

## ABSTRACT

The concept of regionalism in the context of Guyana's foreign policy from the late fifties to the seventies connotes a paradoxical relationship of national introversion and regional expectation. In fact, the Guyanese experience in regional association with the Commonwealth Caribbean territories from the late fifties to contemporary times has presented a series of strident contrasts.

Regional economic integration has been one way in which the Commonwealth Caribbean states have sought to cooperate in order to enhance their individual strengths, and to protect and advance their single and collective interests. The ultimate stated aim with respect to Guyana's participation has been political unification.

Whether the interests of the states involved are sufficiently common and compelling to lead to effective political integration; and whether Guyana's interests can be best served by this relationship are questions to be answered by empirical investigation.

In dealing with this study, the writer has recognised that many works exist which deal with variant aspects of the integrative process. The writer has, however, attempted to assess the integration relationship from the unique perspective of foreign policy relations.

The Guyanese presence in the regional movement should provide a paradigm from which interesting insights into new theories on regionalism could be extracted, and should teach something about the politics of integration in the setting of social and economic underdevelopment, geographical balkanization and commitment to nation building.