

An Examination of Contributors to Haiti's Import-Reliance

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Research Question

How did Haiti's food system grow to be so reliant on imports?

Methodology

Case Study

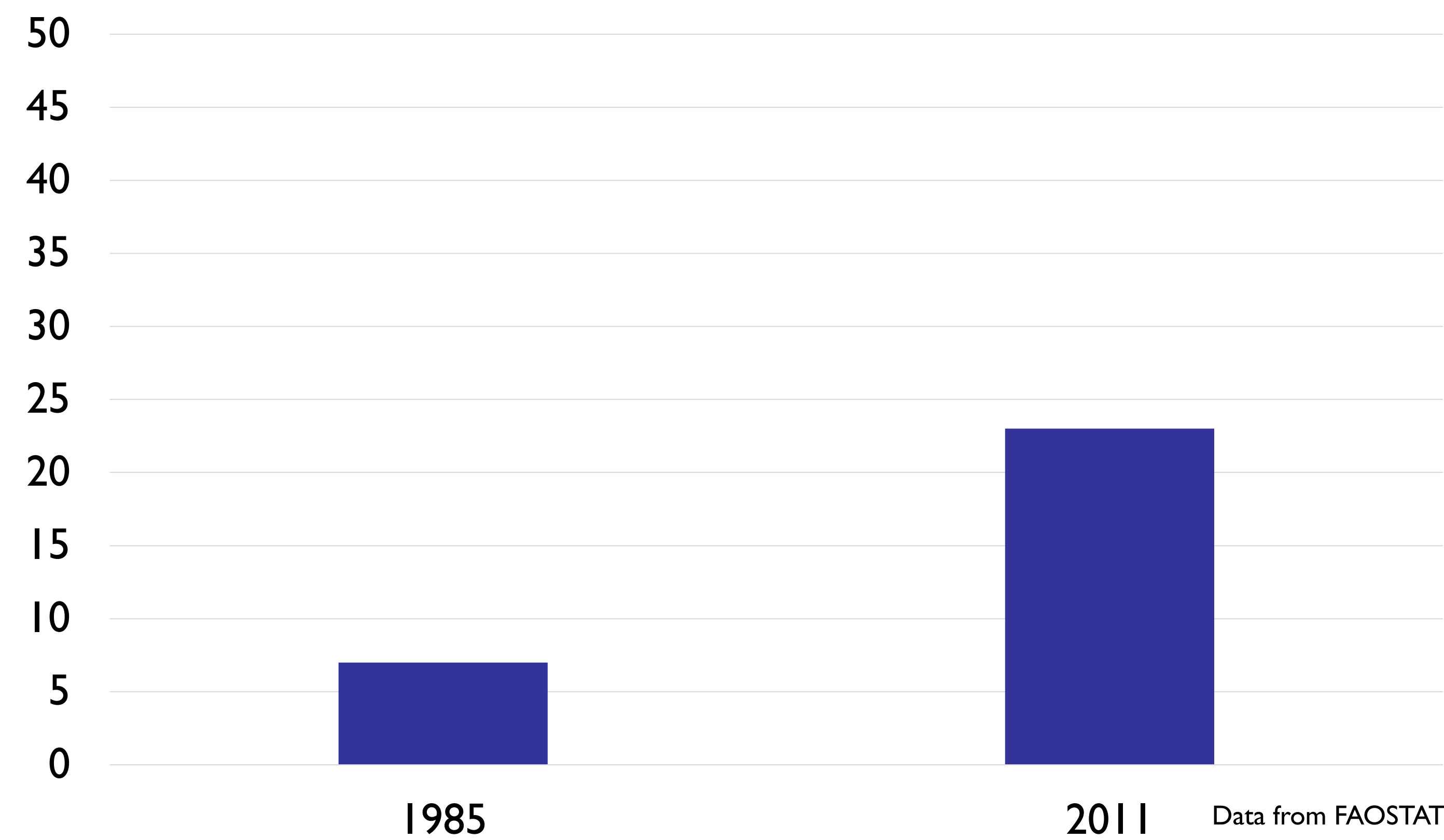
- Allows for an examination of social, political, environmental, and economic contributors.

Sources

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Why Rice?

% of Rice in Haitian Caloric Intake



- The Haitian diet has changed during the study period with a **16%** increase in caloric intake coming from rice.
- Rice is the subject of many governmental policies that have proved consequential to Haiti's food system.

Results

Trade Liberalization

- Decreases in import tariffs led to a surge in imports, particularly from subsidized American farmers. This had detrimental impacts on Haiti's domestic production capabilities Altidor (2004), Wisner (2022).
- Some scholars reject this stating that the increase in imports cannot be attributed to the tariff decrease and rather was triggered by the increasing population Lundahl (2014).
- Haiti's reliance on rice imports makes them vulnerable to:**
- International food price spikes, fluctuations in the value of the Haitian Gourde, and loss of agricultural income Wisner (2022).
- The import of large quantities of cheap rice put rural farmers out of business, restricting domestic food supply to cheap imports, increasing food insecurity over time (Wisner 2022).
- Recent studies found unhealthy levels of arsenic in imported rice Goodrich (2024).

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Rice Production and Imports in Haiti

