

ABSTRACT

This study is primarily interested in examining the behaviour of small developing states in the post-independence era. To probe this behaviour two concepts would be operationalised : state sovereignty and the penetrated political system. A subsidiary purpose of the study, is to test the latter concept as an alternative to the Eastonian model of the political system. The actual case study focuses on the Trinidad political system.

The study, which is based on the assumption that values allocated in the economic sector are the crucial values for the system, commences with a general historical overview designed to trace the origins of the foreign economic presences in the society. To a lesser extent other external influences including the politics-constitutional and the socio-cultural are also outlined and analysed.

Subsequent to a chapter discussing the theory of penetration, and the development of hypotheses on the nature of a penetrated political system, the thesis then embarks upon a detailed study of interactions between major Foreign investment enterprises in Trinidad and their parent companies located in other countries. Major emphasis is upon interactions and relationships in the petroleum and sugar sectors. The implications of these interactions for values in Trinidad, allocated externally, or internally in cooperation with national actors, are analysed.

The concluding section appraises, firstly, in Chapter VIII, attempts by the state to achieve some measure of control over the economy. This chapter also recommends further alternatives towards an attainment of that end. The final chapter evaluates the impact of external economic penetrative processes for Foreign policy behaviour of the state.