

ABSTRACT

Rethinking Caribbean Integration: the Role of Ideology in Regional Development.

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In this thesis, it is argued that the regional integration movement is weak and unstable because it is not based upon or guided by an ideology of regionalism. The argument is best supported by the data of a survey of elite attitudes, in chapter five. The survey, which was conducted in Jamaica and St. Lucia, shows that what exists in the region is a regionalist orientation or ideation which is stronger in St. Lucia, and within the groups weakest among the economic elite. Support for this argument is also found in chapters three and four which both demonstrate that the regional integration movement has never developed an ideology of regionalism.

Chapter three traces the evolution of the regional integration movement showing that, historically, regional integration has never been seen as an end in itself but simply as a means to an end. Thus when individual territories discovered that