

ABSTRACT

Systemic Transition in Cuba and the Empowerment of New Elites: Consequences For the Commonwealth Caribbean

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Recent transformations in the global political economy – the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the collapse of European Communism and the breakdown of the Communist Trade bloc: COMECON – are causing tremendous change in Cuba's current political, economic and ideological systems.

This dissertation is premised on the hypothesis that as Cuba goes through systemic change, historic problems of race, class and ethnicity tend to recur. Key historic patterns include the strategic participation of blacks in the effort to achieve stable societal change, and the resulting splits this causes among Cuba's dominant Hispanic classes.

The central argument is that in the current processes of transition and succession, ongoing issues of race and class have the potential to cause chaos in Cuba, and ultimately affect the neighboring Commonwealth Caribbean. The future stability and prosperity of the entire region are linked – among other things - to Cuba's development, and the leadership of the Commonwealth Caribbean is therefore encouraged to adopt a proactive to policies aimed at the Cuban republic.

Keywords: Christopher Rew Brown; Systemic Change in Cuba; consequences for the Commonwealth Caribbean.