

ABSTRACT

Within recent times, Governments of the newly independent countries of the region have been investing large sums of money on the development of their maritime sectors. This, no doubt, has been influenced primarily by nationalistic fervour which has been permeating the region since the early sixties. It is therefore necessary for an examination to be undertaken of other influences, especially the socio-economic ones which appear so far to have been given minimal consideration.

This study focuses on the economic aspects of liner operations in the Caribbean. It will be presented in five chapters. The first chapter outlines the background and purpose of the thesis. The second discusses the nature of the Shipping Industry. The third chapter discusses the various components of the shipping system in the Caribbean, the institutional arrangements and the peculiar features of the Caribbean shipping sector are also explored and some key issues are tackled at the methodological stage. The fourth chapter focuses on the economics of liner operations in the Caribbean and attempts a brief overall evaluation of the various carriers of the trade.

The study ends with some suggestions for correcting some of the obvious deficiencies and suggests guidelines for a future Caribbean Shipping Policy.