

ABSTRACT

THE DEVELOPMENT OF TERTIARY EDUCATION IN BARBADOS
1930-2000

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Within the context of the developing world, tertiary level education is seen as an important component in the human resource capability of these countries. This dissertation records the development of tertiary level institutions in Barbados, Codrington College before the Second World War, Erdiston Teachers' Training College, the Barbados Community College and the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill.

The dissertation takes a look at the period of the 1930s when radical movements within the Caribbean were agitating for change and where discussions surrounding Caribbean political unity were being gradually pursued. It was also a period when higher education was only accessible to the few and these had to attend universities in England and North America. Caribbean society was therefore totally dependent on British colonial civil servants to manage the local civil service and who pursued policies that were often inimical to the interest of the British West Indies.

The thesis seeks, therefore, to look at how higher education has been developed in Barbados, becoming more of a right based on merit than one influenced by social class or race. Secondly, it shows how the graduates from these higher-level institutions have filled the leadership void left by the former colonial technocrats. In analyzing the history and impact of these institutions on Barbadian society some of the major issues affecting higher education will be discussed.

It is hoped that this study demonstrates the wisdom of allocating considerable government expenditure on tertiary level education and education in general, as this approach has had a positive impact on the high standard of living experienced by Barbadians.

Keywords: Codrington College, Erdiston College, Barbados Community College, tertiary education.