

THE ABSTRACT

Today, the political and economic situation in Jamaica as well as other Third World countries is approaching crisis levels. In order to develop a better understanding of the present situation, it is useful to add to the existing body of research, particularly during the period when our modern political History began. It was arising out of the activities of the masses at that time that the first umbrella type Trade Union and the first Political Party were created.

This work analyses the first six years of our modern political History - 1938 to 1944, using the People's National Party as a case study.

In examining the ideology and programmes of the PNP - given its multi-class nature, the character of its leadership and in particular, the role of the Leader as "Compromiser/Balancer" - the thesis posits that a Nationalist Movement with a Socialist orientation cannot survive in a Plural Democracy with its Socialist content intact.

In addition, given (the fact of) the nature of British Colonialism and its Westminster Model of Development which was exported "lock, stock and barrel" to the Colonies, it was clear from early that British attitudes, values and Institutions would be seen as the norm. This is particularly true of the Leaders of the brown, Middle Class who were schooled at the heart of Westminster and for whom British culture was the norm.

The Party's ideology was ill-defined and can be located within Fabian Socialist thought.

The thesis concludes that the multi-class nature of the PNP, while capable of bringing some 'modicum' of Independence for the Jamaican people cannot bring about fundamental change in the interest of the working class. The Movement itself would have to undergo fundamental change - in terms of its outlook, class character and type of leadership.