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Human Rights Abuses Along the Dominican-Haitian Border

Abstract

A 122 mile-long border separates the Dominican Republic and Haiti on the Caribbean island of Hispaniola. Of the two countries, Haiti's human rights abuses are much more somber than the emerging developments of the Dominican Republic. Haiti's stagnant economic situation has contributed to perennial political instability and lack of infrastructure, having a particularly confounding affect on the rights and labor conditions of Haitian citizens. There are a myriad of reasons why Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Two of the most prominent include its violent political history and the gradual deterioration of its economy. In the context of human rights and labor conditions, Haitians have taken on the burden of their country's collapse. Labor conditions in Haiti are almost non-existent with the majority of citizens resorting to slash and burn farming or emigration to the Dominican Republic. Furthermore, overcrowding is an issue in Haiti which is one of the most overpopulated countries in the world occupying only one-third of the island of Hispaniola but containing nearly two-thirds of the population.

Keywords

Human rights, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Political instability, Economics, Migration

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Human Rights Abuses along the Dominican-Haitian Border

By Calla Cloud

Introduction – Haiti and the Dominican Republic: Inextricably Linked

A 122 mile-long border separates the Dominican Republic and Haiti on the Caribbean island of Hispaniola. Of the two countries, Haiti's human rights abuses are much more somber than the emerging developments of the Dominican Republic. Haiti's stagnant economic situation has contributed to perennial political instability and lack of infrastructure, having a particularly confounding affect on the rights and labor conditions of Haitian citizens. There are a myriad of reasons why Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Two of the most prominent include its violent political history and the gradual deterioration of its economy. In the context of human rights and labor conditions, Haitians have taken on the burden of their country's collapse. Labor conditions in Haiti are almost non-existent with the majority of citizens resorting to slash and burn farming or emigration to the Dominican Republic. Furthermore, overcrowding is an issue in Haiti which is one of the most overpopulated countries in the world occupying only one-third of the island of Hispaniola but containing nearly two-thirds of the population.

An attractive outlet to Haiti's stark labor prospects is the Dominican Republic. In the Dominican Republic, the population density is much lower than it is in Haiti and the economy is growing very rapidly. The Dominican Republic's per capita income is five times higher than that of Haiti's (Marc 2008). Therefore, many Haitians are crossing the border onto the Dominican side, where they find better economic opportunities and greater availability of land. Due to these emigration trends, Haitians now constitute about 12 percent of the population in the Dominican Republic, a figure that in reality is probably an underestimate due to the number of migrants who have entered the country illegally (Skinner 2008). In fact, even recent figures have claimed that up to one million Haitians are actually living in the Dominican Republic (Human Rights Watch 2002). Of those who are born in Haiti, only a tiny fraction of them are in the Dominican Republic legally.

Haitian Migration to the Dominican Republic

As Haitians continue to immigrate into the Dominican Republic illegally and constitute at least 12 percent of the population, the Dominican Republic now has the largest influx of migrants in the Caribbean, which constitute a significant minority. For decades they have been crossing the border, most of them illegally, to work in difficult manual labor positions on the sugar plantations and other agricultural positions. As the Dominican Republic develops its manufacturing and tourism sectors, Haitian or Dominico-Haitian laborers have been filling the lower-paying agricultural jobs as the Dominicans have taken on the newer, industrial jobs. The Haitian migrant laborers have created major tensions with the Dominican populace and their government, particularly because such labor is considered undocumented and therefore illicit. The situation is often paralleled to that of the undocumented Mexican nationals who seek employment, particularly in labor-intensive sectors, within the United States. In both cases, it is geographically advantageous for people to leave their weakened states for employment possibilities, resulting in similar tensions and stigmas.

The illegal movement of Haitians across the Haitian-Dominican border has created a faction of migrant workers who are un-unionized, impoverished, and overwhelmingly malnourished, thus making them exceedingly easy to exploit. In addition to being an economically vulnerable population, Haitians are also faced with a significant stigma within the Dominican population. Many Dominicans are fearful that they will take the brunt of the costs and problems as a result of Haitians fleeing the enormous poverty and economic collapse in their country. Dominican politicians and the media often depict the Haitians as a problem—as a drain on the limited resources of a country that was late in its own development. Despite labor issues and livelihood concerns stimulating greatest concern for most Dominicans, the issue has been manifested into a matter of racial divisions and discrimination.

