



Unpacking the ‘colonial dummy’: *An exploration of the migration effects of independence and post-colonial ties*

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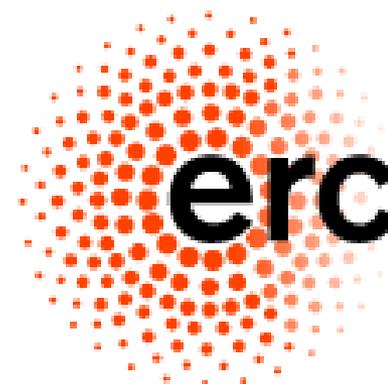
Starting Grant

2010-2014

EC’s Seventh Framework Programme

Support for Frontier Research

www.migrationdeterminants.eu



Independence

- Political and economic uncertainties → high emigration
- Border regimes → constrained emigration opportunities
- Migrant networks → help to overcome migration barriers

Non-sovereignty

- Political and economic stability → low emigration
- Weak border regime → emigration of rural, low-skilled

Post-colonial ties

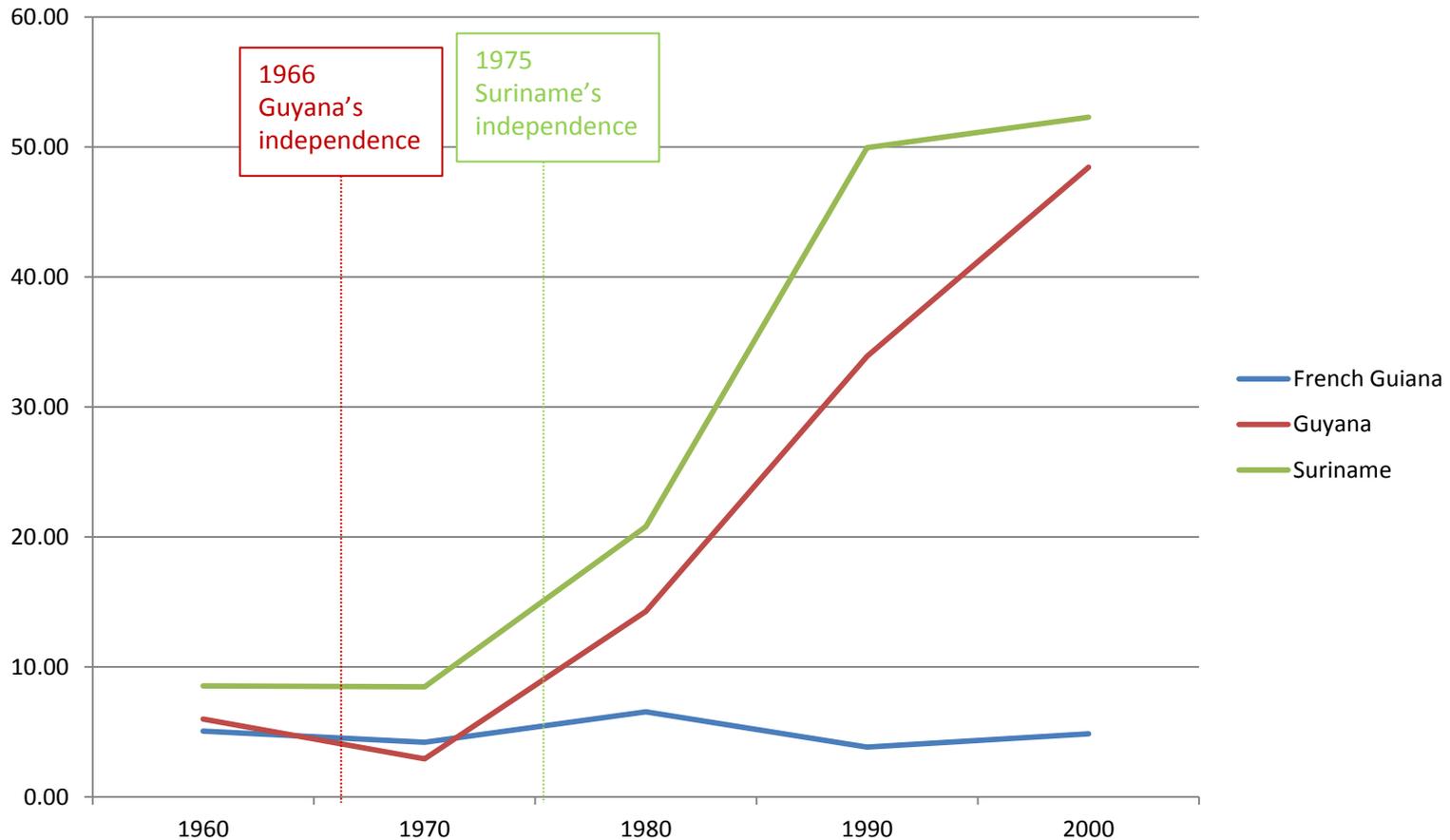
- A package of language, culture, institutions → explain destination selection

