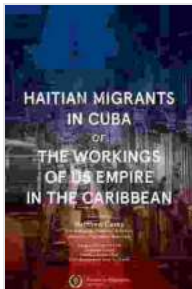


# Haitian Migrants in Cuba During the Age of U.S. Occupation: The Afro-Latin American Experience

The migration of Haitian laborers to Cuba during the early 20th century was a significant chapter in the history of both countries. Beginning in the 1910s, thousands of Haitians crossed the Mona Passage in search of work in Cuba's booming sugar industry. This influx of Haitian migrants had a profound impact on the social, cultural, and economic landscape of Cuba, and it continues to shape the relationship between the two nations today.

## The Causes of Haitian Migration

The migration of Haitians to Cuba was driven by a number of factors, including:



## Empire's Guestworkers: Haitian Migrants in Cuba during the Age of US Occupation (Afro-Latin America)

by Matthew Casey

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 7072 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Print length : 322 pages



\* **Economic disparities:** Haiti was one of the poorest countries in the world at the time, and many Haitians saw Cuba as a land of opportunity. The sugar industry in Cuba was booming, and there was a high demand for labor. \* **Political instability:** Haiti was also plagued by political instability and violence. The country had been occupied by the United States since 1915, and there was widespread discontent with the American occupation. Many Haitians saw Cuba as a place where they could escape the political turmoil at home. \* **Cultural ties:** Haiti and Cuba share a common border and a rich cultural heritage. Many Haitians had family members who had already migrated to Cuba, and they were drawn to the island by the promise of a better life.

### **The Impact of Haitian Migration on Cuba**

The arrival of Haitian migrants in Cuba had a significant impact on the country. Haitians became an important part of the Cuban workforce, especially in the sugar industry. They also brought with them their own culture and traditions, which enriched Cuban society.

However, the Haitian migration also led to some tensions between the two communities. Some Cubans resented the presence of Haitian migrants, who they saw as a threat to their jobs and their way of life. This tension sometimes boiled over into violence, and there were several riots and lynchings of Haitian migrants during the early 20th century.

### **The Role of the United States**

The United States played a complex role in the migration of Haitians to Cuba. On the one hand, the U.S. occupation of Haiti created the conditions that led to the migration. On the other hand, the U.S. government also took steps to limit the number of Haitian migrants who could enter Cuba.

In 1924, the U.S. government passed the Immigration Act, which established strict quotas on the number of immigrants who could enter the United States from each country. This act made it more difficult for Haitians to migrate to the United States, and it also discouraged them from migrating to Cuba.

## **The Legacy of Haitian Migration**

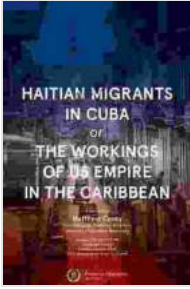
The migration of Haitian laborers to Cuba during the early 20th century has left a lasting legacy in both countries. Haitians continue to be an important part of the Cuban population, and they have made significant contributions to Cuban society and culture.

However, the legacy of Haitian migration is also a complex one. The tensions between Haitians and Cubans that emerged during the early 20th century continue to exist today, and they sometimes flare up into violence. The U.S. government's role in the migration of Haitians to Cuba is also a source of debate, and it continues to shape the relationship between the two countries.

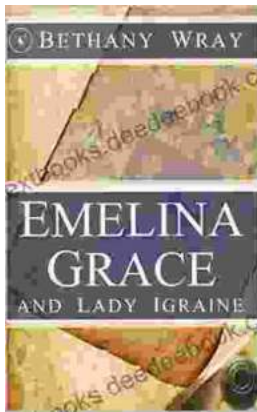
The migration of Haitian migrants to Cuba during the early 20th century was a significant chapter in the history of both countries. It had a profound impact on the social, cultural, and economic landscape of Cuba, and it continues to shape the relationship between the two nations today. The legacy of Haitian migration is a complex one, and it is one that continues to be debated by historians and policymakers.

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