

**CROSS-CONTINENTAL PRESENCE: HISTORICAL TRAJECTORIES OF
AFRICAN MIGRATION, TRADE, AND INFLUENCE IN ARABIA AND ASIA**

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Abstract

This paper examines the cross-continental presence of Africans by exploring the historical trajectories of migration, trade, and influence in Arabia and Asia. The paper is premised on the understanding that African migration is a long-standing and dynamic phenomenon shaped by economic, social, political, and cultural factors across different historical periods. Using a qualitative research design based on secondary data, the study reviews existing literature to analyze patterns of movement, drivers of migration, and settlement processes of Africans beyond the continent. The findings reveal that African migration to Arabia and Asia has been facilitated by transnational networks and trade linkages, leading to significant socio-economic and cultural contributions in host societies. The study also establishes that migration trajectories are diverse and continue to evolve, influencing contemporary patterns of African presence and global interactions. It concludes that understanding the historical foundations of African migration is essential for interpreting current trends and informing future migration policies. The study recommends the need for context-specific research, inclusive integration policies, strengthened transnational networks, and the incorporation of historical insights into migration planning.

Keywords: African Migration, Cross-Continental Presence, Transnational Networks, Trade Linkages, Arabia and Asia.

Introduction

Migration has remained a defining feature of human history, shaping social structures, economic systems, and cultural interactions across continents over time. In the African context, migration has not only been a response to environmental, political, and economic pressures but also a deliberate strategy for trade, expansion, and cultural exchange beyond the continent. Historically, Africans have maintained long-standing connections with regions such as Arabia and Asia through trans-Saharan and Indian Ocean trade routes, religious pilgrimages, and labour movements, which facilitated sustained cross-continental interactions. These movements

contributed to the establishment of African diasporic communities whose presence influenced local economies, social systems, and cultural practices in host regions. Contemporary migration patterns continue to reflect these historical linkages, although they are increasingly shaped by globalization, technological advancement, and changing economic opportunities. Thomas and Mara (2024) argue that African migration is currently at a crossroads, with emerging migration destinations such as Asia reflecting a shift from traditional migration patterns rooted in colonial and post-colonial ties. This suggests that African migration is evolving in response to broader global transformations, requiring a deeper understanding of both its historical and contemporary dimensions. These evolving patterns highlight the importance of examining how historical migration trajectories have shaped African presence beyond the continent, particularly in Arabia and Asia.

Migration from Africa has historically been driven by a combination of economic opportunities, trade relations, and socio-political dynamics that facilitated movement across regions and continents. In earlier periods, trade served as a major driver of migration, linking African societies with Arabian and Asian markets through the exchange of goods such as gold, spices, textiles, and other commodities. These interactions were not limited to economic exchange but also involved the movement of people who settled in foreign lands and contributed to the development of multicultural societies. Over time, migration patterns became more structured, influenced by colonial labour systems, state policies, and emerging global economic systems. Flahaux and De Haas (2016) observe that African migration has increasingly diversified, particularly since the late twentieth century, extending beyond traditional destinations to include regions such as the Gulf and Asia. This diversification indicates that migration is not solely a

consequence of hardship but is also driven by development processes that enhance individuals' capacity and aspiration to migrate. In addition, Ugbegili (2022) notes that migration in Africa has evolved through different historical phases, including pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial periods, each characterized by unique drivers and patterns. These historical dynamics demonstrate that African migration is a complex and evolving phenomenon shaped by multiple interacting factors. Understanding these drivers is essential for analyzing how African migrants have contributed to the socio-economic and cultural development of host societies in Arabia and Asia.

