

CARIBBEAN HISTORY- CORE

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**THE UNITED STATES IN THE CARIBBEAN**

## **CSEC Caribbean History: A Glossary of Core terms, people and events of the Caribbean Past**

The CSEC Caribbean History syllabus consists of a Core of *ten topics* and *nine* Themes that cover the extent of Caribbean history from the arrival and settlement of the region by the indigenous people, to the formation and establishment of Independent Caribbean nation-states that arose from centuries of European colonisation and oppressive systems of labour.

The Core topics include the following:

- ❖ The Indigenous Peoples of the Americas
- ❖ The Europeans
- ❖ The Economic Revolution and the coming of enslaved Africans
- ❖ Slave Resistance
- ❖ Emancipation and Apprenticeship
- ❖ The coming of the Chinese, Europeans (Madeirans, Germans, French), Indians and Africans
- ❖ The Establishment of the Peasantry, 1838 to 1900
- ❖ The United States' influence in the Caribbean
- ❖ Popular Protests in the 1930s
- ❖ Movements towards Independence *and Regional Integration* up to 1985.

The Themes are arranged in Sections from **A to C** and include the following:

- ❖ Section A
  - The Indigenous People and the Coming of the Europeans
  - Caribbean Economy and Slavery
  - Resistance and Revolt
- ❖ Section B
  - Metropolitan Movements Towards Emancipation
  - Adjustments to Emancipation, 1838-1876
  - Caribbean Economy, 1875-1985
- ❖ Section C
  - United States in the Caribbean, 1776-1985

- Caribbean Political
- Caribbean Society 1900-1985

## **UNITED STATES IN THE CARIBBEAN – 1776-1958**

- Economic, political and ideological factors which influenced the United States' interest in the Caribbean up to 1962.
- *Reasons for* United States' intervention in the following territories: Cuba and Puerto Rico (1898); Panama (1904); Haiti (1915) and the Dominican Republic (1916) and Grenada (1983).
- The economic, political and cultural effects of United States' imperialism in the English speaking Caribbean up to 1985.
- United States reaction to Cuban Revolution 1959 - 1962.

### **KEY TERMS**

- **Agrarian Reform Law (1959) also known as the First Agrarian Reform Law** – a law instituted by Fidel Castro in Cuba. Land ownership was decreased to 1.000 acres. State land was given to cooperatives and individual farmers.
- **Annexation** – a policy to add additional territory whereby the new territory retains some internal autonomy, providing that there is no conflict with the state that annexed it.
- **Big Stick Policy** – US policy that used force to maintain law and order and protect their interests. Practiced during Roosevelt's administration.
- **Cacos** – an army of mercenaries that led to the assassination of three Haitian presidents between 1908 and 1915. During US 1915-1934 occupation they led a revolt after disgruntled peasants had to carry out road works. The revolt was crushed by the US and 3,000 persons were killed.
- **Caribbean Basin Initiative** – this Initiative became US law in August 1983 and facilitated trade, investments, and Aid to the Caribbean and Central American territories. USA's goal in following the CBI was to increase capitalism and reduce the chance of communism spreading in the Americas.
- **Caucus** – meeting of a group of politicians apart from their official meetings.
- **Castroism** – policies and ideologies instituted by Fidel Castro in Cuba from 1959. His policies followed both socialist and communist perspectives.

## **KEY TERMS**

- **Cold War** – the period of conflict between nations that held communist/socialist ideologies and those which held capitalist/democratic ideologies (1947-1991) The leading players were the USA and the then Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). These conflicts resulted in economic, diplomatic, and political actions against each other. Military war did not take place.
- **Communism** – political and social system that gives control to the government to ensure that resources are equitably distributed. It is based on the concept that there should be common ownership of the state's resources. Russia and Cuba are communists states.
- **Coup d'état** – sudden takeover of a government by a small group, usually by military means.
- **Customs Receivership** – the takeover of a country's customs duties when that country is in debt. This was used by the United States in the Dominican Republic and Haiti 1915 and 1934 respectively. A General Receiver of customs was appointed to assist in paying off foreign debt and economic improvements. This prevented European countries to whom they were indebted from intervening in the affairs of the Caribbean territories.
- **Dance of the Millions** – the term is used to describe the sharp rise and fall of sugar prices in Cuba as well as the purchase of large quantities of Cuban sugar in the period 1919-1920 by US businessmen. Following this, many Cubans sold their plantations to US investors.
- **Deculturation** – loss of aspects of a country's culture. In Caribbean countries where naval bases were established during World War II, various American styles of dressing and foods were adopted by locals.
- **Democracy** – “Government of the people for the people by the people” (Lincoln 1863). The democratic system gives the citizens the right to have direct or indirect say/participation in the affairs of the state.
- **Dictator/tyrant/dictatorship** – a person who has complete political control in a state. The citizens are expected to follow his/her policies. Rule by one individual over others.