The Three Guianas



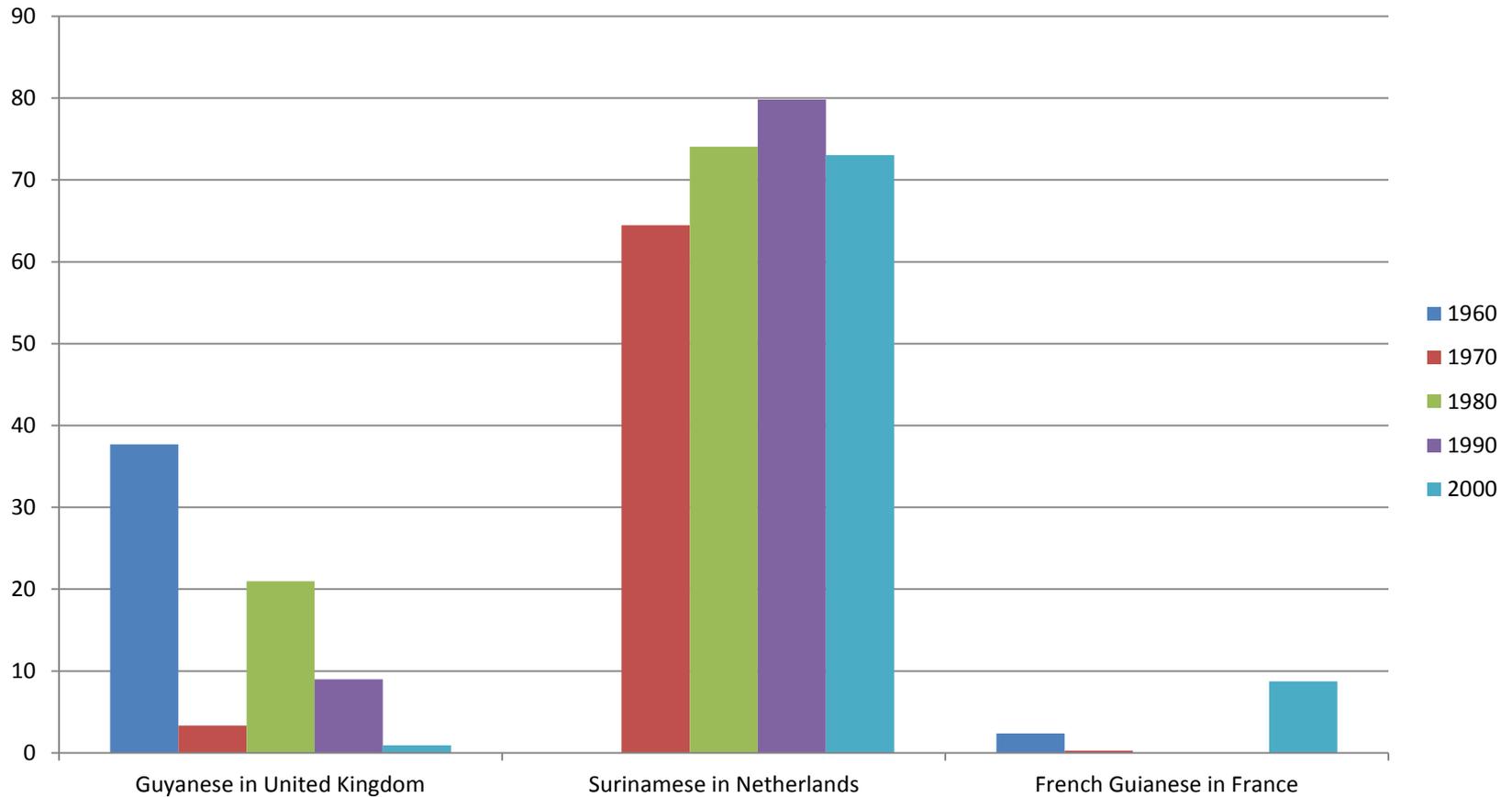
Emigration from the 3 Guianas

Percentage of population abroad



