

CRITIQUING CHRISTENDOM: A JAMAICAN CHRISTIAN RESPONSE
TO
THE RELIGION OF 'GLOBALISATION'

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ABSTRACT

**Critiquing Christendom: A Jamaican Christian Response to the Religion of
'Globalisation'**

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The thesis starts out by examining the changes that have taken place in Jamaican post-colonial experience since the coming of the era of 'Globalisation', ascertaining that they have been more negative than positive. The work then argues that in light of these radical transformations, the Jamaican Christian quest for self-determination has been derailed. In direct response to this, the dissertation seeks to understand the nature of 'Globalisation' and makes the claim that it is not a benevolent process, but a malevolent culturalist-religious hegemonic project. With the help of World -System Analysis, the work then looks at hegemony and counter-hegemony from that of Ancient Egyptian Empires from 3000 BCE to that of the present USA-led imperial project of 'Globalisation', paying particular attention to the emergence, continuance, and engagement of the Christendom ideal in its various historical manifestations. On the basis of the historical overview, 'Globalisation' is seen to be an heir and update of Christendom and of the latter's Ancient Near Eastern precursors. Furthermore, the present 'Globalisation' Project is seen to be a religion inasmuch that it makes ultimate claims, even as it is based on religion and uses religion to achieve its aims. Seeking to learn further lessons from history, the thesis concludes by noting that since all these culturalist-religious hegemonic projects were contested in particular religious ways in their times, there is now the possibility and necessity for Jamaican Christians and others to counter the current expression of Christendom that is the 'Globalisation' Project, this from the vantage-point of Theo-centric Planetary Humanism.

Keywords: Globalisation; Hegemony; Religion; Christendom and Jamaican Christian Self-Determination