



INTERNAL MIGRATION AND URBANIZATION: A DUO FOR RETHINKING THE CONSEQUENCES OF CENTRALIZATION IN HATIAN CITIES

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INTRODUCTION

From 1950 to 2024, problems linked to the spatial distribution of the population and the socio-economic and political system have been identified. Ministry studies and documents concerning the relationship between internal migration, urbanization and urban planning in Haiti are very interesting. However, the efforts made have not achieved the expected results, as urbanization has developed at a dizzying pace (from 12.2% in 1950 to 55.7% in 2003), while the proportion of internal migrants is low (5 to 10%). Strong demographic growth is observed and the lack of organization, has led to urban concentration and marginality.

OBJECTIVES

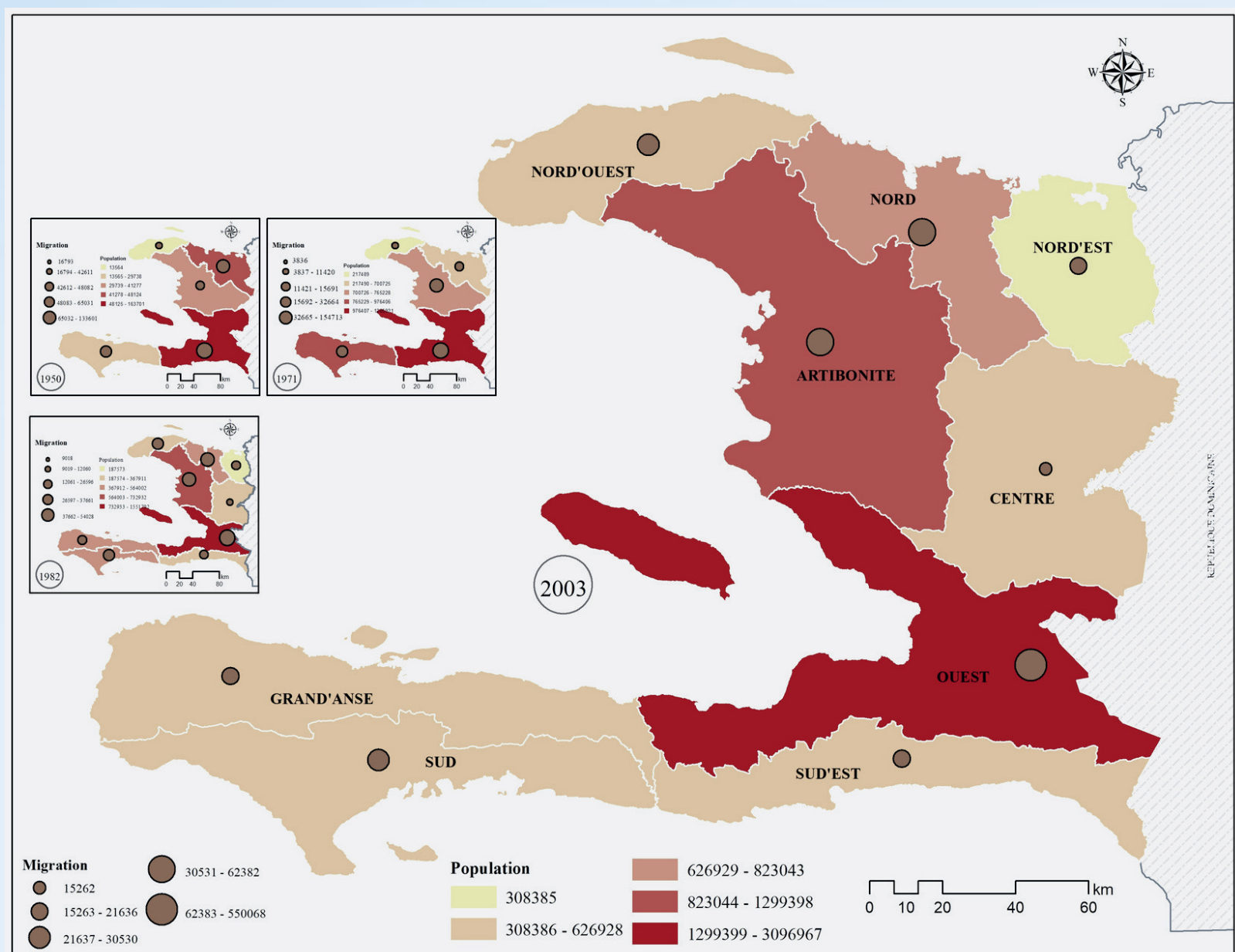
1. To give a brief overview of this issue.
2. Present the evolution of migration and urbanization in Haiti over nearly three quarters of a century.
3. Interpret the orientation of urban growth towards large cities and show the consequences of the resulting transformations.

