



AFRICA IN MOVIMENTO / AFRICA ON THE MOVE

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TITLE: AFRICAN INTELLECTUALS AND PROFESSIONALS' MIGRATION-ITS IMPACT ON AFRICAN ECONOMIES

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ABSTRACT:

A growing numbers of African intellectuals and professionals are entering the stream of international migration away from the African continent not just from the country of birth. This paper will examine the growing numbers of African intellectuals and professionals immigration to developed countries and the focus of the paper will be on the causes of the migration, its history and current trends, the consequences for African economic development; and the prospects for future immigration and policy options for both African and developed countries.

Four major factors account for the patterns in African migration in general currently observable:

- globalization and integration of the world economy
- economic and political development failures in Africa;
- immigration and refugee policies in Europe and the United States;
- colonial background

Economic globalization, lack of development and political instability, industrialized nation's policies, and linguistics and historical ties are major factors that account for African immigration to developed countries in general. Most African immigrants are responding to push factors at home, namely economic development failures. In Europe, especially, many of these migrants are doing lower-skilled jobs despite the fact that they are among the more skilled and educated citizens in their own countries. SAP's designed to combat Africa's economic problems create, at least in the short term, conditions that actually increase the pressures on the educated skilled to emigrate.

Finally, two variables will determine the scale of future African intellectuals immigration to developed countries:

- What happens in terms of economic and political development in African countries, and
- Developed countries' immigration and refugee policies.

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