Source: World Bank Global Bilateral Migration Database

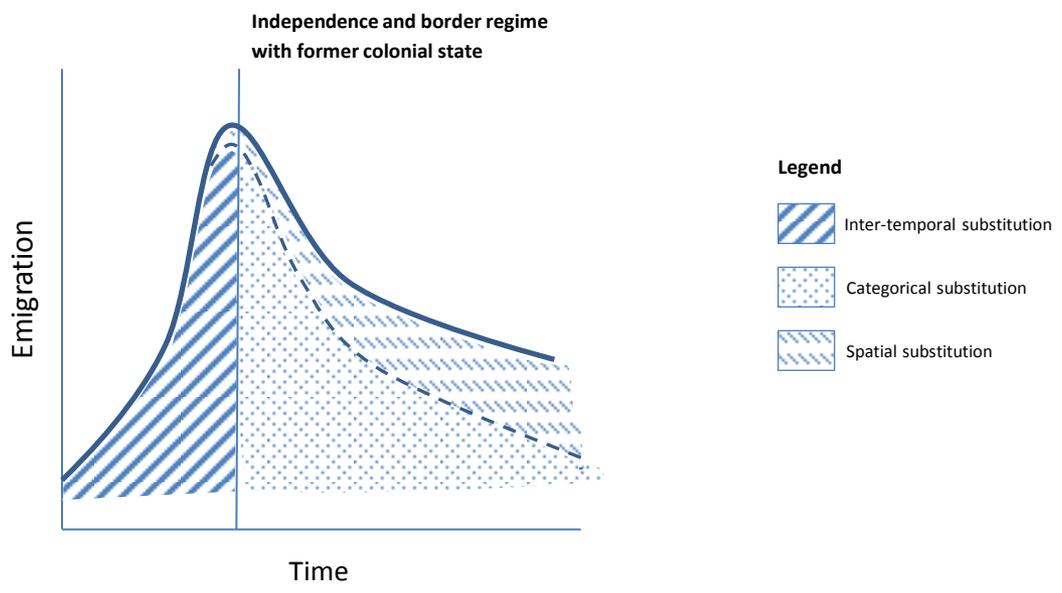
Percentage of total population abroad in former colonial state



