

INTRODUCTION

This thesis seeks to explain in a behavioural approach some of the persistent themes of Jamaican politics. It utilizes in main, data taken from a survey (focussed on the 1969 Local Government Elections¹) carried out over the summer of 1970,¹ as well as aggregate vote statistics for all national and local elections held in Jamaica under "Universal Adult Franchise." Five basic aims are here involved, and each will be dealt with in separate chapters: 1. exploration of relevant sources which, in main, utilize a behavioural approach, examine their findings and assess their relevance for the Jamaican example; 2. explore the hypothesis that a minimal party system exists in Jamaica and assess the implications of this in terms of mobilization; 3. test the hypothesis that convergence has taken place in Jamaican politics and analyse the implications for the emergence of a viable third political force; 4. discuss the question of alienation (which was found to be relatively high among our respondents) in terms of political socialization. Finally, in terms of our fifth aim, the concluding chapter will seek to integrate the findings suggested by our data.

¹For an explanation of the research design see Appendix A.