Racial Discrimination

There are several distinctions between Haitians and Dominicans that fuel problems of racism and discrimination on the island of Hispaniola. Linguistic, cultural and perceived racial differences between the two populations were ultimately crystallized during the colonial period, when the Dominican Republic was governed by the Spanish and Haiti by the French. Haitians are distinct culturally as they are descendants from African slaves, speaking a French-based Creole that is linguistically isolated from the Spanish or English speaking communities, who claim European ancestry that surround them. Haitians have also historically practiced voodoo, a form of polytheistic religion that is much different than the neighboring Dominican Roman-Catholics. Apart from these two distinctions, the most widely-used indicator of discrimination is the “Haitian appearance,” which alludes to the darker skin of Haitians versus the perceived-to-be-lighter, Dominicans. Haitians are widely considered to be less civilized or inferior to the Dominican population. Similar to the parallel of Mexican migrant laborers, Haitians are also cast into racial stereotypes as a group.

Racial prejudice in the Dominican Republic runs deep, stemming from years of steady anti-Haitian political propaganda and racial violence. Haitians are popular targets of resentment, as Dominicans frequently see them as a threat to national sovereignty. Haitians and Dominico-Haitians are considered unintelligent and indolent. Some of the “black Haitians” discriminated against are second and third generation Dominico-Haitians and even Dominicans without Haitian ancestry. Long withstanding resentment towards each group has cultural and political roots from violence perpetrated from both sides under former Dominican dictator Rafael Leonidas Trujillo and former Haitian president Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Victims of the violence were disproportionately Haitians living in the Dominican Republic.

Forced Deportation

In the Dominican Republic, there are continuous massive deportations that have historically been based on visual assumptions of a person’s race. If the person in question is darker, they are deported notwithstanding any legal paperwork belonging to them, and without any other circumstances considered. The people in question are generally rounded up by the Dominican army, who make regular sweeps of “suspected Haitians”—a term used loosely to indicate the color of their skin. The suspects are forced onto trucks and are transported to the border with no other questions asked. There have been widespread reports of legally or illegally documented laborers being forced into

trucks and deported with no notification to their family members of their whereabouts. In many cases, these people are separated from their family members for extended lengths of time with no knowledge of their condition, location, the circumstances of their deportation, or even that they were deported at all. The Dominican army has been known to detain suspected Haitians with or without paperwork through major sweeps of tens of thousands of “suspected Haitians” found in public arenas—some figures estimate that the deportations have run about “20,000 a year over the last decade” (Human Rights Watch April 2002). The majority of Haitian emigrants do not have any form of documentation at all, such as birth certificates, identity cards, passports, or visas, which might indicate their nationality. Therefore, this presents a problem for those who are born in the Dominican Republic, but who are of darker Haitian descent. Such people are often deported, despite any legal paperwork they may (or may not) have in their possession.

Human Rights Abuses

People living within the Dominican Republic, who are able to stay despite the large-scale deportations, are faced with significant problems concerning access to health care, education, shelter, etc. Human rights abuses are common in the Dominican Republic, ranging from underpayment and denial of medical attention to physical abuse and even to conditions akin to imprisonment or indentured servitude. Many of these laborers enter into contracts with Dominican employers to which they are made to work off their “debt” over weeks or even years. Informal sector workers are particularly liable to be robbed or to have their goods confiscated by military personnel as bribes particularly at the border.

Amongst these indentured servants, there are 300,000 Haitian children in bondage in Hispaniola (Skinner 2008). They are the *restaveks* or the “stay withs” who are forced into indentured, unpaid labor, and are held in captivity. These children are exploited for labor and for sexual services as well. Sexual exploitation is common amongst Haitian emigrants particularly due to their vulnerable circumstances. Many young Haitian emigrants are sold into the sex slave trade within the Dominican Republic and are transported either somewhere on the island of Hispaniola, or are sold into sexual slavery as an export. This is particularly common, because most Haitian emigrants living in the Dominican Republic are accompanied by a social stigma that dictates their worth; they are born into a socio-economic situation in which they have very little choice. Many of Haitian emigrants are extremely malnourished and perform labor-intensive jobs. Oftentimes, mothers need their young children to help provide for the family, which is a situation that puts the children in tremendously vulnerable positions and allows them to fall prey to predators.

