

ABSTRACT

This study examines the last eighteen years of colonial rule in Jamaica, and looks also at the post independence period up to 1983.

Thematically, it focuses on the role of the Governor and how this office was affected by constitutional developments.

Because of the specific time frame of the study (1943-1983) the administrations of the last three Governors are described and analysed so as to deduce the changing nature of their roles and how their powers were gradually transferred to the locally elected political representatives. While the study is confined to a specific period, it is necessary to go outside that period to show how the roles and powers of the Governor evolved throughout the centuries. The constitutional changes beginning in 1944 and the changing roles of the Governor will then be placed in context.

The study will also take other factors into consideration. These are the contribution made by Governors to the constitutional process, the effect of British Colonial Policy on this process, the nature of the involvement of the local political representatives, and the extent of the Governors' influence on British colonial policy.

An examination will therefore be made of British Colonial

Policy after 1945 as these policies, to a very large extent, determined the pace at which constitutional changes took place. The study aims to show that it was a combination of changes in British colonial policy and the force of a Governor's initiatives which accelerated the constitutional process, leading ultimately to the attainment of full political sovereignty.

The post independence period is then examined, focussing on the office of Governor-General. This is done for comparative reasons, to determine the extent of the similarity between the roles of the Governor and the Governor-General. This comparison is based on the premise that the office of Governor-General is one of the principal 'colonial hangovers' in the independence constitution. In order to make interesting comparison, the biographical details of the Governors and Governors-General whose administrations fall within the ambit of this study will be included. Thus the study has three dimensions, the constitutional, comparative, and the biographical.