

ABSTRACT

PROSPECTS FOR A UNITED CARIBBEAN: A HISTORICO-POLITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE FUTURE OF THE CARIBBEAN INTEGRATION MOVEMENT

Peter Wilsden Wickham

This paper attempts to construct a path towards closer economic and political union among the anglophone Caribbean countries. A historical approach is used to identify major pitfalls of the past and to enlighten the future attempts. The thesis is heavily grounded in realism, notwithstanding the fact that one of its objectives is the identification of an ideal for the Caribbean region.

The approach is a multi faceted one, utilising various tools derived from Historical Economic and Political schools. Initially, Historical tools are used to explain the failure of the 1958 Federation and events leading up to the present status of CARICOM. This discussion and the inherent defects highlighted form the basis for the articulation of a new alternative, and path towards Caribbean union.

The historical examination suggest that the instantaneous approach to political integration is incorrect. This is largely because of political realities in the Caribbean islands. Therefore a gradual approach is proposed linking islands within sub-groups along an economic union, while the ideal of full political integration is deferred.