Prescriptions: The Future for a “Bigger Picture”

Violent racism and discrimination have been perpetuated through years of political and cultural human rights abuses on the island of Hispaniola. Labor conditions have highlighted tensions between the two governments, creating issues of nationalism and autonomy, which in turn contribute to the root of racial discrimination and human rights abuses in the region. Both the Dominican Republic and Haiti are faced with inadequate infrastructure to handle the fundamental structural issues—which ultimately exacerbates the mass deportations and violent human rights abuses. The root of the problem between the Dominican Republic and Haiti is more systemic and

structural than racial or cultural. All of the issues combined—politics, race, culture, linguistics, and labor—are a part of larger structural issues within both countries. The presence of international organizations is essential in dissipating the subsidiary issues such as race and culture; in order to focus on the primary structural issues of political and economic stability and rebuilding of infrastructure. The economic quandaries have played into the cultural tensions, touching on issues of race. These ideas need to be re-focused around the real problems plaguing the island: economy, politics, natural disasters, infrastructure, and education. Discussions (and perhaps even agreements) need to take place concerning immigration, refugees, trade and economic development in order to move towards prospects of stability or peace in Haiti. Structural change needs to be made an international priority and the political problems need to be figured out through the development process. It is essential that these systemic, procedural difficulties be at the forefront of change for the island of Hispaniola.

Annotations

“Bare, Brown and Barren.” 1991. *Economist* 319 (7709): 37-37.

Annotation: This article details the contrast between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The article discusses the fundamental differences of poverty and under-development in Haiti versus that of the Dominican Republic. Much of the article comments on the conservation programs in the Dominican Republic and the effort to improve agricultural production and soil conservation in Haiti. This resource does not contain that much matter on the social situation. It views the border problem from an economic standpoint.

“End the Dominican Charade.” 1994. *New York Times*. (August 6) 18.

Annotation: This is an impassioned article with a clear agenda in its discussion of race and human rights between Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Written in 1994 it refers to the campaign in which the US-installation, Joaquin Balaguer ran against Jose Francisco Pena Gomez in which he constantly referred to Mr. Gomez’s race (who is black and of afro-Haitian descent) and frequently accused him of practicing voodoo. In this report they discuss that it is “time to stop the charade” in reference to the election where Gomez lost by a margin of 22,000-odd votes and yet a reported 200,000 people were denied the right to vote. Due to the evident bias in the article, it is useful if only for the facts that were reported.

“Ex-Dictator of Haiti Tries to Return, Fleeing Lawsuit in US.” 1992. *New York Times* (November 27) 19.

Annotation: This is a *New York Times* article that discusses the political situation of the former dictator who fled to avoid prosecution. The article is limited in that it is antiquated, however it provides good insight into the emotional involvement of the Haitian people and their response to human rights abuses during the dictatorship. The article includes more detail about the entire political and legal process than most sources do in the present. However, because it is written for the *New York Times* the article is short and not as

comprehensive as many of the other sources concerning the issue of the border on Hispaniola. To this end, this source might be better used for a concise introductory piece.

Alfonso, Geraldo & Cedano, Sobeida. 2007. Frontera en Transición: Diagnóstico Multidisciplinario en la Frontera Dominicana/Haitiana. Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic: Yan Impresos.

Annotation: This reference is written solely in Spanish, making this resource not as easily accessible to a larger audience. However, the book itself provides an insight to the plight of those of Dominican descent, who bare the burden of the political and economic instability and the subsequent the humanitarian crisis of the Haitian population driven by hunger into the Dominican Republic. This author discusses human rights issues that are the result of the border conflict, particularly emphasizing how the conflict involves two peoples, who, speak two different languages, and have two different cultures, on one island. Furthermore, the author provides insight as to what the future of the border might look like considering the massive migratory trends of Haitians escaping the persistent poverty and instability in their own country. The book is representative of a Dominican perspective, yet discusses the need for change in the current policy in order to benefit both sides of the border conflict.

Alfonso, Haroldo Dilla, and Sobeida De Jesus Cedano. 2005. On Problems and Opportunities-- Urban Border Intermediation in Dominican Republic. . Edited by Y. Impresos. Vol. 67. Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic: Yan Impresos.

Annotation: This book, written completely in Spanish, provides an economic perspective on the situation of the border. The author of this book has also written on social and human rights issues along the border. This book addresses the border that is shared by the Dominican Republic and Haiti, and explains how border issues have transformed as a result of growing bi-national trade, migratory flows, and the installation of industrial free zones. The cities located along the border assume new functions in this process of bi-national commerce in one particular region which might result in the subordination of the Haitian borderlands to the processes of capitalist accumulation. As a result of this subordination, however, human rights violations still existence between the two nation-states.

