



**A LEAP IN THE DARK: SOCIO-POLITICAL DYNAMICS IN
HELON HABILA'S *TRAVELERS***



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ABSTRACT

*This article examines the blind steps taken by African youths to salvage their socio-economic conditions as they think that Europe has the answer to their unwarranted dilemmas and so must get there either by hook or by crook. Helon's *Travelers* alludes to one of the most perforating socio-historical quandary faced by migrants both on their way to Europe and in Europe itself. The postcolonial theory is suitable in this work, especially as Helon's work is not mere dogmatic proclamations, but an extended metaphor on the austere life of migrants which has been one of the challenges that the postcolonial world is grappling with. There is a strong connection between the incidences in Helon's work and the realities of everyday experience of migrants. A*

thorough analysis of the predicaments of migrants in their attempt to enter Europe and their stay in Europe and how such attempts have persisted overtime shows that African youths are yet to attain a critical consciousness on the idea of hoping for an alternative life in Europe. An investigation into the persistent attitude of African youths towards travelling to Europe reveals that there are socio-political instigators prompting many to seek an alternative life elsewhere. Therefore, there is need not only for reorientation and sensitization but also for urgent policy attention.

KEY WORDS

Illegal immigration, Refugees, Exile, Socio-political instability, Censorship