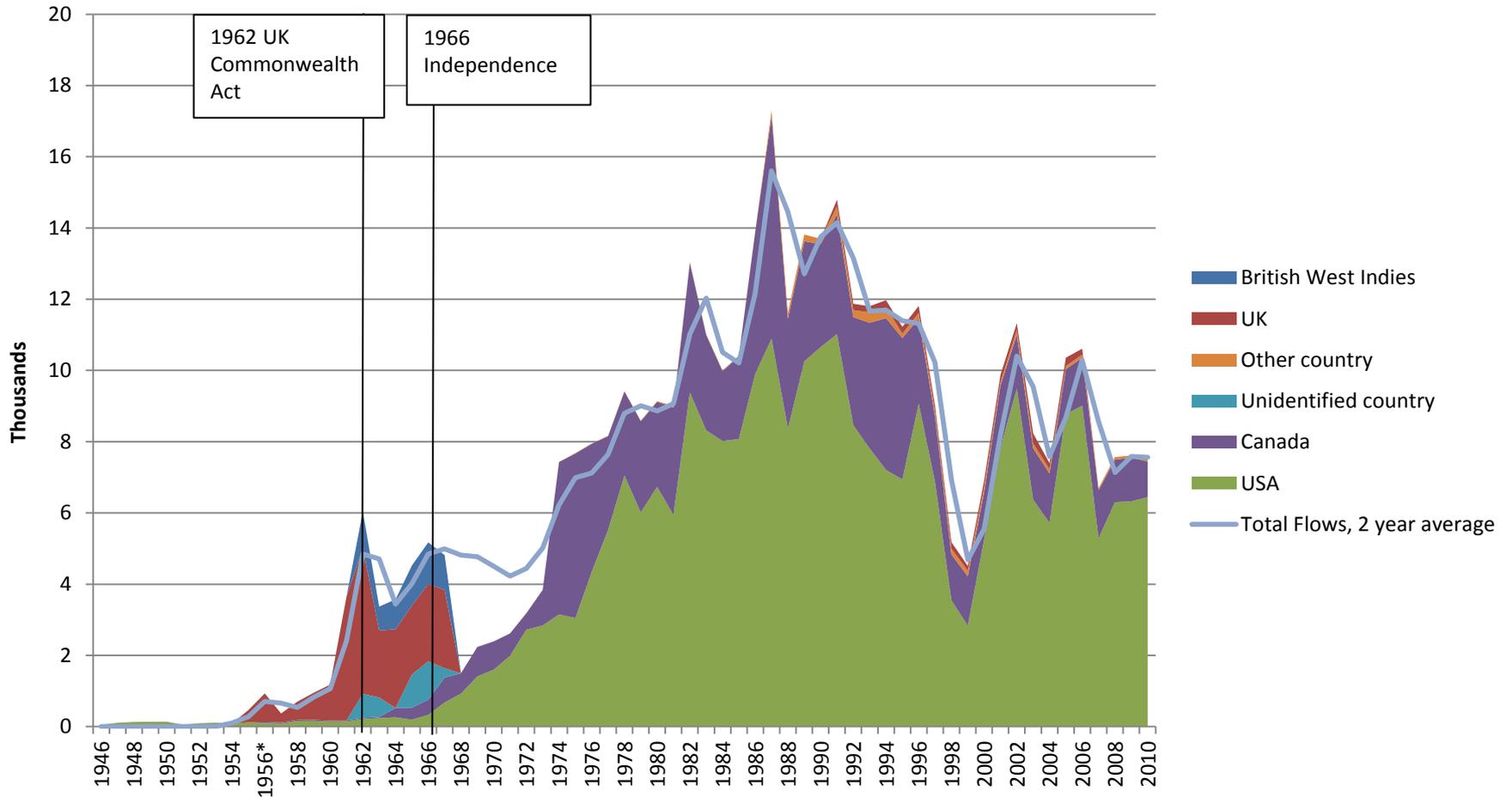
Source: World Bank Global Bilateral Migration Database

- What does independence mean for the population and how does this influence migration?
- What are the characteristics of a border regime?
- How and when do post-colonial ties affect migration towards the former colonial state?