Arthur, Charles. 2002. "Haiti's Not-So-Free Zones." *Multinational Monitor* 23 (6): 1-6.

Annotation: This book addresses the opposition of Haitian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and small peasant labor groups to the "free-zone" industrial development along the Haiti-Dominican Republic border. It details complaints that have arisen pertaining to the secretive construction of the zone, as well as to the dire working conditions and lack of rights for laborers who are employed in the industrial zone. Equal pay and humane treatment for Haitian workers, who tend to be physically darker and less advantaged than the Dominican workers, are particularly emphasized. This book clearly represents the rights of the laborers, in opposition to the current conditions, thus making it a valuable source on human rights in Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Blum, William. 2004. *Killing Hope: US Military and CIA Interventions since World War II*, 2nd ed. Monroe, ME: Common Courage Press.

Annotation: This book discusses the United States' involvement in Haiti's domestic politics within the country concerning the 1991-1994 Haitian refugee crisis. The crisis was a culmination of political tensions that had been building in Haiti for at least twenty years with a series of military dictatorships. The United States government became involved in the region when it became apparent to the international community that increases in poverty and human rights abuses were being intentionally overlooked by the Haitian government. This was apparent due to the thousands of political refugees that began fleeing the region for destinations such as the United States and the Dominican Republic. Torture, rape, and mutilation were reported in the conflict in Haiti and, upon hearing of these human rights abuses, United States legislation changed to grant Haitians asylum. The author points out poignantly the human rights abuses of the Haitian government, but also provides a political commentary of United States foreign policy decisions concerning the Haitian humanitarian crisis. The case could be made that this book focuses perhaps too much on the United States' involvement in Haiti's politics, and perhaps not enough on human rights abuses that are occurring in Haiti.

Concannon Jr., Brian. 2006. "Haitians File Petition for the Overthrow of Their Democracy." *Guild Notes* 31 (1): 8-9.

Annotation: This article reports on a petition filed by the Haitian citizens in relation to their democratic rights. Represented by four human rights organization, the petition was filed before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights against the United States, the Dominican Republic and Haiti. The petition breaks new ground in establishing that international law guarantees certain democratic rights, including the right to vote and run in democratic elections. The petition asks citizens to declare that democratic rights that the author alleges are *guaranteed* to the petitioners and other Haitian citizens through international instruments, which are enforceable rights. Despite changes in the political atmosphere regarding this petition, it is nevertheless interesting because of its overall explanation of the issue of democratic change in Haiti.

Danticat, Edwidge, Myriam J. A. Chancy, Nelly Rosario, and Loida Maritza Perez. 2004. "Voices from Hispaniola." *Meridians: Feminism, Race, Transnationalism* 5 (1): 69-91.

Annotation: This article is a commentary on a compilation of work done by female Caribbean authors, which focuses on the conjoint identity and history of the island of Hispaniola. The article is creative and artistic in orientation although far more anecdotal than informative. However, it deals well with questions of identity, and with themes of racism and human rights. It serves as social commentary on the political crises of the region, as well as on the internal struggle for both Haitians and Dominicans.

Diamond, Jared. 2005. Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed. New York: Viking. 329-358.

Annotation: This source provides a comprehensive look at the intimate complexities of the history of the region. The title of the Chapter which addresses the conflict is called, "One Island, Two Peoples, Two Histories: The Dominican Republic and Haiti." It discusses with a critical, seemingly neutral eye—the histories, differences, causes of divergence, Dominican environmental impacts/ current status, the human rights issues, and the future of the island of Hispaniola. It provides a short, compact synopsis, the main sources of divergence and the problems that lay therein these other issues. Diamond argues from an ecological perspective with particular interest in the environmental implications with respect to labor conditions and conflicting interests.

Donais, Timothy. 2005. "Back to Square One: The Politics of Police Reform in Haiti." *Civil Wars* 7 (3): 270-287.