METHODS AND DATA

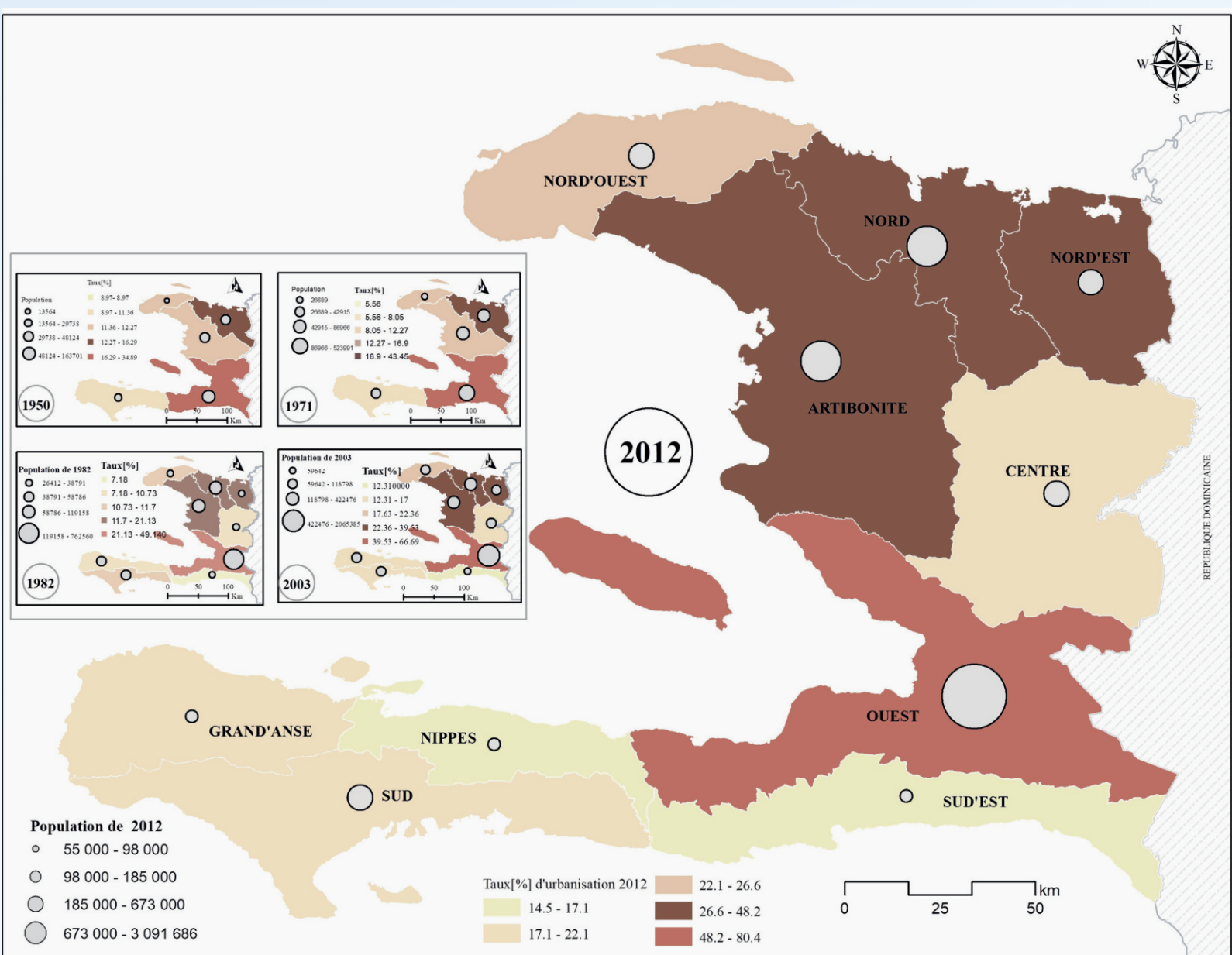
The data used come from the 1950, 1971, 1982 and 2003 censuses, and from estimates for 2012 and 2024. The analysis of the relationships between population, internal migration and urbanization for Haiti's ten departments, the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area and the nine departmental capitals (Cap-Haïtien, Gonaïves, Port-de-Paix, Fort-Liberté, Hinche, Jacmel, Cayes, Jérémie and Miragoâne) was carried out using the plans and programs in the ministries' framework documents.