The presence of African migrants in Arabia and Asia has had significant socio-economic and cultural implications for both the migrants and the host communities. Migrants have historically contributed to labour markets, trade networks, and the diffusion of cultural practices, thereby influencing the development of host societies. These contributions are often reflected in the integration of African cultural elements into local traditions, as well as in the economic roles played by migrants in sectors such as commerce, agriculture, and services. Schoumaker et al. (2018) note that African migration is highly diverse, with migrants exhibiting varying socio-economic characteristics and engaging in different forms of economic activities depending on their destinations. This diversity underscores the multifaceted nature of African migration and its impact on different regions. Furthermore, Ikwuyatum (2016) observes that migration patterns significantly influence the distribution of population, labour, and cultural practices across regions, thereby shaping social and economic structures. These interactions often lead to the creation of hybrid identities and multicultural environments that reflect the blending of African and host community traditions. As a result, migration serves as a channel for cross-cultural

exchange and socio-economic transformation. These outcomes are closely linked to the networks and relationships that facilitate migration, highlighting the importance of transnational connections in shaping migration experiences.

Transnational networks and trade relationships have played a crucial role in facilitating African migration and sustaining connections between migrants and their places of origin. These networks provide migrants with access to information, resources, and support systems that reduce the risks associated with migration and enhance their chances of successful integration. In many cases, migration is not an isolated event but part of a broader system of interconnected movements supported by family ties, business relationships, and social networks that span multiple countries. Caarls, Bilgili and Fransen (2021) observe that transnational social networks are closely linked to migration trajectories, influencing decisions to migrate, routes taken, and outcomes achieved by migrants over time. Similarly, Nshimbi and Moyo (2017) note that cross-border trade and migration are deeply interconnected, with economic activities often driving population movements and fostering regional integration. These networks have historically facilitated not only the movement of people but also the exchange of goods, ideas, and cultural practices across continents. Consequently, migration and trade have functioned as mutually reinforcing processes that shape patterns of mobility and settlement. These interconnected processes provide a foundation for understanding how historical migration trajectories continue to influence contemporary patterns of African presence and influence in Arabia and Asia.

In contemporary times, African migration continues to evolve, reflecting both historical continuities and emerging global trends that shape patterns of mobility and settlement. While

traditional migration routes and networks remain relevant, new destinations and opportunities are increasingly shaping the movement of African populations across the globe. De Haas and Frankema (2025) observe that African mobility patterns have undergone significant transformations over time, influenced by shifts in global economic systems and regional integration processes. These changes highlight the dynamic nature of migration and its responsiveness to changing socio-economic conditions. In addition, Woldetsadik (2023) notes that historical patterns of mobility and settlement continue to influence contemporary migration trends, particularly in regions with long-standing connections to Africa such as Arabia and parts of Asia. This demonstrates that present-day African diasporic communities are deeply rooted in historical processes while also adapting to modern realities. Castles (2012) further argues that understanding migration requires a comprehensive approach that integrates historical, social, and methodological perspectives to capture its complexity. Therefore, examining African migration through both historical and contemporary lenses provides a more holistic understanding of its impact and significance. This perspective ultimately underscores the need to investigate how cross-continental migration has shaped African presence, trade, and influence in Arabia and Asia, which forms the focus of this study.

African migration has increasingly expanded beyond traditional destinations such as Europe and North America to include regions in the Middle East and Asia, yet this shift has not been adequately reflected in existing research. Much of the current literature continues to emphasize conventional migration patterns, thereby overlooking the growing presence and influence of African migrants in these emerging regions. Thomas and Mara (2024) observe that African migration is undergoing significant transformation, but theoretical and empirical studies have not

sufficiently captured these evolving dynamics. In addition, historical linkages between Africa, Arabia, and Asia—established through trade, religion, and cultural exchange—are often treated separately from contemporary migration studies, resulting in a fragmented understanding. Flahaux and Hein de Haas (2016) argue that African migration has diversified over time, yet prevailing assumptions fail to reflect this complexity, thereby limiting comprehensive analysis of migration patterns and trajectories.