Annotation: This article discusses the new presence of the UN peacekeeping force to Haiti upon the departure of Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 2004. The cyclical problems of public insecurity continue to plague Haiti in the humanitarian crisis within the country; the human rights abuses on the border with the Dominican Republic; and the civil struggle within. One of the major reforms of the UN Mission to Haiti is that of the police reform within. The central argument within the article highlights the continuing failure of the Mission to associate police measures within the greater political context. Therefore, the author calls for a broader international effort to build a sustainable, democratic peace in the Western hemisphere's most troubled state. The article is critical of the UN Mission to Haiti which is supported with intriguing data and legal complexities which are tremendously relevant to the Haiti's future context.

Dupuy, Alec. 2007. The Prophet and Power: Jean-Bertrand Aristide, the International Community and Haiti. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield.

Annotation: This book offers a comprehensive analysis of the struggle for democracy in Haiti; from one leader to the next detailing the problems of power, dictatorship and the course of the people during these chains of events. The book chronicles each leader and the problems within each administration starting from the 20th century up until the current situation of Haiti. The book discusses Haiti's impoverished majority and their demand for a more just, equal, and participatory democratic society. This book comments to the situation on the border with the Dominican Republic as well as the human rights situation within Haiti under these political dictatorships. The author of this source is a prominent scholar of Haiti as well who is referenced in several of the other sources.

Farmer, Paul. 2003. The Uses of Haiti. Monroe, ME: Common Courage Press.

Annotation: This book is a survivor's account of the current state of violence and human rights abuses within Haiti. The author is a scholar living outside of the country but actively working with health organizations based within Haiti. The book itself begins with the very construct of the Haitian state beginning with its colonization up until its current state. Undoubtedly this book has a theme concerned with human rights injustices, violence, poverty and the future for Haiti. Even the title suggests a reference to its cynicism.

Ferguson, James. 2003. "Migration in the Caribbean: Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Beyond." In *Migration in the Caribbean*, edited by M. R. G. International. London: Minority Rights Group International.

Annotation: This source is a comprehensive look at the migratory patterns within the Caribbean, particularly from Haiti to the Dominican Republic. The author discusses the neo-colonization of Haitian sugar-cane workers within the Dominican Republic stuck into indentured servitude. The article explains the various classes within Haiti and the Dominican Republic and the role of Haitians within the Dominican economy. This article is tremendously informative including all aspects of the conflict.

Fletcher, Laurel, and Timothy Miller. 2004. "New Perspectives on Old Patterns: Forced Migration of Haitians in the Dominican Republic." *Journal of Ethnic & Migration Studies* 30 (4): 659-679.

Annotation: This source uses research conducted through demographic data and interviews in order to examine the patterns of migration and human rights patterns between Haitians and Dominicans. The research offers the first statistical analysis of migration flow through the data assessment which specifically deals with patterns of vulnerable groups in particular Haitian migrants crossing the Dominican border. The assessment details differences in characteristics of the vulnerable population within the Dominican Republic as well as the treatment they receive from the Dominican government. The dominant themes of the research include the denial of any rights to due process and frequent abuses to the Haitian immigrants from the Dominican government. The study was therefore conducted in order to reduce the vulnerability to human rights deprivations of Haitians in the Dominican Republic. Due to the agenda of the statisticians it is possible that the data of this source could be seeking a certain outcome however the research is solid and the argument is very convincing.

Hamilton, Mark D. 2006. "Local Actors, Transnational Networks: Negotiating Dominican Identity." *International Studies Association- Conference Papers*: 1-29.

Annotation: There are several dominant themes of this paper which are divided into sections so as to discuss them in depth. The book discusses social networks, cultural and racial identities within the island, which particular focus on the Dominican Republic. The book discusses the overlapping social networks and relational webs of power with Dominican culture in reference to Haitian culture. It discusses why race plays such a dominant part in identity discourse and why the transitional ties continue to be stagnant with Haiti. The

analysis plays with transnational societies and the cultural exchange as well as the inferiority complex that may contribute to the stagnation between Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Howland, Todd. 2006. "Peacekeeping and Conformity with Human Rights Law: How MINUSTAH Falls Short in Haiti." *International Peacekeeping* 13 (4): 462-476.

Annotation: This article describes the gap between the United Nations understandings of the situation on the ground in Haiti versus the practice put forth in the region. The article uses the UN Mission to Haiti to uncover the real problems within the Mission as far as integrating human rights into their peace operations in Haiti. The author is very critical of the UN's practice on the ground and its theoretical content particularly with regards to human rights, migration and trafficking. The UN has acknowledged the need to address the root causes of conflict (including the humanitarian crisis and the social and cultural rights in question along the border with the Dominican Republic). The author also points out that the UN, in practice, seeks to build a sustainable peace and provide lasting development for the country. However, the article is a caveat for the misappropriation of funds and focus on the part of the UN. This article is evidently very critical of the UN Mission and its undertakings. This is both advantageous and distracting from the task of uncovering human rights abuses. However, this source is useful for determining the international response and the situation as it stands.