Synchronous independence and border regime

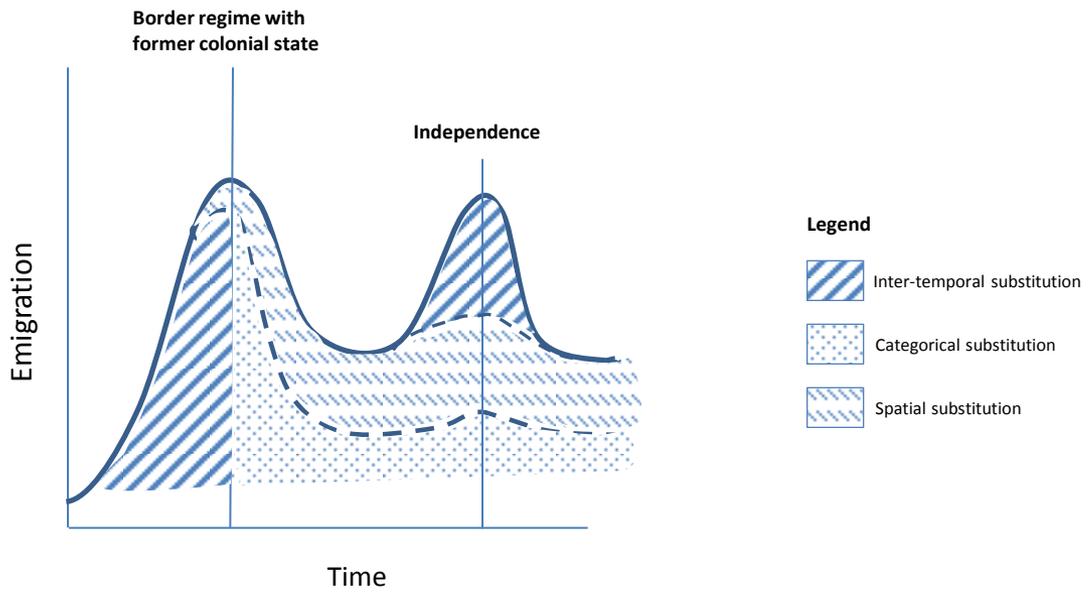


Guyanese emigration

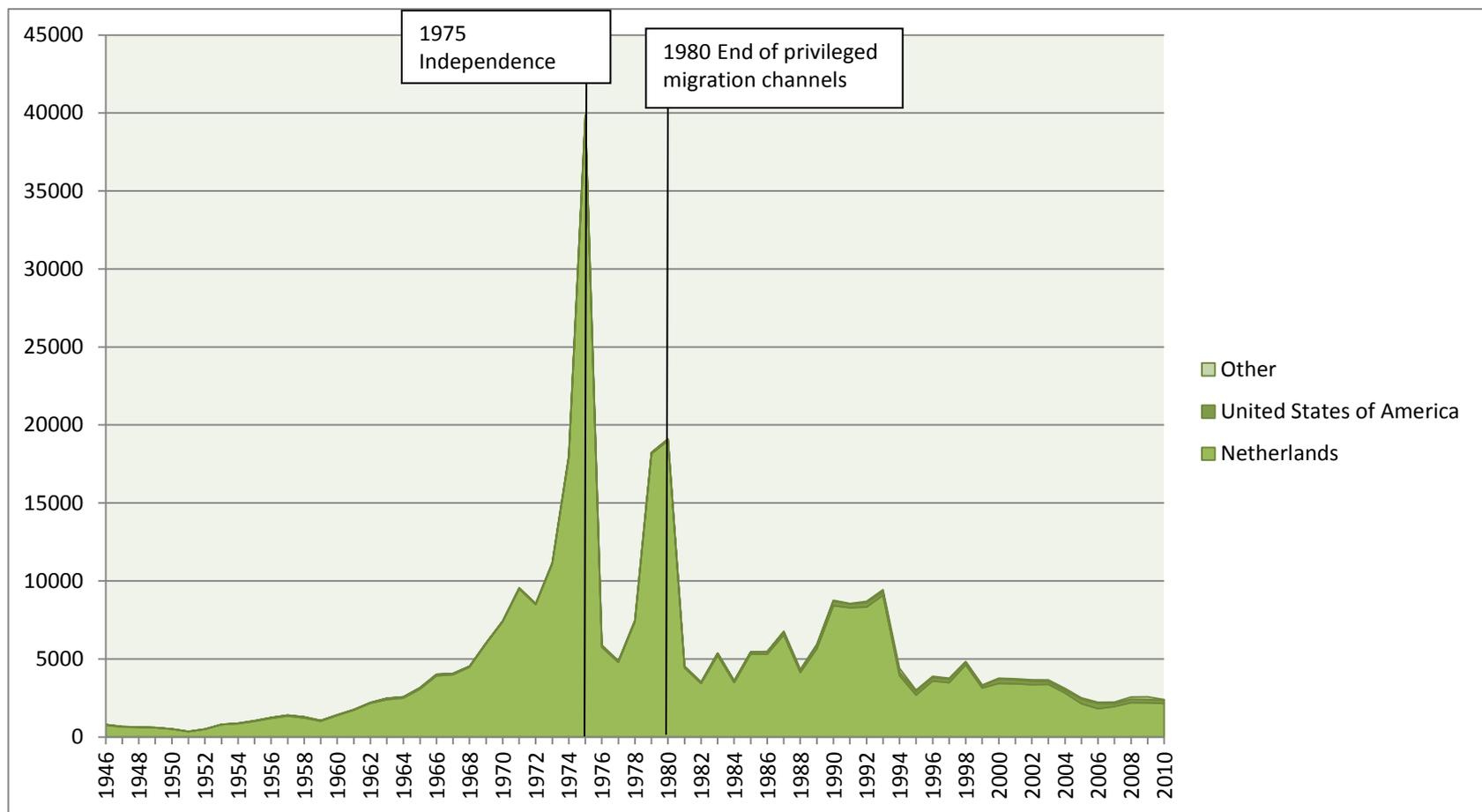


Source: British Guiana Annual Labour Reports 1955-1967; DEMIG TOTAL; DEMIG C2C; and Peach 1968.