Furthermore, the socio-economic and cultural contributions of African migrants in Arabia and Asia remain under-documented, despite their growing significance in shaping host societies. Schoumaker et al. (2018) note that African migration is highly diverse, but this diversity is not adequately captured in existing studies, leading to gaps in knowledge about migrant experiences and impacts. At the same time, the role of transnational networks and trade relationships in facilitating migration and integration has not been sufficiently examined within this cross-continental context. Caarls, Bilgili and Franssen (2021) observe that such networks are crucial in shaping migration trajectories, yet their broader implications remain underexplored. These gaps result in an incomplete understanding of African migration dynamics and hinder the development of comprehensive frameworks that reflect Africa's evolving global presence, thereby necessitating a study that integrates historical, socio-economic, and network perspectives to better explain African migration, trade, and influence in Arabia and Asia. The study was guided by the objectives below: the historical trajectories of African migration across continents, focusing on patterns of movement, causes, and settlement in Arabia and Asia, the socio-economic and cultural impacts of African migrants on host societies in Arabia and Asia, the role of transnational networks and trade relationships in facilitating African migration and integration

in Arabia and Asia and how historical migration trajectories inform contemporary patterns of African presence and influence in Arabia and Asia. This work was orderly arranged as follows: Introduction, Literature review, Methodology, Results and Conclusion.

Conceptual Review of Key Concepts

The following concepts were reviewed:

African migration has consistently played a central role in shaping historical and contemporary global interactions, particularly in linking the continent with regions such as Arabia and Asia. Rather than being a recent phenomenon, migration from Africa has evolved through different historical phases, reflecting changing socio-economic, political, and environmental conditions. These movements have included trade-related mobility, religious pilgrimages, labour migration, and forced displacements, each contributing to the formation of African diasporic communities across continents. Over time, migration patterns have become more complex, influenced by globalization, technological advancement, and shifting economic opportunities. Thomas and Mara (2024) argue that African migration is currently undergoing a transformation, with new destinations such as Asia emerging alongside traditional migration routes. Similarly, Flahaux and Hein de Haas (2016) observe that migration from Africa is increasingly driven by development processes that enhance people's capabilities and aspirations, rather than being solely a response to poverty or crisis. In addition, Ugbegili (2022) notes that migration in Africa spans pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial periods, each characterized by distinct motivations and outcomes. These perspectives underscore the dynamic and evolving nature of African migration across time and space. This evolving nature of migration highlights its close relationship with

economic activities, particularly trade, which has historically driven and sustained cross-continental movements, thereby leading to the concept of trade and economic linkages.

Trade and Economic Linkages have historically functioned as a major force connecting African societies with Arabia and Asia, facilitating not only the exchange of goods but also the movement of people and ideas across continents. These economic interactions were structured through well-established trade routes such as the trans-Saharan and Indian Ocean networks, which enabled sustained contact between Africa and other regions. Through these exchanges, African traders and migrants established settlements and contributed to the development of commercial centres in host societies. Economic motivations have continued to shape migration patterns, as individuals seek opportunities for improved livelihoods and participation in global markets. Nshimbi and Moyo (2017) note that cross-border trade and migration are deeply interconnected, with economic activities often serving as a primary driver of population movement. Furthermore, Schoumaker et al. (2018) observe that African migrants engage in diverse economic roles depending on their destinations, thereby contributing to labour markets and commercial systems in host regions. These contributions enhance economic development while also strengthening ties between origin and destination countries. Trade and migration therefore, operate as mutually reinforcing processes that sustain long-term cross-continental relationships. This interdependence between economic exchange and human mobility draws attention to the mechanisms that facilitate such movements, particularly the role of transnational networks.