Human Rights Watch. 2002. "Illegal People: Haitians and Dominican-Haitians in the Dominican Republic." *Human Rights Watch Publications* 14 (1): 1-52.
<http://www.hrw.org/reports/2002/domrep/domrep0402-02.htm>.

Annotation: In this article the human rights situation is critiqued by the Human Rights Watch organization. The Dominican government has deported hundreds of thousands of Haitians to Haiti, as well as an unknown number of Dominicans of Haitian descent who are generally much darker than those of Dominican descent. The author argues from a human rights standpoint that these mass deportations deny both Haitian and Dominican citizens of their rights and contribute to a major human rights/international law issue. This source is evidently biased as it is dominantly representative of the human rights perspective but it does include many valid sources within international and domestic law.

Internationalist, The. 2006. "Stop Persecution of Haitian Workers in the Dominican Republic." *League for the Fourth International* 1st (0601): 1-4.
<http://www.internationalist.org/haitiandominicanpersecution0601.html>.

Annotation: The argument offered by the author is based on a socialist model of government and politics. The author describes the labor conditions and workers rights of Haitians working and living abroad in the Dominican Republic. This source implicates the Dominican government in the human rights abuses and xenophobic violence against Haitians seeking asylum from the dire conditions in Haiti. The article points out causes of death and any data connected to these deaths. The Internationalist Group urges a particular

audience to “protest the persecution of the Haitian poor, immigrants and refugees.” The article is quite aggressive in its exposition against both the Dominican and the American political system. This article is therefore quite biased however it discusses in detail the status of laborer rights on the ground which is valuable regarding information about human rights abuses in this sector.

Itzigsohn, Jose. 2000. “Immigration and the Boundaries of Citizenship: The Institutions of Immigrants’ Political Transnationalism.” *International Migration Review* 34 (4): 1126-1154.

Annotation: This article analyzes the cases of the Dominican Republic, Haiti as well as El Salvador in the democratic transition from the country of origin to the migrant organizations in the country of reception. The article discusses the organization of immigrants in the country of reception and their rights within these countries. Itzigsohn suggests the consolidation of competitive politics in democratic regimes. It also takes on a politico-economic theme in its dissertation while still discussing the human rights aspect of migratory populations.

Lynch, Maureen. 2007. “Dominican Republic, Haiti and the United States: Protect Rights, Reduce Statelessness.” *Refugee International*. (January 18).
<http://www.interaction.org/newswire/detail.php?id=5609>.

Annotation: The article addresses the two to three million people living within the Dominican Republic who are not documented—the majority of them are of Haitian origin. There are therefore a large number of Haitian-Dominican children born in the Dominican Republic who are not granted access to their human right to a nationality which is addressed in the country’s constitution. Many of these children’s parents are asylum seekers who live in limbo because their legal claims are not validated in the Dominican Republic and neither are the rights of their children. This is a shorter source which does not rely as much on international legal documents as would be preferred. Much of the article is comprised of personal interviews. Therefore, the source is valuable for its narratives however it does not provide sufficient academic backing.

Lyons, Linda. 2007. “Island Divide: Haiti vs. the Dominican Republic.” In “Haitians are Far More Likely than Dominicans to Have Gone Hungry, Been Assaulted in the Past Year,” edited by T. G. Daily. Princeton: Gallup.

Annotation: This is a report in which a poll was conducted by Gallup concerning the situation of Haiti versus that of the Dominican Republic. The article points out the economic and cultural differences within the island of Hispaniola and the major disparities between them. The author points out the sharp contrasts between the current conditions of each state. The article contrasts Haiti to other countries of sub-Saharan Africa in terms of poverty, hunger, shelter and violence. In sharp contrast, Dominicans are described as having a “rapidly developing democracy” which is bringing “consistent GDP growth.”

The article is brief but it is quite helpful as it provides current data and visual graphs of the disproportionate development—the major gap between the two. This is a tremendously helpful source for a research paper.

