

ABSTRACT

THE IMPACT OF THE IMF, IBRD AND THE UN ON THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL SYSTEM OF A DEPENDENT STATE - THE CASE OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO 1962-1994

by

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One can observe a marked trend towards the global spread and acceptance of certain values and ideas. This phenomena is, in a sense, a movement towards increasing homogenization as diverse societies and their governments across the world adopt similar values, institutions, paradigms and policies. In recent years, for example, this has been manifest in the rapidly growing global acceptance of liberal democracy, trade liberalization, structural adjustment and stabilization. It can be argued that the trend towards homogenization can be observed from the very beginning of the Capitalist World System. Over recent decades this phenomena has apparently intensified.

A number of factors contribute to the homogenization of the international system , including the very nature of the Capitalist World System, colonialism and I.G.Os such as the U.N, IMF and the IBRD. Over the last two decades the IMF and the IBRD have had growing influence and are currently influencing societies in profound and previously unprecedented manners. The values and approaches being spread by the IMF and the Bank have not always brought ideal results to the every country that has adopted them although the overwhelming global acceptance of these ideas may suggest that these are

the most viable or only viable approaches. In this context it is essential that governments think critically and carefully select what is best for the particular needs of their countries.

Keywords: Emmanuel K. Baah; Political System; Trinidad and Tobago; United Nations International Monetary Fund; International Bank for Reconstruction and Development; Homogenization.