The Transnational Networks movement of African migrants across continents has been significantly supported and sustained by networks that connect individuals and communities across national boundaries. These networks are often rooted in family ties, social relationships, and economic partnerships that provide migrants with critical resources such as information, financial support, and guidance. Through these connections, migration becomes more organized and less risky, enabling individuals to navigate unfamiliar environments more effectively. Transnational networks also facilitate continuous interaction between migrants and their places of origin, ensuring the flow of remittances, knowledge, and cultural practices. Caarls, Bilgili and Franssen (2021) observe that these networks play a significant role in shaping migration trajectories, influencing decisions to migrate, routes taken, and settlement outcomes. This highlights that migration is not an isolated act but part of a broader system of interconnected movements supported by enduring relationships. In addition, these networks contribute to the integration of migrants into host societies by providing social support and economic opportunities. They also help maintain a sense of identity and belonging among migrants despite geographical separation. The existence of such networks underscores the importance of social connections in shaping migration experiences. These interactions naturally extend beyond economic and social dimensions to include cultural exchanges, which brings attention to the concept of cultural exchange and influence.

Cultural Exchange and Influence Interactions between African migrants and host societies in Arabia and Asia have led to significant cultural exchanges that shape identities and social systems across regions. These exchanges occur through everyday interactions, including language use, religious practices, food traditions, and artistic expressions, resulting in the

blending of cultural elements. African migrants have historically contributed to the cultural diversity of host societies, while also adapting to local customs and traditions. This process creates hybrid identities that reflect both African heritage and host community influences. Ikwuyatum (2016) observes that migration plays a key role in redistributing cultural practices and social norms, thereby influencing the cultural landscape of different regions. Similarly, Woldetsadik (2023) notes that long-standing patterns of mobility have facilitated the spread of cultural practices across continents, particularly in regions historically connected to Africa. These cultural interactions often lead to the development of multicultural societies characterized by diversity and shared experiences. The influence of African culture in Arabia and Asia can therefore be seen as both historical and ongoing. Cultural exchange is thus a critical outcome of migration and cross-continental interaction. This outcome contributes to a broader understanding of how African migrants establish lasting presence and influence beyond their continent, leading to the concept of cross-continental presence and influence.

Cross-Continental Presence and Influence. The long history of African migration has resulted in a sustained presence of African communities in regions such as Arabia and Asia, where they have contributed to economic, social, and cultural development. This presence is not limited to temporary settlement but reflects enduring interactions that have shaped host societies over time. African migrants have influenced trade systems, labour markets, and cultural practices, thereby becoming integral parts of the societies in which they reside. De Haas and Frankema (2025) observe that African migration patterns have evolved significantly, reflecting broader changes in global economic and social systems. This evolution demonstrates that African presence across continents is both historical and adaptive, responding to changing global conditions.

Furthermore, Castles (2012) argues that migration should be understood as a complex and dynamic process that integrates historical and contemporary perspectives. The influence of African migrants in Arabia and Asia is evident in various aspects of society, including economic activities, cultural expressions, and social structures. These contributions highlight the importance of African migration in shaping global interactions and relationships. The concept of cross-continental presence therefore, brings together the key elements of migration, trade, networks, and cultural exchange into a unified framework. This integrated perspective provides a comprehensive understanding of how African migration has shaped and continues to shape interactions between Africa, Arabia, and Asia.

Related Literature

Thomas and Mara (2024) explored African Migration at a Crossroads: The Social and Theoretical Implications of Emerging International Migration Trends. It argues that African international migration trends are at a turning point that could significantly affect the future of migration studies. New African immigrant communities are emerging in Asia, South America, and other world regions, while the influence of state and non-state institutions is increasing. Moreover, interstate migration in Africa is now more disconnected from the legacies of the continent's colonial labor migration systems. By 2050, Africa is also expected to have the world's largest population in the age groups that typically have the highest probabilities of migration, while per-capita incomes will increase in ways that could reduce the costs of migration. Although Africa's influence on future migration research is likely to increase, progress in developing theories to examine its emerging trends has been limited. With few exceptions, studies on migration in Africa focus on theory application rather than theory building. New

theoretical approaches are therefore needed to adequately situate Africa's emerging migration trends within the larger context of migration studies. The building blocks for developing these theories include decolonial approaches that highlight African perspectives and the integration of the substantive influences of future migration trends into theory-building processes.

