

ABSTRACT

Radicalism in Trinidad's colonial politics has been looked at from a variety of approaches. Aside from historical studies dealing with political, social and economic developments, there exists a body of work by social scientists who have studied radicalism as an aspect of the nationalist movement in Trinidad. The present dissertation encapsulates and draws upon past studies. But its specific purpose is to trace, describe and examine the content and context of radical political thought in Trinidad during the period 1919-1950.

Chapter I discusses the circumstances, events and influences within which radical political ideas emerged in the Colony.

Chapter II focuses on the radicals of the thirties and is essentially an analysis of the ideas and activities of the working class radicals of the inter-war period.

Chapter III looks at the East Indian radicals between 1920 and 1939. Our interest here is on the changing political perspectives of those leaders among the East Indian populace who sought to move their community towards a more activist involvement in the Colony's affairs.

Chapter IV attempts an evaluation of socialist ideology as an element in the radical thought of the period and how this ideology influenced the nascent trade unions and the labour movement in general.

Chapter V surveys the implementation of the socialist ideas discussed in the preceding Chapter and assesses the extent to which the radicals succeeded in such an enterprise.

Chapter VI draws conclusions on the general features of radical political thought in Colonial Trinidad and considers the strengths and limitations of the radical ideas of the period and what they portended for further political change and development for a country about to embark upon the first stages of the road to independence and nation-building.