

ABSTRACT

The Emergence of International Election Observation in the Commonwealth Caribbean: The Case of Guyana, 1964-2001

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All Commonwealth Caribbean countries, with the exception of The Bahamas and Barbados, have had international election observers. The infusion of election observation in the political landscape of the region has presented a range of trends and reactions; some more controversial than others. Some countries, such as Guyana, have had a more entrenched and controversial history with observation than others. Others have been more receptive of the practice in recent years. This dissertation examines the practice of international election observation in a Caribbean context. It presents a survey of the Anglo-Caribbean perspective with special focus on the case of Guyana between 1964 and 2001. The research traces the general history of election observation and explores how this practice became integrated into Caribbean electoral politics. More specifically, the study examines the process by which election observers have become key actors in elections in the English-speaking Caribbean with a special focus on Guyana as a case study. It also assesses the outcomes of an observer presence in subsequent Guyanese elections.

Keywords: Lisa Ann Vasciannie; election observation; Guyana; Caribbean Politics.