

ABSTRACT

The Effects of the International Monetary Fund on the Political Process in Jamaica

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The issue of multilateral institutions and their effects on the development of developing countries is one that many scholars have grappled with for years. Despite the analysis there is a void in the level of knowledge on the political effects of these institutions on developing societies. This thesis seeks to analyse the effects of the programmes and policies of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on the political process in Jamaica. The period under study is 1976-1980.

The thesis seeks to give a comprehensive understanding of the political effects of the programmes and policies of the IMF on the Jamaican society. The central argument postulated is: "The programmes and policies of the IMF have contributed to the retardation of the political process in Jamaica." Here it must be noted that the researcher is speaking to a situation where the International Monetary Fund is a contributing factor to the retardation of the decision-making process in Jamaica. The thesis is not saying these institutions are the sole contributor to the problem, as there are other factors that contribute to this retardation.

The thesis confirms and expands Carl Stone's patron clientelist argument as a feature of the political process. It corroborates the argument that it was politically expedient for the Manley regime to seek financial assistance from the IMF, as the alternatives including the Emergency Production Plan (EPP) in 1977 were limited. It also confirms that the programmes and policies of the IMF contributed to the retardation of the political process in Jamaica. The research methodology includes a comparative analysis of Jamaica prior to 1977 and between 1976 and 1980, along with elite interviews conducted with major actors who were involved with the political process at the time.

Keywords: Floyd Morris; Jamaican political process, International Monetary Fund, Jamaican politics.