %	Agro Exports %	Total Exports %
Dom.Rep	1747	69	290	34
Haiti	720	1241	5455	220
Jamaica	781	63	12	52

Caribbean Brain Drain, 1990

Countries	Tertiary share of Migrants	Educated of Total	Migration Rates of Tertiary Educated
Dominican Republic	22.6		14.2
Jamaica	41.7		67.3
Trinidad & Tobago	46.7		57.2
Guyana	40.7		77.3

Strategic Responses

- Secure rights of migrants and expand negotiating power (e.g. ILO conventions)
 - Reduce transaction cost of remittances
 - Encourage remitters and recipients to use banking system and expand savings
 - Establish bilateral arrangements to train labour for export
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Strategic Responses (cont'd)

- Facilitate diasporic investments, exports, tourism
 - Lobby for reduced restrictions on the mobility of natural persons (WTO & FTAA GATS mode 4)
 - Need for more participatory action research.
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