Moroccan Migration into Spain

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Spanish Minor
Host Country: Barcelona, Spain
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Spain:

a very brief introduction...

CIA World Fact Book Statistics:

- Population = 40,491,051
- Average age = 40.7 years
- RELIGION: 94% Roman Catholic
- 17 autonomous communities, 2 autonomous cities (Melilla and Ceuta)
Barcelona, Spain
Spain: From Emigration to Immigration

EMIGRATION:

Yesterday: 1850-1950: 3.5 million Spaniards left for the Americas.

Today: There are still a projected 1.5 million Spanish immigrants in other countries (2005).

IMMIGRATION:

• July 1, 1985: Ley de Extranjera
• SPAIN ACCEPTS FOREIGNERS
• January 1, 1986: Spain joins EU

• 3,226,100 immigrants in Spain today (National Statistics Institute-INE).
Moroccan Presence
Total # **LEGAL** Moroccan Migrants in Spain = 563,012
(13.59% of the total # of foreigners)

MOROCCANS ACCOUNT FOR THE SINGLE LARGEST MIGRANT POPULATION IN SPAIN

Source: Permanent Observatory on Immigration, Secretary of State for Immigration and Emigration
The Spanish-Moroccan Relationship


2. Bilateral Conflicts:
   - Fishing & Agriculture
   - Western Sahara
   - Arguing Over a Rock.
3. Spanish Interests in Morocco:

PACKING UP SHOP:
Low Labor Costs
High Unemployment
Low Level of Social Benefits

Morocco recognized as a “High Priority Area” for Spanish Cooperation in Article 6.1 of International Development Cooperation Law
Morocco & ODA

• Unemployment Rate = 15%
• 15% of population is below the poverty line.
• Population = 34,343,219
• 98.7% Muslim
• 52.3% above the age of 15 are literate.

• Only 7.04% of Spanish bilateral ODA in 2001 was given to North Africa. Contradictory to Morocco being a “High Priority Area”

• PAIDAR: Spanish idea of development is in industry & tourism, no attention to migration problem.

• 2003: Spain began promoting development as a means of migration.

• BUT....Since 1997, Moroccan remittances from Spain are 3-4x higher than Spanish ODA
Illegal Entry

- 350 boat migrants from Africa intercepted every week.
- In the past decade, there have been about 1200 migrant deaths due to attempted illegal passage.

**WHY CROSS??:**

- Limited Detention Period (max. 40 days) followed by release.
- Opportunities for Regularization
Moroccan Integration

PUBLIC OPINION SURVEY 1996-2003: (CIS)
• 58% of people found that there were too many immigrants.
• 46% admitted that they treated immigrants with mistrust, 10% with contempt and 2% with aggression.
• 59.6% of Spanish population prefer Ecuadorians.
• 18% of Spanish population prefer Europeans.
• 4.4% of Spanish population prefer Moroccans.

EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION----Remember the farmers???

VIOLENT CONFLICT....
Violent Conflict

- **Terrassa- 1999.** A few Spanish and Moroccan youths fight, spawns a demonstration against Moroccan immigrants. 300 involved, injuries.

Concluding Thoughts:

• The unresolved Spanish-Moroccan issues have made it VERY difficult to initiate integration programs.

• All sources studied suggested that Spain’s way of “dealing” with migration from Morocco is through the use of stricter border controls, with less focus on integration.

• “Development aid must be capable of assimilating....it should not be used as a tool to prevent emigration.” (Lacomba and Boni)

• “Further research is needed to better understand the process by which migrants make their choices.” (Carling)

• Countries with shared interests should work together, not apart.