

*ABSTRACT*

This thesis focuses on the rise and fall of the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) in Grenada during the period March 13<sup>th</sup> 1979 to October 1983.

It first undertakes a brief review of the political history of the island from the time of its discovery by Columbus in 1492 to the emergence of Eric Gairy, who was to later become Grenada's first Prime Minister upon the island's attainment of independence in February 1974.

The rule or misrule of Gairy is presented as providing suitable conditions for the emergence and growing prominence and popularity of the opposition forces. The activities and consolidation of the New Jewel Movement (NJM) in the 1970's are traced, together with the overthrow of Gairy government on March 13<sup>th</sup> 1979.

The PRG's programme and policies for social and economic regeneration, as well as their implementation and effectiveness, are examined in the literature.

The initial and later reaction of the neighbouring Anglophone caribbean governments, interest groups and the mass media, together with the basis for their reaction, are also scrutinized.

An account of the collapse of the PRG in October 1983 is presented. The researcher identifies the various hypotheses offered in the extensive literature published to account for the collapse and evaluates each.

The reaction of Great Britain, the United States and the Anglophone caribbean states to the execution of Maurice Bishop is discussed.

The thesis ends by assessing the impact the collapse of the PRG had on the left-wing movements in the Caribbean and offers a final judgement on the tragic denouement.