Marc, Lacey. 2008. “Young and in Servitude, The Poorest of Haiti’s Poor.” *New York Times*: (September 14).16.

Annotation: This article shares a narrative of Haiti’s extreme poor amongst the poverty-stricken general populace. The article is a social commentary on the current situation in Haiti as the future of development and human rights does not seem to be improving. The article is not that informative with respect to data however it provides something of an alluring plight of Haitian citizens thus becoming something of an emotionally-driven resource.

Marsh, Molly. 2005. “The Road to Change.” *Sojourners Magazine* 34 (9): 8-9.

Annotation: This citation looks at the economic condition of Haiti. The article provides for a comparison of the country’s economy with that of the Dominican Republic including what factors may have affected Haiti’s economic history. The article is informative in that it provides the total amount of funds provided by the US to Haiti for civil conflict, flood and hurricane relief in 2004 as well as describing the impact of poverty on Haitians generally.

Martin, Philip, Elizabeth Midgley, and Michael S. Teitelbaum. 2002. “Migration and Development: Whither the Dominican Republic and Haiti?” *International Migration Review* 36 (2): 570-592.

Annotation: This article presents a documentation note of the 10th Migration Dialogue seminar held March 7-9, 2002 in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Migration Dialogue seminars provide a setting for forty opinion leaders from Europe and North America to learn about and discuss the major migration management issues of the 21st century. The following are a few issues that are discussed in the article from the 2002 seminar. First, the Dominican Republic economy grew rapidly in the 1990s, 6-8 percent per year, as thousands of rural women especially found sewing jobs in free-trade zones. Therefore this issue begs the question of why this emigration pressure remains so high despite rapid job creation? Second, Hispaniola is a relatively small island shared by peoples with different origins, histories, and languages. The population of the Dominican Republic and Haiti are each 8-9 million. Some 500,000 to 800,000 Haitian nationals live in the Dominican Republic, equivalent to almost 10 percent of Haiti’s population.

Meeks, Phil. 2006. “Transnationalism, People, and Politics: The United States, the Dominican Republic and Haiti.” International Studies Association-Conference Paper.

Annotation: This article discusses the relationship between the United States and the island of Hispaniola with regard to migration issues as well as political and economic issues as the three are ultimately now interconnected. The article discusses that both Dominicans and

Haitians go north to the United States. The article even points out that the current president of the Dominican Republic once lived in New York City and still has the legal right to reside in the United States. But just as important for many on the island of Hispaniola is the fact that many Haitians reside and work in the Dominican Republic. Therefore the article points out that trans-border mobility and trans-nationalism are therefore a South-South matter and not merely a North-South matter in the triangle. This paper seeks to show how this complex interrelationship of individuals crossing borders has affected the people, their countries, and the politics of Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Miller, Jake C. 2006. "International Concern for Haitians in the Diaspora." *Western Journal of Black Studies* 30 (1): 35-45.

Annotation: This article describes the fate of Haitians who sought refuge from the problematic economic and political conditions in Haiti during the last quarter of the 20th Century. The discussion of the article turns to how these refugees or migrants fled the country, some entered these countries legally, most entered or sought to enter by non-traditional means. Therefore the focus within the article is geared towards the danger they risked in attempting to reach a "better land," and their receptions upon arrival have been the concern of the international community. This article provides for an assessment of the international response to Haitians in the United States, Dominican Republic and Bahamas Islands, who have been the victims, or alleged victims of discrimination because of race or nationality.

Mora, Kathryn. 2006. "Haiti/Dominican Republic/El Salvador." *Multicultural Review* 15 (2): 19-20.

Annotation: This resource takes the three case studies of Haiti, the Dominican Republic and El Salvador and explains according the author, how large influxes of migration or loss of population has influenced each countries internal structure. The author compares and contrasts the three examples as they each lend themselves to one another. The article is short but informative providing concise histories and brief but effective theories to each country's history.

Perusek, Glenn. 1984. "Haitian Emigration in the Early Twentieth Century." *International Migration Review* 18 (1): 4-18.

Annotation: This article discusses the issue of emigration and immigration of Haitian citizens seeking out better human rights and labor conditions elsewhere due to the political situation in Haiti. This article is much more of a theoretical piece in that it discusses the standard migration theories which continuously see receiving-countries as the dynamic agent which pull migrants to them. These theories, while useful for explaining many cases, appear inadequate for the case of labor migration from Haiti to Cuba and the Dominican Republic in the early twentieth century. This article examines this history and offers an alternative theoretical framework for explaining this migration flow. It is argued that the prime cause of migration from Haiti is factors in the sending country.

