

ABSTRACT

This thesis examines Jamaica's relations with Latin America in the period 1962-1980. The objective is to assess how a small, newly independent state redefines its foreign relations in order to adjust to external conditions and to lessen its state of dependency, thereby attaining a greater degree of economic, and therefore political independence.

The underlying hypothesis employed is that this search for greater independence is a necessary if not sufficient condition to satisfy national expectations. Greater regional interaction and multilateral co-operation are some of the ways used to satisfy the goal.

The thesis focusses, then, on the pattern of the development of Jamaica's relations with three specific countries (Cuba, Mexico and Venezuela) of the Latin American region of which she, too, is geographically a part. Although it concentrates on three main countries in this context, the thesis does include an analysis of her relations with Latin America at the multilateral level in particular, in organisations such as the O.A.S.

Finally, the thesis evaluates the effectiveness of the implementation of Jamaica's policy towards Latin America and concludes that in the final analysis, the results have been less than satisfactory, and that, for a variety of internal and external reasons, there is room for maximisation of the benefits to be derived from Jamaica-Latin America relations.