Migration in West Africa: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives and Issues

WARC: January 11st, 2019 --- 10.45 to 12.15 pm

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Abstract

If the centrality of migration in international relations is more established, the governance of mobility implies a better understanding of the phenomenon in this case in the specific case of the western part of the African continent.

The first part of the text focuses on the dynamics and the configuration of West African migration including the major feature is its sub-regional or continental character.

The second part of the communication addresses the main challenges of the free movement of men to the breast in continent. She stressed the need to focus on African values of solidarity and complementarity that should prevail in the governance of the continental mobilities.
Migration: a complex and current topic

- A component of the social dynamics;
- Cross-cutting issue: a single discipline does not properly understand the subject;
- A space for confrontation of ideas and strong convictions: 'invasion', the other
- Negotiations under the Global compact
PART 1/Overview of West African migration
Typology of mobility / migration forms

- Internal migration: rural exodus to the cities
- Cross-border migration: contact once areas together in a same territory
- International migration:
  --- sub regional (of short), continental (out of the geopolitical region of origin),
  ----- intercontinental (of long distance, to another continent)

Root causes of African mobilities is the access to ressources
RURAL EXODUS FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE TO SECONDARY CITIES OR CAPITALS CITIES

- Seasonal movements initially during periods of no agricultural activity
- The climate change particularly the delay of the rainy season and a delayed return to the countryside and finished by the FREINER
- Today the decrease in resources agricultural related and an irregularity of rains push farmers to the cities in Senegal: DAKAR GHOST CITIES the cayor and baol or TOUBA
- Influx of rural people to the cities and urban growth exponential Nouakchott devices of suburban neighborhoods are "African cities" as opposed to the town or city in Europe
- Specific social dynamics are noted including religious coaching (dahira) or (CSA) teams that structure the space among young people
- Solidarity and anti-poverty programs
Urban Growth in Africa 1950/2020

La multiplication des agglomérations urbaines en Afrique de l'Ouest

Graph showing urban growth in Africa from 1950 to 2020.
Nouakchott, MAURITANIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>±%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1961</td>
<td>5,807</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>+158.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>25,000</td>
<td>+66.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1975</td>
<td>104,054</td>
<td>+316.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>232,000</td>
<td>+123.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>393,325</td>
<td>+69.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>558,195</td>
<td>+41.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>958,399</td>
<td>+71.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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DEGUERPISEMENT VERS PIKINE ET GUEDIWAYE
Internal migrant’s strategies

JOBLESS CITIES: informal sector

- The building of regional, ethnic and confraternal networks
- « villages-bis » of Fouta in Guediawaye/// Casamance in Grand Yoff
- Zongo (Haussa neighbourhood in Lomé)

SENEGAL: Youth’s main migration areas to Dakar
Marché Capitale, Nouakchott (MAURITANIA)
Higher temperatures, droughts and increasingly heavy rainfall aggravate the ongoing degradation of agricultural, forest and pasture ecosystems. This has a negative effect on the rural population’s food security and increases the potential for conflict among the different groups using the natural resources.
COLONISATION AGRICOLE
FISHERMEN MOBILITY

Thomas BINET (A), Pierre FAILLER (A), Renaud BAILLEUX (B) & Vincent TURMINE, « Des migrations de pêcheurs de plus en plus conflictuelles en Afrique de l'Ouest », Revue africaine des Affaires maritimes et des Transports • Articles et études doctrinales Juillet 2013 • N°5 /51
lectures

Insecurity and Mobility in Casamance, SN
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

- SUB REGIONAL MOBILITY
- MIGRATION WITHIN AFRICA
- MIGRATION OUT OF THE CONTINENT
1. Internal migration to Africa mainly to the subregion

- 1. organized around historical spaces like the Kingdom of Ghana;
- 2. religious conquests: Islam, Christianism, Protestantism;
- 3. colonization and recruitment of labour, or administration of the French colonies

- AOF STUDENTS

Employees of trading houses support the new arrivals mechanism INTEGRATION at the mosque the rooms or houses of reception (of the research of work particular the offer of jobs agricultural gave birth to North migration corridors /) South cad of the Sahel to the coastal cities: Mossi to the Ivory Coast, Senegal
- Fulani of Upper Guinea to Senegal
- Soninke of Mali to Mauritania
- Fulani and Haussa of Niger to Ghana
The historical flow map
FRENCH WEST AFRICA RAILWAYS

The railway is the axis on which rests the migration

Dakar DAKAR BAMAKO via KAYES EXPRESS Niger RAN Bobodioulasso Abidjan
2. MIGRATION WITHIN AFRICA
Emigration africaine sous-régionale en % (2010)
Major challenges of governance in West African mobility

- Production of regularly renewed data
- Think mobility from a regional perspective based on solidarity and complementarity
- Making migration a development factor in supporting the participation of diaspora
- Strengthen sub regional cooperation on migration: the protection of migrants
- Capitalize the contribution of the diaspora to material and immaterial
- Documenting recent immigration in Africa
3. MIGRATION OUT OF THE CONTINENT
1. organized around historical spaces like the Kingdom of Ghana;
2. religious conquests: Islam, Christianity, Protestantism;
3. colonization and recruitment of local labour, or administration of the French colonies

Fulani of Upper Guinea to Senegal
Soninke of Mali to Mauritania
Fulani and Hausa of Niger to Ghana
France IS THE MAIN WA DESTINATION
1. Peu de jeunes envisagent un avenir chez eux ou dans leur pays.

2. Les femmes comme les hommes songent à quitter leur terroir à plus de 60%.
the offer of jobs agricultural gave birth to North migration corridors / South: the Sahel to the coastal cities:

- Mossi to the Ivory Coast, Senegal
SPECIFIC MIGRATION NETWORKS

- HALPULAR village associations/
- ZONGO HAUSA IN ACCRA/
- KEUR SERIGNE TOUBA

since 1960/70 MIGRATION plays an important role GABON who MANQUAIENT DE arms

The crisis of the eldorados has changed the configuration of the Western migration space African crisis Libyan xenophobia led to returns to the country: ivoirité and burkinacaterpillar
expansion of migration

- **New destinations countries**: USA, ITALY 1980///, SPAIN 1990///, LATIN AMERICA 2000

- **New roads**: Agadez, Tamanrasset

- **New territories of departure**

  Benin: Djougou Muslim area to Libya and Arab countries for women
Implications of restrictive policies vs strong aspirations migration to Europe

- Risk-taking exaggerated: boats of fortune to the Canaries, Lampedusa-Malta

- Crossing of the Sahara and insecurity (Al Qaeda, Boko Haram): trafficking and smuggling

- Economic cost of migration// strategy family: visa, transport,
EU / ECOWAS COOPERATION

EUROPEAN MIGRATION POLICIES

EXTERNALISATION of borders (Maghreb involved with Rabat Process/ Khartoum Process, etc.)

READMISSION AGREEMENTS

CONTAINMENT OF THE CANDIDATES
MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

REMITTANCES

TRANSFERT OF KNOWLEDGE

Evolution of official development assistance and migrant remittances in West Africa (in millions of US dollars)

- Transferts de fonds des migrants
- Aide publique au développement
AS A CONCLUSION

- European fear of migration from South / 'INVASION'
- Adoption of security measures that lead to practices suicidal for many candidates to the EXPATRIATION
- HOW CAN INTER AFRICAN MIGRATION BE AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE EXODUS TO THE NORTH??
- TOMORROW ??????? UNCERTAIN FUTURE