RESULTS

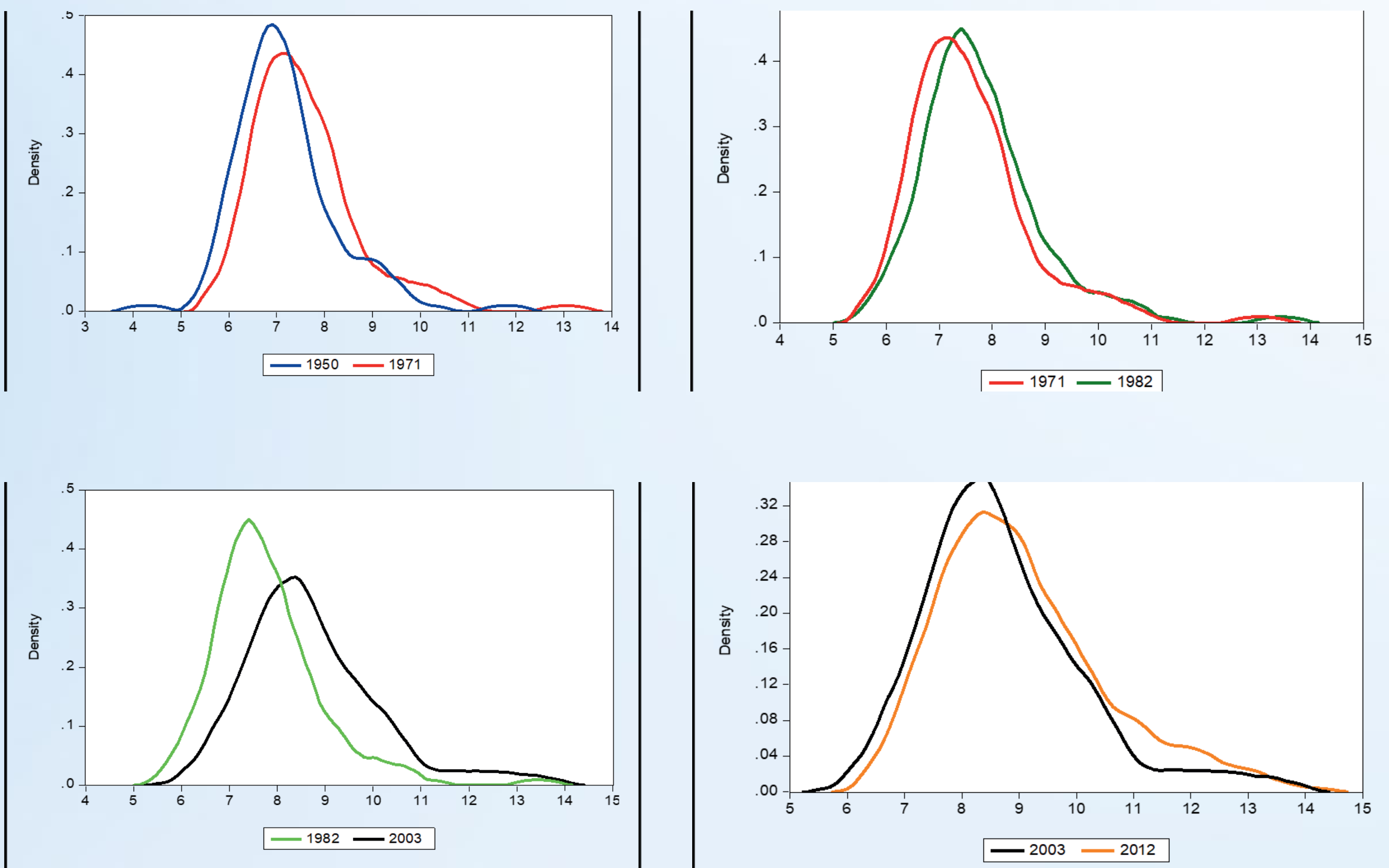
- Map 1 shows the volume of internal movements in Haiti since 1950, with AMP and Cap-Haïtien having the highest proportions of migrants in 2003 (Graph 2).
- This high level of urbanization has led to a growing concentration of the urban population in large cities, followed by heterogeneous urbanization (Map 2).
- Haitian urban growth has always been oriented towards the big cities, and the Haitian urban landscape is becoming increasingly hierarchical (Graph 1).
- Major challenges of this rapid urbanization have not been offset by the increase in urban population growth. The Port-au-Prince Metropolitan Area is the largest urban concentration (Photos 1 and 2).



