

## ABSTRACT

The thesis, *The Political Economy of Barbados 1937-1946: 1966-1972*, begins with an introduction to the study in Chapter I. In this introduction, Barbados society is put in political perspective, while the aim of the thesis is outlined and the need for research of this nature indicated. A review of contributions to the discussion of political development in Barbados is featured, as well as a wider discussion on theory relating to the politics of development. Out of this discussion grows the theoretical framework which guides analysis in the thesis.

Chapter II seeks to identify the ruling class of Barbados, its nature and significance and its effect on Barbadian society in the late nineteen thirties. Chapter III deals with the economic condition of the underclasses in the society in the period of rebellion and Chapter IV analyses the political rebellion against plantocracy in 1937.

In Chapter V, discussion revolves around the development of the labour movement which had grown out of the 1937 upheavals, with particular interest centered on the struggles within the movement which determined the nature of the path of political development which the society was to pursue for the next thirty years. Chapter VI, examines the nature in which planter government was brought to an end and suggests some of the

consequences.

The final chapter of the thesis, Chapter VII, deals with political development between 1966-1972 and indeed to some extent to the time of writing. It makes the connection between the two periods of examination in the thesis, and analyses the nature and significance of the developments in the Post-Independence period, and goes on to suggest possible future development in the island.