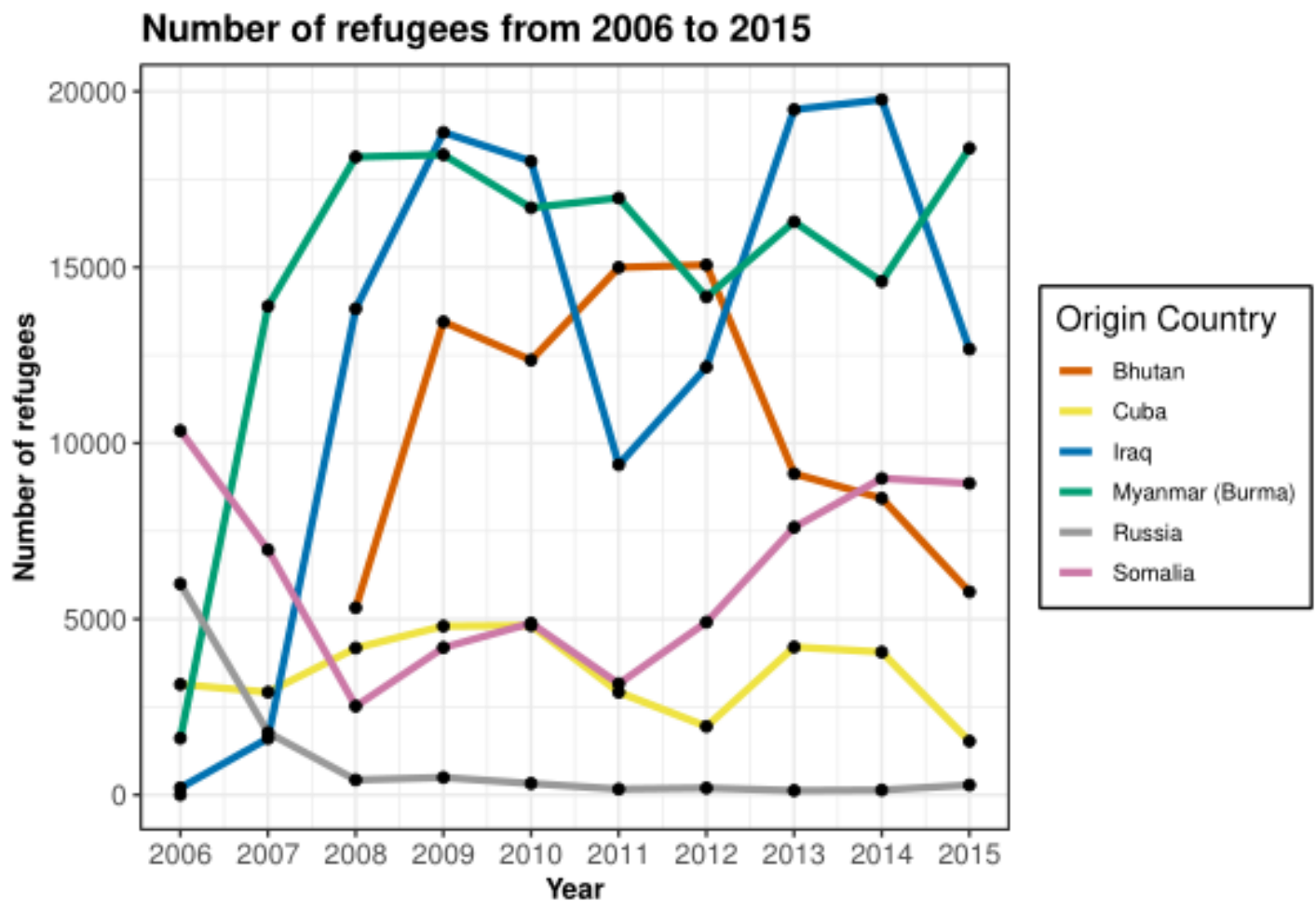


# Origin of Refugees to the United States



## Timeline of Events in the Origin Countries

2006 — Al-Qaeda leader in Iraq is killed in an air strike, transitional government in Somalia

2007 — Public unrest in Myanmar due to fuel price hikes, increased American military presence in Iraq

2008 — Fidel Castro steps down from Cuban presidency, President Vladimir Putin appointed as Russian Prime Minister, Cyclone Nargis hits Myanmar

2010 — Famine in Somalia

2011 — US completes troop pull out from Iraq, US travel rules to Cuba relaxed

2012 — Hurricane Sandy hits Cuba

2013 — Sunni insurgency intensifies in Iraq

2014 — EU and US announce new sanctions against Russia

This graph shows the number of refugees by year of the countries that had the highest number of refugees in each of the six regions included in the dataset. The timeline to the lower left indicates relevant events that could partially explain the contours of the above graph. We find that negative events, such as increased militarism, natural disaster, and political unrest, appear to precede spikes in refugees moving to the United States. Dips in refugee numbers were harder to explain, but may be associated with increased government control (preventing possible refugees from leaving) and increased stability (decreasing the need to leave the origin country).

**Citations for Timeline Events:** *Bhutan profile—Timeline.* (2011, March 3). BBC News. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-south-asia-12641778>, *Cuba profile—Timeline.* (2012, September 12). BBC News. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-19576144>, *Iraq profile—Timeline.* (2011, August 16). BBC News. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-14546763>, *Myanmar profile—Timeline.* (2011, April 6). BBC News. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-12992883>, *Russia profile—Timeline.* (2012, April 26). BBC News. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-17840446>, *Somalia profile—Timeline.* (2011, July 9). BBC News. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14094632>.