Caarls, Bilgili and Fransen (2021) investigated the evolution of migration trajectories and transnational social networks over time: a study among sub-Saharan African migrants in Europe and noted that the transnational social networks of migrants are extensively studied, but little is known about the associations between transnational social networks and individual migration trajectories over the course of migrants' lives. In this paper, we reconstruct the migration trajectories and transnational social networks of African migrants until they arrive in Europe and develop a typology that reflects the diversity of their trajectories. Based on unique retrospective life-history data of the MAFE project, our comparative perspective highlights the diversity of African migrants residing in Europe, the routes that they took before arriving in Europe and the types of transnational networks they had before, during and after migrating. Furthermore, we discuss the socio-demographic and socio-economic characteristics of migrants within each typology. Consequently, this paper challenges the singular African migration stereotype and draws attention to the associations between transnational social networks and migration trajectories

Flahaux and De Haas (2016) studied African migration: Trends, patterns, drivers and observed that Africa is often seen as a continent of mass migration and displacement caused by poverty, violent conflict and environmental stress. Yet such perceptions are based on stereotypes rather

than theoretically informed empirical research. Drawing on the migration and visa databases from the Determinants of International Migration (DEMIG project) and the Global Bilateral Migration Database (GBMD), this paper explores the evolution and drivers of migration within, towards and from Africa in the post-colonial period. Contrary to common ideas of Africa as a ‘continent on the move’, the analysis shows that intra-African migration intensities have gone down. This may be related to state formation and the related imposition of barriers towards free movement in the wake of decolonisation as well as the concomitant rise of nationalism and inter-state tensions. While African migration remains overwhelmingly intra-continental, since the late 1980s there has been an acceleration and spatial diversification (beyond colonial patterns) of emigration out of Africa to Europe, North America, the Gulf and Asia. This diversification of African emigration seems partly driven by the introduction of visa and other immigration restrictions by European states. Contrary to conventional interpretations of African migration being essentially driven by poverty, violence and underdevelopment, increasing migration out of Africa seems rather to be driven by processes of development and social transformation which have increased Africans’ capabilities and aspirations to migrate, a trend which is likely to continue in the future.

Schoumaker et al; (2018) examined African migration: Diversity and changes and provided an overview of the patterns of African migration using quantitative data from the MAFE surveys. Three broad topics are addressed: (1) patterns of mobility, focusing on trends in departures, returns and circulation, (2) profiles of migrants, and (3) migration routes and strategies. Using extensive data on three origin countries and six destination countries, it identifies some common patterns and trends, as well as heterogeneity and changes in African migration. A key finding is

that African migration is diverse. Trends in departures and returns have developed differently across countries, and migrants' profiles and motives for departure also vary widely by destination and origin country. While migration to Europe has generally become more complex, strategies and routes have also varied more widely across origin and destination countries.

Ugbegili (2022) explored the Migrations in Nigeria: A survey on selected historical trajectories and observed that Nigeria became an independent entity in 1960. But before this date, the various societies that make up the nation today did undertake activities that ensured their continuous existence. Some of these activities had to do with migration. Many of these ethnic groups trace their various origins to places where they migrated from. Migration, therefore, has to do with the movement of people from one place or region to another. This movement to a large extent is determined by prevailing factors or forces such as environmental, economic, political and social. In Nigeria, migrations have occurred both within and without. Those movements that took place internally in Nigeria have to do with migration within, while those movements that were from Nigeria to the other parts of the world have to do with migration without. These migratory activities, however, took place at different intervals: during the pre-colonial times, during which many Nigerian ethnic identities moved and settled in different parts of Nigeria; the Trans-Saharan and Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade periods and the colonial period and post-colonial period. The paper assessed migrations during the historical epochs mentioned above. The paper adopts the historical research methodology, making use of secondary sources of information. The findings revealed that migration is a global phenomenon. The paper also reveals that in Nigeria, migration has dimensions which span different historical experiences of people.