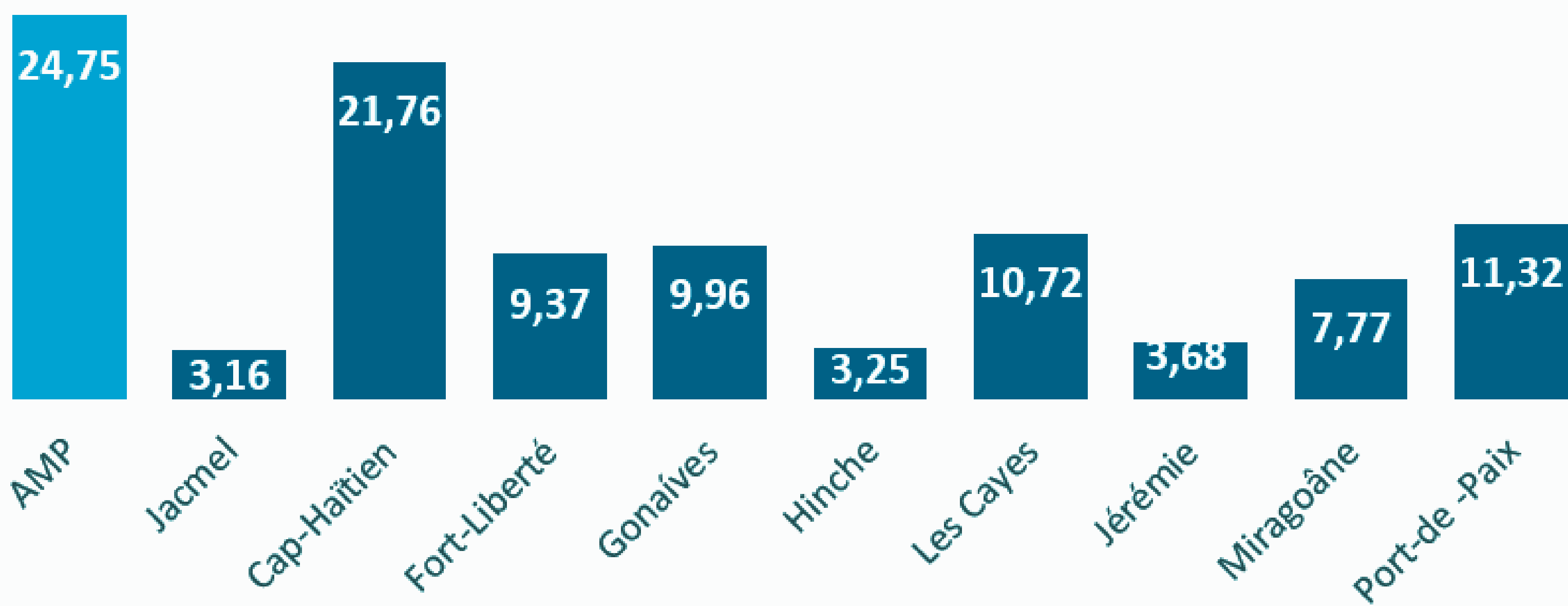
Map 1 :Total population, volume of migrants during the 1950, 1971, 1982 and 2003 censuses.



Map 2 : Urban population, heterogeneity of urbanization levels from 1950 to 2012.



Graph 1: Kernel density of the rank-size distribution of Haitian cities (1950 to 2012).



