

## A B S T R A C T

On the 4th of July 1973, the Commonwealth Caribbean countries embarked upon a new venture into regional integration. Thirteen years have passed since that day and yet the region is filled with the same anxieties, torn apart by the same divisions and endures the same inequalities within its national boundaries and vis-a-vis the rest of the world. The experiments in regional intergration have been attempts by the leaders of these countries to change the pattern of impotence and passivity to one of meaningful sovereignty and positive development. They know that singly they cannot survive yet at every turn the long road has been filled with difficulties, frictions, misunderstandings and tensions so aptly described by Dr. Eric Williams at the Inauguration of the CARICOM Treaty. It is inevitable that questions would arise concerning these ventures into regional integration, the manner in which it is done and the behaviour of the framers.

The models of regional integration to date have offered variables such as small size, limited resources, the legacies of plantation economy, externally-oriented development and structural and functional dependence as the reasons for the inability of the Commonwealth Caribbean countries to obtain significant development. However, no theory of West Indian integration has offered an examination of the social-psychological factors which affect this development. This thesis explores the factor of personality and its impact on the direction that regional integration takes. Thus the centrality of the leaders in the decision-making process is crucial. Further, it evinces the fact that the type of personality exhibited by the leaders is also of crucial importance to the foreign policy-making process.

The argument is posited that Caribbean leadership has played an important role in limiting the success of the regional integration movement.

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