Roebing, Elizabeth Eames. 2007. "Haiti-Dominican Republic: One Market, Two Separate Worlds." *Inter-Press Service News Agency* (November 20).

Annotation: Discussed in the article is the difficulty for Haitian citizens to move freely across the border in order to gain access to health care, access to markets for food and supplies or various services such as legal representation, etc. The Supreme Court of the Dominican Republic ruled that the children of Haitians who are born in the Dominican Republic are "in transit" and are not entitled to citizenship under the Dominican constitution. This journal source is intended for a human rights audience. It provides little to no insight as to the source of resources cited and therefore should be used as more of a narrative-type article.

Shamsie, Yasmine, and Andrew Thompson. 2006. *Haiti: Hope for a Fragile State*. Waterloo, ON: Wilfrid Laurier University Press.

Annotation: This book does not have as much of a political focus as do other resources, instead focusing on the sources of difference, the origins of human rights violations and violence as well as the possibility for change for Haiti. The book is written by a Haitian national and therefore is ultimately indicative of the Haitian perspective much more so than that of the Dominican point of view. It is helpful in that it has a perspective from inside the nation from a citizen who was affected by the human rights violations. Additionally, this resource is one of few references which offer prescriptions for the future of Haiti.

Skinner, E. Benjamin. 2008. "A World Enslaved." *Foreign Policy* (165): 62-67.

Annotation: The article reports on modern slavery and people being sold into areas such as sex trade, domestic work, and agricultural labor. Human trafficking in Haiti is discussed and the extent of indentured servitude within the country and those sold into the Dominican Republic. The author writes the article from the State Department's perspective on the situation and possible prescriptions for the future of slavery. The data within the article is beneficial and striking in the numbers provided as well as the anecdotal elements that the author presents.

Teitelbaum, Michael S. 1994. "International Migration: From Backwaters to High Politics." *Population and Environment* 15 (3): 167-71.

Annotation: This article comments on the mass-migration from the region in faced with the dictatorship, poverty, famine and violence that they face in Haiti. The article states that up to one in five Haitians have already escaped the Western Hemisphere's poorest country and now live in the U.S., Dominican Republic or Bahamas. Hundreds of thousands of the 6.5 million people left in Haiti would depart if they could find a country to admit them. Therefore the article combines elements of politics, migration, immigration and development within the region.

Wigginton, Sheridan. 2005. "Character or Caricature: Representations of Blackness in Dominican Social Science Textbooks." *Race, Ethnicity & Education* 8 (2): 191-211.

Annotation: This source examines the Dominican perspective of the humanitarian situation along the border with Haiti. The author begs the question of how Dominican public schools portray national identity and ethnicity as a part of their education? The author points out the racism that exists between the darker Haitian population and the lighter Dominicans. In particular, how this racial identity is discussed within the Dominican educational system. The argument made by the author is that the manner in which the issue of race is addressed within the educational system has shaped both countries' concept of race, culture and ethnic identity in very different ways. The theoretical paradigm of the project is guided by constructivism as well as three themes pertaining to racism and national identity. The first of the three themes is that blackness represents a less desirable social status as anyone regardless of national identity, depending on the darkness of their skin, is subject to deportation. The second theme argues that blackness is thought to be prevented through gradual *whitening* through generations. The third and final theme is that blackness is represented by negative stereotypes that are often exacerbated by the Dominican government. This source has a certain bias against the Dominican government and educational system. However, the paradigm through which the argument is written is from a different perspective that of the rest of the literature on the subject.

Wucker, Michelle. 1999. Why the Cocks Fight: Dominicans, Haitians, and the Struggle for Hispaniola. New York: Hill and Wang.

Annotation: Author Michele Wucker describes contemporary politics within the island of Hispaniola according to the deep political and social roots in history between the two. The author uses the favorite sport (in both countries) of gamecock fighting to illustrate the clash of nationalist, cultural and racial disputes as a way of pegging one group to the other. This book uses the historical fundamental differences between the two groups as a starting point in the tension on the island. The argument is made that the factors in Caribbean history still affect the island of Hispaniola in particular they contribute to the existing cultural and racial tension. This book is a complex, comprehensive outlook on the problems of the island of Hispaniola.