

ABSTRACT**CARICOM: A STUDY OF THE ATTITUDES OF PEOPLE IN JAMAICA AND TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TOWARD REGIONAL INTEGRATION****DONNA PATRICIA CHAMBERS**

The Caribbean integration movement (CARICOM) has recorded little success over the twenty-two (22) years of its existence. This fact is especially worrying in the context of a world which is becoming increasingly defined in terms of economic mega-blocs and in which small states, acting alone, can hardly expect to survive.

Previous analyses of the failure of CARICOM have focussed primarily on the role that economic and political variables have played in this scenario. As a result, prescriptions for the future of integration in the region have placed excessive emphasis on these twin variables.

In this thesis, the argument is made for a shift in focus, a re-thinking of Caribbean integration utilizing a socio-psychological construct - **identity**. Specifically, it has been argued that full recognition be given to the important role of regional identity to integration processes.

After defining the parameters of this "regional identity" and

justifying its importance to integration, an empirical determination of its existence through a study of the **attitudes** of people in Trinidad & Tobago and Jamaica (as microcosms of the wider CARICOM region) toward integration was undertaken. A link was established between attitudes and identity which made such an approach possible.

It was discovered that regional identity, as defined, did not exist among those interviewed. Prescriptions were then put forward for its creation and development through a utilization of socialization agencies, specifically educational and media institutions.