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ABSTRACT

DIASPORA AND TRANSNATIONALISM: THE CASE OF THE CHINESE IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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The mass movements of populations across continents and overseas that have given rise to an array of diaspora constitute a phenomenon that has taken place across historical time and throughout geographical space. In this research several of these diasporas are highlighted and some of their more characteristic features profiled.

The Chinese Diaspora, in particular, is analysed against the background of its historical evolution. The physical extent of the diaspora and its economic, political and social dimensions are sketched.

The focus of this thesis is on a transnational analysis of that portion of the Chinese Diaspora to be found in Trinidad and Tobago. Such a transnational perspective entails consideration of both state and non-state actors in the development of relations between states. In subjecting the relations between Trinidad and Tobago and the People's Republic of China to such a study, attention is paid to the arrival, settlement and establishment of the Chinese community in this island. The demographic traits of the Chinese population are also studied, while selected migrant interviews are included.

Evidence is taken from the political, economic and social spheres of interactions between the People's Republic of China and Trinidad and Tobago to demonstrate that the diaspora of Chinese in this country has contributed, in no small measure, to the development of relations between the two states.

Keywords: Winston Gregory O'Young; Diaspora; Transnationalism; Chinese Diaspora; Chinese in Trinidad and Tobago.