

## ABSTRACT

### **The Politics of Crown Colony Government: Land, Labour and Politics in a Colonial State, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, 1883 to 1937.**

**Cleve Mc Donald Scott**

This study examines the nature and impact of Crown Colony government in St. Vincent and the Grenadines from 1883 to 1937. This study starts at 1883 - two years before the Colonial Office attempted to establish a union/confederation of Grenada, Tobago, St. Lucia and St. Vincent. The study ends at 1937, the year that the St. Vincent Workingmen's Cooperative Association (SVWCA) won electoral seats. The arrival of members of the SVWCA to the Legislative Council marked the end of one era and the beginning of the modern period of the island's political history.

The central thesis argued in this work is that the disenfranchised working class exhibited a matured political consciousness between 1883 and 1937, and that middle class blacks and coloureds assisted in nurturing this consciousness by providing quality leadership.

A wide variety of primary sources were used in this work. These were located in the Caribbean, Britain and the United States. And as the history of British Caribbean politics is intertwined with plantation economy and society, the study employs an interdisciplinary perspective. It applies historical analysis to political socialisation, political culture and political philosophy in this multi-island colonial state. In this regard, the discourse on Representative Government and the changes implemented consequent on demands for changes to this system are examined. These are analysed from the view of the various sections of society, such as women, the black masses, the black and coloured middle class, and the white elite.

The evidence reveals that constitutional advancement was the main political concern of the status quo during this period. Besides this, it was quite evident that government policy, more often than not, impacted negatively on the black masses disenfranchised under the limited political system.

This work expands the knowledge base of the variations in the political history of the anglophone Caribbean.

Keywords: Cleve Mc Donald Scott; political history; Crown Colony government; land and labour; colonialism; St. Vincent and the Grenadines; Windward Islands.