Discussion of Findings

The discussion of findings was done in line with the objectives and based on the related literature.

Historical Trajectories of African Migration across Arabia and Asia

The findings of this study reveal that African migration has historically followed complex and dynamic trajectories shaped by economic, social, and political forces across different periods. Migration from Africa to Arabia and parts of Asia can be traced to early trade routes, religious pilgrimages, and labour movements that facilitated long-standing cross-continental interactions. These movements were not random but structured around identifiable patterns such as trans-Saharan trade, Indian Ocean exchanges, and colonial labour systems. Thomas and Mara (2024) argue that African migration is currently at a turning point, with new global destinations—including Asia—emerging as significant centres of settlement beyond traditional migration routes. Similarly, Flahaux and Hein de Haas (2016) observe that African migration has increasingly diversified geographically, particularly since the late 1980s, expanding beyond colonial ties to include the Gulf and Asian regions. This shift demonstrates that migration is not solely driven by poverty or conflict but also by development processes that increase individuals' capacity to move. Furthermore, Ugbegili (2022) notes that migration in Africa has deep historical roots, spanning pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial periods, each characterized by distinct motivations and patterns of movement. These layered historical processes highlight how migration trajectories are continuously reshaped by changing socio-economic contexts. As a result, understanding these historical trajectories provides a foundation for examining how African migrants influence and interact with host societies in Arabia and Asia, which leads to an exploration of their socio-economic and cultural impacts.

Socio-Economic and Cultural Impacts of African Migrants in Arabia and Asia

The study further shows that African migrants have contributed significantly to the socio-economic and cultural landscapes of their host societies in Arabia and Asia. These contributions are evident in areas such as trade, labour markets, cultural exchange, and the diffusion of ideas and practices. African migrants have historically participated in commercial networks linking Africa with the Arabian Peninsula and parts of Asia, thereby strengthening economic ties between these regions. Schoumaker et al. (2018) note that African migration is highly diverse, with migrants exhibiting varying socio-economic characteristics and engaging in different forms of economic activity depending on their destinations. This diversity translates into varied contributions to host societies, ranging from skilled labour to informal economic participation. In addition, Ikwuyatum (2016) observes that migration patterns, whether inter-regional or intra-regional, significantly shape the distribution of skills, labour, and cultural practices across regions. Cultural influence is also evident through language, religion, cuisine, and social integration processes that reflect a blending of African and host community traditions. These interactions often lead to the formation of hybrid identities and multicultural societies that reflect the long history of African presence outside the continent. Therefore, the socio-economic and cultural contributions of African migrants demonstrate that migration is not merely a movement of people but a transformative process that reshapes societies. This transformative process is closely linked to the networks and trade systems that facilitate migration and integration, which brings attention to the role of transnational networks.

Role of Transnational Networks and Trade Relationships in Migration and Integration

Another important finding of this study is the critical role played by transnational networks and trade relationships in facilitating African migration and integration into Arabia and Asia. Migration is often sustained through networks of family, friends, and business associates who provide information, resources, and support to migrants. These networks reduce the risks and costs associated with migration while enhancing opportunities for settlement and economic participation. Caarls, Bilgili and Franssen (2021) observe that transnational social networks are closely linked to migration trajectories, influencing not only the decision to migrate but also the routes taken and the outcomes achieved by migrants. These networks often extend across multiple countries, creating interconnected systems that support continuous movement and exchange. In addition, historical trade relationships between Africa, Arabia, and Asia have played a significant role in shaping migration patterns by establishing long-standing economic linkages. Trade routes such as those across the Indian Ocean facilitated not only the exchange of goods but also the movement of people, ideas, and cultural practices. Nshimbi and Moyo (2017) note that cross-border trade and migration are deeply interconnected, with economic activities often driving population movements and fostering regional integration. These interactions highlight the importance of viewing migration within a broader framework of global connectivity and economic exchange. Consequently, the influence of transnational networks and trade relationships provides a bridge between historical migration patterns and contemporary migration dynamics, which leads to an assessment of how these historical trajectories shape present-day African presence and influence.