Graph 2: Proportion of migrants in the AMP and departmental capital cities in relation to the total population of the cities during the 2003 census.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- The results shed new light on the challenges of a situation that lies in the failure of attempts to integrate the population into the development process.
- Migration and urbanization are a pairing that authorities should act upon to ensure optimal urban settlement.



Photo 1: A view of part of the Port-au-Prince Metropolitan Area (AMP)

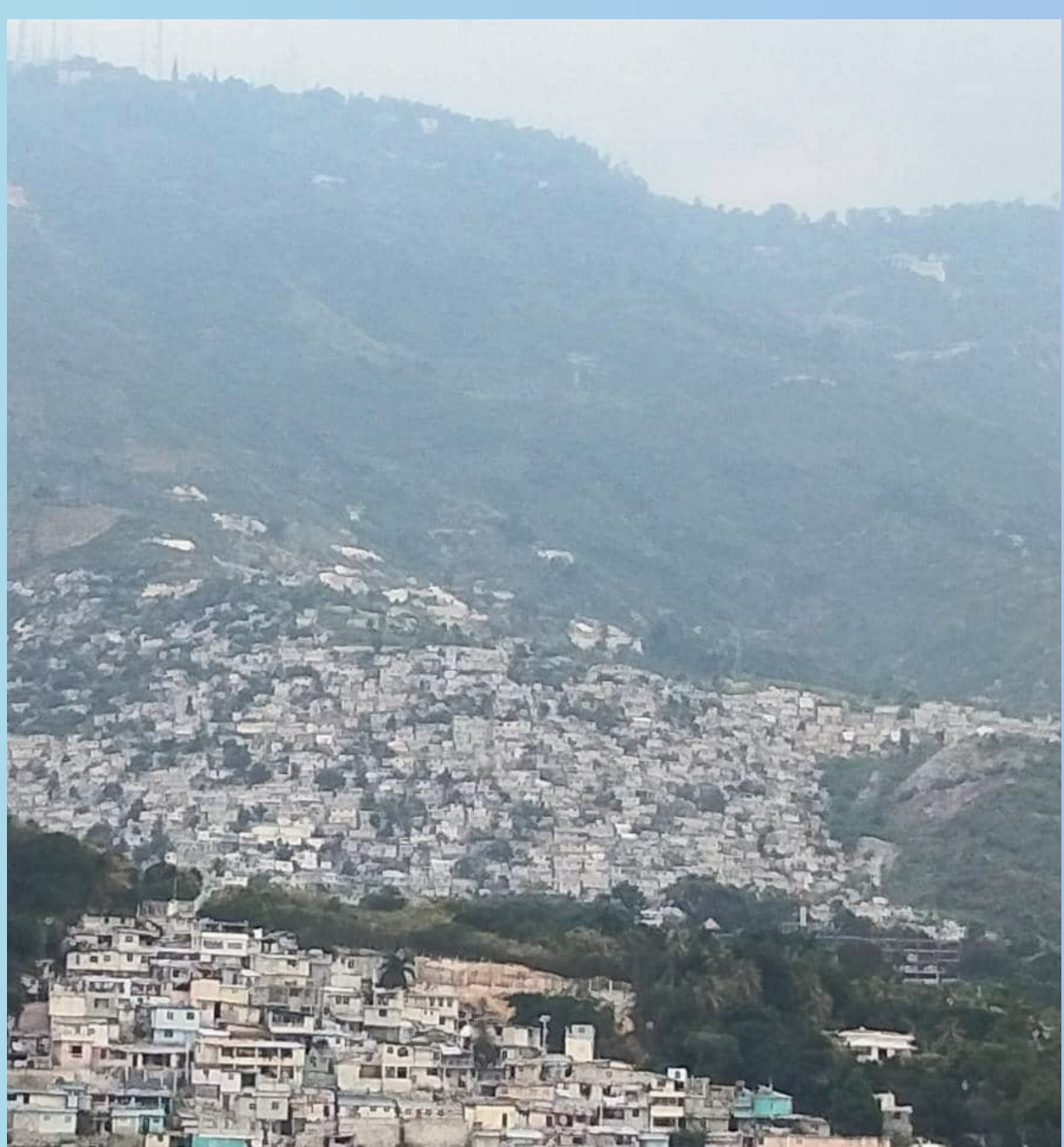


Photo 2: An illustration of anarchic urbanization in Port-au-Prince