

A B S T R A C T

In the second half of 1969, Guyana became a member of the Non-Aligned Movement and, in contrast to other states in the region, assumed an active and highly visible role in the Movement. Within a short time Guyana had risen to a position of prominence within the Group.

This paper sets out to analyze the reasons and motivations for Guyana's foreign policy over this period and focuses upon two areas. First, why was Guyana the only State in the Americas to become such an active member of the Non-Aligned Movement and second, how was Guyana able in such a short time to become a prominent member of a movement which was basically an Afro-Asian grouping.

The method employed is to examine these factors which may have influenced the country's decision-makers - territorial problems, ideological leanings of the leaders, internal political and economic considerations and international political and economic factors.

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This study of Guyana's relationship with the Non-Aligned Movement actually starts from 1966, the year in which the country became independent.

Though Guyana did not become a member of the Non-Aligned Movement until 1969, it is nevertheless necessary to examine the earlier period both because it provides an essential background to the country's foreign policy after 1969 and because from the very beginning of her independence, Guyanese leaders were advocating Non-Alignment as the most suitable foreign policy for that state.

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