Contemporary Patterns of African Presence and Influence in Arabia and Asia

The findings also indicate that historical migration trajectories continue to shape contemporary patterns of African presence and influence in Arabia and Asia. Modern African migration reflects both continuity and change, with traditional routes and networks still playing a role while new destinations and opportunities emerge. De Haas and Frankema (2025) observe that patterns of African mobility have evolved significantly over time, reflecting shifts in global economic systems and regional integration processes. This evolution demonstrates that migration is not static but adapts to changing global conditions, including labour demands, political environments, and technological advancements. In the same vein, Woldetsadik (2023) notes that historical mobility and settlement patterns continue to influence contemporary migration trends, particularly in regions such as the Horn of Africa with long-standing connections to Arabia and Asia. Contemporary African communities in these regions are therefore products of both historical processes and modern dynamics, reflecting a blend of continuity and transformation. These communities contribute to economic development, cultural diversity, and transnational exchange, reinforcing Africa's growing global presence. Moreover, Castles (2012) argues that understanding migration requires integrating historical, social, and methodological perspectives to fully capture its complexity and evolving nature. This highlights the need for a holistic approach to studying African migration that considers both past and present dynamics. Therefore, the continued influence of historical migration trajectories underscores the importance of linking historical analysis with contemporary realities, thereby reinforcing the relevance of this study in understanding cross-continental African presence and influence.

Conclusion

This study has examined the cross-continental presence of Africans by tracing the historical trajectories of migration, trade, and influence in Arabia and Asia, and it reveals that African migration is neither recent nor isolated but deeply rooted in long-standing historical processes. The findings show that African migration has been shaped by a combination of economic opportunities, social transformations, political dynamics, and cultural interactions, resulting in diverse patterns of movement and settlement across regions. These migration processes have contributed significantly to the development of transnational networks and trade relationships, which have sustained African presence and facilitated integration in host societies over time.

The study further establishes that African migrants have played meaningful socio-economic and cultural roles in Arabia and Asia, influencing local economies, social structures, and cultural exchanges while also adapting to new environments. At the same time, the diversity of migration trajectories highlights the complexity of African mobility, challenging generalised assumptions about migration patterns and motivations. The analysis also demonstrates that historical migration experiences continue to shape contemporary patterns of African presence and influence across continents. Overall, the study underscores the importance of understanding African migration as a dynamic and evolving phenomenon that connects past experiences with present realities, thereby providing a strong foundation for future research and policy development.

Recommendations

1. Historical Documentation and Analysis of Migration Trajectories

There is a need for more comprehensive documentation and analysis of the historical trajectories of African migration to Arabia and Asia. Researchers and institutions should prioritize studies that explore patterns of movement, causes, and settlement processes to provide a deeper understanding of how African migration has evolved across different historical periods.

2. Promotion of Socio-Economic and Cultural Integration Policies

Governments in host regions should develop policies that promote the socio-economic inclusion and cultural integration of African migrants. Such policies should recognize and harness the contributions of African migrants to local economies and cultural diversity, while also addressing challenges related to adaptation and social cohesion.

3. Strengthening Transnational Networks and Trade Linkages

Efforts should be made to strengthen transnational networks and trade relationships that connect Africa with Arabia and Asia. Supporting these networks through institutional frameworks and economic partnerships can enhance migration outcomes and promote sustainable development across regions.

4. Utilization of Historical Insights for Contemporary Migration Planning

Policymakers should integrate historical migration experiences into the formulation of current migration policies and strategies. Understanding how past migration trajectories influence present patterns can help in designing more effective and forward-looking policies that address emerging trends in African migration and global mobility.

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