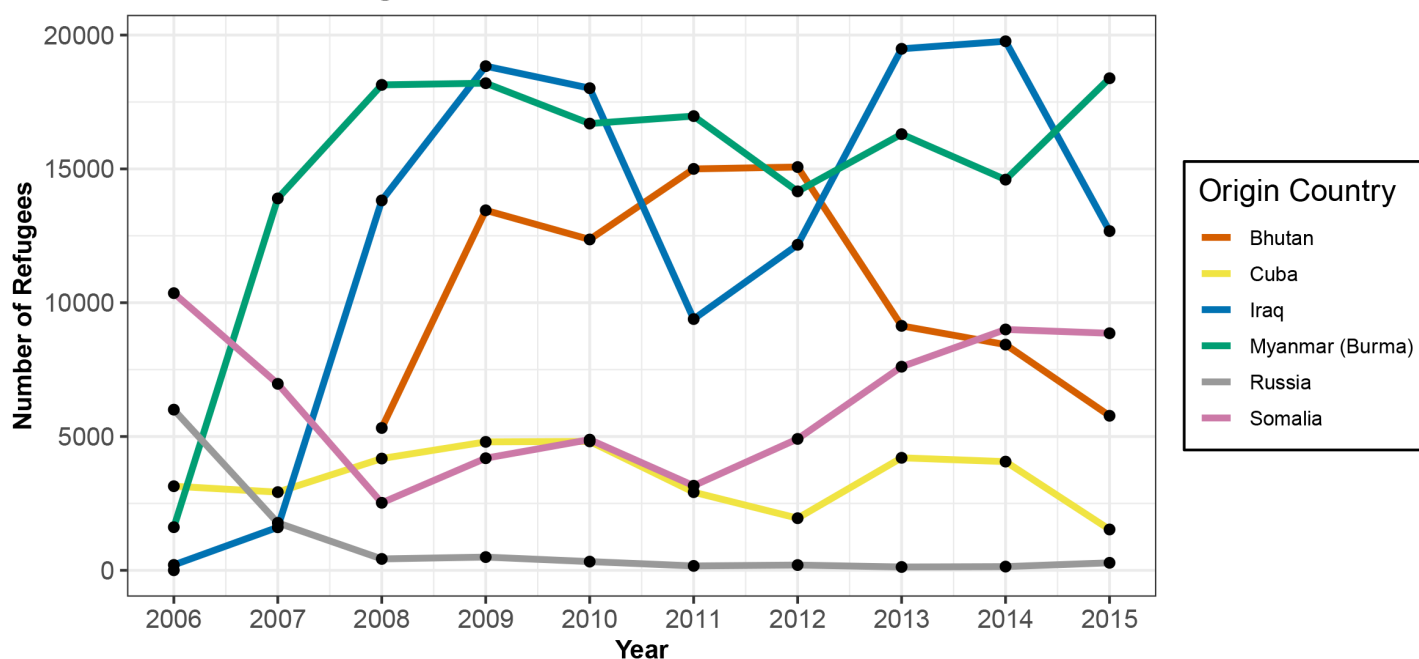


Origin of Refugees to the United States Between 2006 –2015

This graph shows the number of refugees from the origin countries of Bhutan, Cuba, Iraq, Myanmar, Russia, and Somalia to the United States. These countries were selected because they had the highest number of refugees of all countries from their respective regions (South Asia, Europe & Central Asia, Middle East & North Africa, East Asia & Pacific, Europe & Central Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa respectively).

The exact highest number of refugees varies from year to year, but we do see that the refugees from Iraq and Myanmar (Burma) grow much faster than any other country in the late 2000s. The number of refugees from Cuba and Russia both remain relatively flat across the entire timespan of data. Of note is that data from Bhutan is only available from 2008 onwards.

Number of Refugees From 2006 to 2015



To the right is a timeline showing relevant events that could help explain the trends in number of refugees. The exact events range from political unrest and military control to natural disasters. These types of events appear to precede spikes in refugees to the United States. Dips in refugees to the United States were harder to explain from this timeline, but may be associated with increased government control (preventing possible refugees from leaving) or increased stability (lesser need to leave the origin country).

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

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>.