

# How does Haiti's survival, as one of the most remittance-dependent countries, rely on its Diaspora?

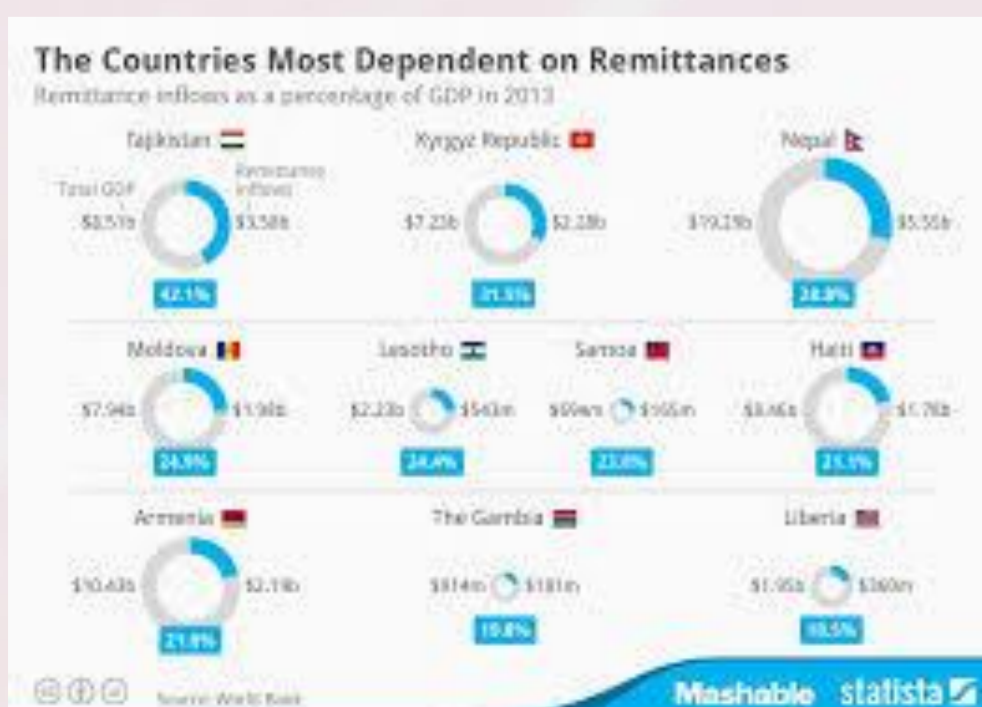
## ABSTRACT

What strategies have been used by the government to construct their cultural politics of belonging in recent Haitian history? My research explores how belonging plays out amongst Haitian immigrants in Canada in light of transnational migration. This research also analyzes the ways in which national identity underlies the Haitian diaspora's ongoing social, economic and political connections to the politics of Haiti.



## Definition of Haitian State's Cultural Politics of belonging

- They encompass declarations of identity that take the form of actions and words that signal a commitment to the current day survival, prosperity, independence and reputation of Haiti.
- Such commitments include following political developments in Haiti through the media, defending Haiti in conversations with co-workers and friends, participating in activities organized to provide resources for the development of Haiti, or campaigning for candidates for public office in Haiti...



## National Identity mobilized by Haitian State as Cultural Politics of belonging

- The formation of the Haitian diasporic identity has been grounded on their family value of obligation intimately linked to the Haitian national identity. (Knight 2002, Glick Shiller and Fouron 2001)



## Two push factors of Haitian Migration

- US occupation of Haiti from 1915 to 1934
- Duvalier "Papa Doc" Dictatorship from 1957 to 1986



## Haitian Immigrants In Canada

- In 2001, there were over 82,000 people of Haitian origin living in Canada making them the 10th largest non-European community in the country. (StatsCan)
- Whereas the Haitian Consulate in Montreal puts the number at around 120,000.

## Haitian Diaspora as a Transnational Social Field

"From the very beginning of the migration, a large number of Haitian immigrants lived their lives across borders making decisions about expenditures and consumption, child-rearing, employment, and interpersonal relationships within a network of family members and friends that included persons in Haiti, Canada and in the United States (Laguerre 1984, 1994; Stepick 1998).

- They live within a 'transnational social field' that includes the state from which they originated and the one in which they settled."

## Family ties - blood and descent Ideology mobilized by Haitian State as Cultural Politics of belonging

- Haitians' strong ties to their family members constitute a central aspect of the Haitian national identity grounded in the first Haitian constitution.

