

ABSTRACT

Broadcasting in Barbados: from Colonial Times to Nationhood: Social Change and Continuity

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This dissertation uses a comparative approach to trace the historical development of broadcasting in Barbados from the 1930s until 1997.

The data collection phase of this project involved the analysis of primary and secondary documents as well as interviews of persons involved in the broadcast and cultural industries.

The data collected showed that broadcasting in Barbados developed along three paths: the early amateur short wave broadcasting, wire broadcasting and wireless broadcasting.

This study also shows that between the 1930s and 1997, broadcasting in Barbados underwent two main periods of change. These being the advent of the government- owned Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation in 1963 and the diversification of the industry in the 1980s.

The researcher noted that although the broadcast media in Barbados has been characterised by a high level of foreign content, it has made significant contributions to national development. However, its major handicap has been a lack of coherent policy that harnesses its power for national development.

Keywords: Broadcasting, Amateur radio; Radio Distribution; Barbados Rediffusion, Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation; Voice of Barbados; Frequency Modulation; Audiovisual Archives; and Social Change and continuity.