

Migration: The Bahamas and the Caribbean: A Selective Bibliography

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INTRODUCTION

Migration is a topic of great importance to the people of The Bahamas and indeed of the entire Caribbean region. We in the region have had a rich history of immigration and emigration and even today this trend continues although there have been marked changes over the years.

In The Bahamas we experience much internal migration from island to island as we are an archipelagic nation. In the Caribbean as a whole, there is both internal and external migration taking place on a regular basis. Historically the region has had much movement of persons to the United States as well as to Great Britain. Today, in the “post-Colonial era”, we are now experiencing some return migration from the “Mother” country.

So great is the interest in this subject—economically, politically, socially and culturally—that there is a great body of literature published on it. This bibliography contains monographic imprints and periodical citations on the general topic of “Migration”. It is by no means a comprehensive bibliography; however, this list includes four main themes: “Migration to and from The Bahamas”; “Migration of people within the Caribbean”; “Migration of Caribbean people internationally”; and special focus is placed on “Caribbean Nurse migration.”

It would be virtually impossible to include absolutely everything on the subject of migration in the Caribbean region, but this effort serves as a selective listing of some of the most relevant and useful resources on the topic.

Migration To and From The Bahamas

Three of Keith Tinker’s publications are listed here. *The African Diaspora to The Bahamas*, provides an overview of the African slave trade; Africans in North America; the early African presence in The Bahamas; the saga of the black Loyalists, black soldiers and Haitian immigrants; African immigrants and the issue of resettlement; Saltwater underground railroad; protests in anticipation of

emancipation; perspectives on ethnicity, ancestry and community; Caribbean migration; and the making of the modern Bahamas.

In his book, *The Migration of Peoples from the Caribbean to The Bahamas*, Tinker deals with British West Indian migration; Migration to The Bahamas: Pre-Columbian to 1888; Barbadian and Jamaican migration to The Bahamas; Haitian migration to The

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Bahamas, 1793-1956 and 1957-1973; Turks & Caicos Islands migration; and post-independence West Indian migration, 1973-1992.

In his article on Barbadian migration published in the *Journal of The Bahamas Historical Society*, Tinker discusses topics such as Bahamas emigration and immigration; social and economic conditions in The Bahamas.

The International Organization for Migration commissioned a study in 2005 on the impact of Haitian migration on The Bahamas. This study deals with such topics as the impact on the health and education systems.

Boswell and Chibwa's book, *Internal Migration in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas 1960-1970* speaks about selecting variables for studying migration motivation in The Bahamas as well as in-migration and out-migration models. They also discuss issues of the selectivity of migrants and the demographic consequences of internal migration in The Bahamas.

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Migration within the Caribbean

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