Border regime before independence

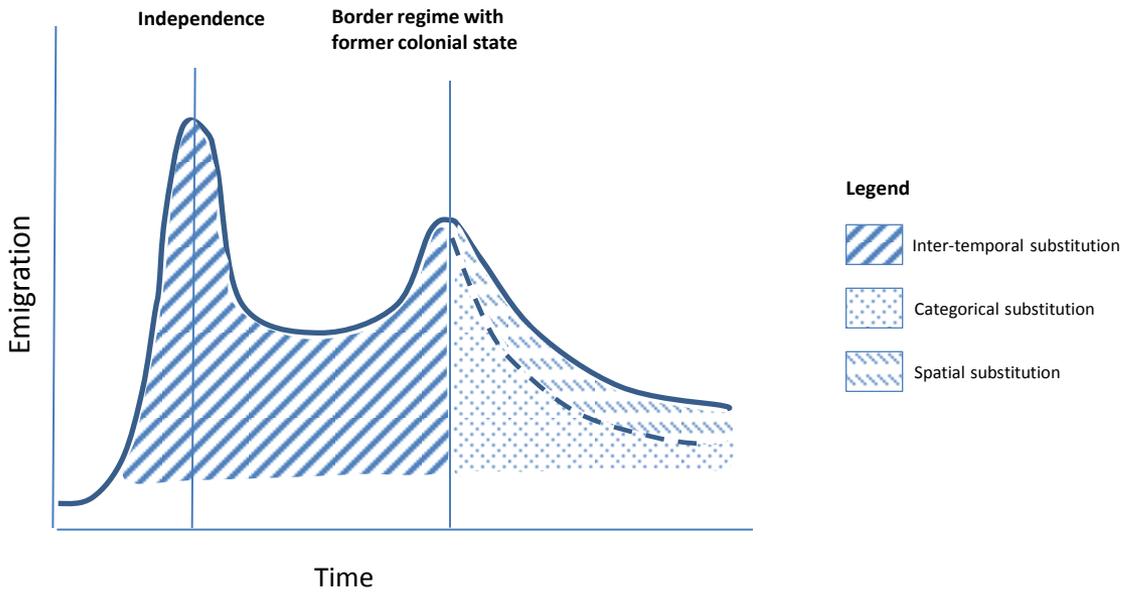


Surinamese emigration



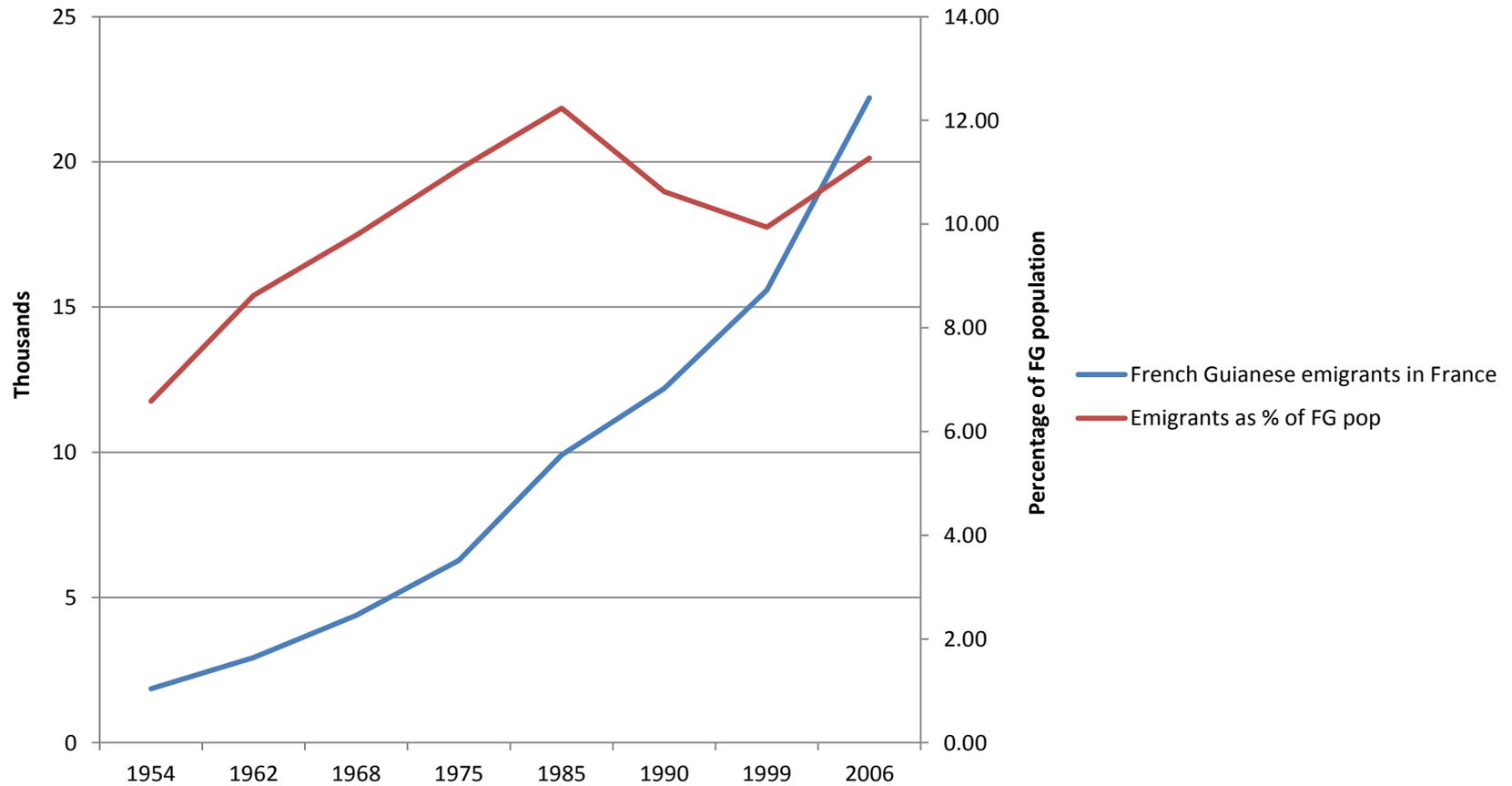
Source: DEMIG C2C

Independence before border regime

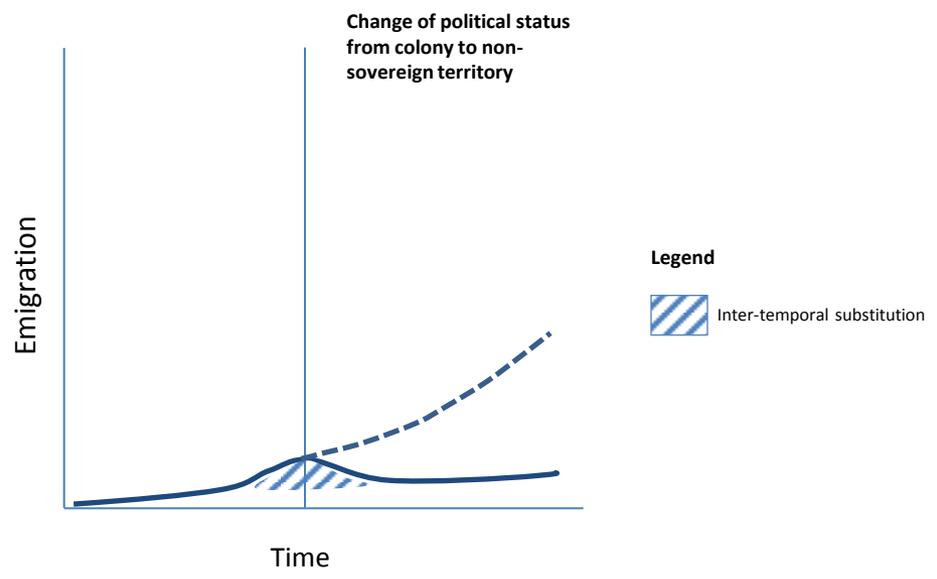


French Guianese emigration

French Guianese population in France



Non-sovereign status



Independence and border regime affect migration

- Different rationale behind how they drive migration
- Different groups of people
 - Independence affects a broad segment of the population while border regime affects migration prone individuals

Timing of these two events may explain

- Volume and patterns: concentrated or dispersed
- Destination: concentrated (reinforcing post-colonial ties) or diversified
- Composition: Class, ethnic group, age