## **KEY TERMS**

- **Dollar Diplomacy (1909-1913)** - policy instituted under President William Taft (1909-1913) whereby the US gave economic assistance often in the form of loans to Caribbean and Latin American territories. It was also done to reduce the influence of perceived socialist/communist influence in the region and was used in US relations with Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic.
- **Economic Depression** – prolonged period of slow economic activity usually accompanied by a large amount of unemployment and failed businesses. The Great Depression of the 1929 is an example of this.
- **Embargo** - economic sanctions that prevents trade and other commercial activity with another country. The US enforced a trade embargo against Cuba in 1962 following Castro's policies and alliance with the USSR.
- **Ethnocide** – the action where a country's culture is taken over by another country's culture, **OR** the deliberate destruction of the culture of an ethnic group by another group.
- **Good Neighbour Policy** – policy adopted by the United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933 in its relations with the Caribbean. Co-operation and trade were emphasised instead of military intervention, as well as the recognition of the sovereignty of countries in the Americas.
- **Gunboat Diplomacy** – a form of diplomacy in which a state uses military or naval power to force another state to comply with its own foreign policies. The term is applied to US foreign policy in the Americas during the first three decades of the 20th century.
- **Guerillas** – individuals involved in military-type activities against the state in an effort to overthrow the government. For example, Fidel Castro's revolutionary army operations from the Sierra Maestra mountains in 1958/1959 to overthrow Batista and American influence on the island.
- **Habeas Corpus** – the right to a trial before the courts.
- **Ideology** – a set of ideas or beliefs that people or countries have that often form the basis of their actions.

- **Imperialism** – policy of one country acquiring control directly or indirectly over another.

## **KEY TERMS**

- **26th July Movement** – name given to Fidel Castro and his followers who attacked the army in Cuba to secure arms to overthrow President Fulgencio Batista (26th July 1953). They engaged in guerilla type activities.
- **Latifunda** – large agricultural farms in Puerto Rico.
- **Martial Law** – is usually imposed by governments when there is instability in a country. The militia gets special powers to stop uprisings.
- **Manifest Destiny** – 19th Century expansionist policy of the United States based on the belief that the US was it is destined (by God) to expand its dominion over territories and spread the ideals of capitalism and democracy in the hemisphere. For example, the purchase of Louisiana in 1803 by President Jefferson and the thrust to purchase Cuba from Spain by President's Polk and Pierce. (1848 and 1854 respectively).
- **Monroe Doctrine** – a statement by US President James Monroe in 1823 discouraging European re-colonisation/intervention in the newly independent territories of the Americas. Monroe stated that any such act, would have been interpreted as an unfriendly act toward the US.
- **Nationalism** – a belief based on the principle that loyalty to the nation-state should be greater than devotion to individual or group interests. Devotion to one's country, a sense of national consciousness.
- **New Jewel Movement** – the Grenadian political organisation, led by Maurice Bishop and Bernard Coard. The NJM came into power following the overthrow of the government of Eric Gairy March 1979.
- **Organisation of American States (OAS)** – an organisation formed in 1889 comprised of nations in the Americas who cooperate in many spheres (human rights, development, political dialogue and defense/security). The US often exercised heavy influence over its members. For example, in 1962 the US was influential in the removal of Cuba from the OAS and encouraged other members to reduce relations with Cuba.

- **Olney Corollary** – dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela over the latter's boundary with British Guiana. In 1895, US Secretary Olney told the British to submit to arbitration on the issue.

## **KEY TERMS**

- **Operation Urgent Fury** - the name given to the US military operation to restore order in Grenada following the Grenada Revolution in 1983. The United States invaded Grenada on 25th October, 1983 following the takeover by Bernard Coard and others and the death of Maurice Bishop. The US also was wary of USSR influence on the island.
- **Ostend Manifest** – the aggressive proposal made in Ostend, Belgium by USA ministers to purchase Cuba from Spain in 1854 for up to \$120,000,000. However, the proposal was rejected by Spain.
- **Panama Canal** – a man-made canal in Panama constructed by USA between 1904-14. Ships can use the canal to go from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean. Protecting the Canal zone was very influential in USA's policy. The canal zone was leased to the US for 96 years.
- **Prohibition** – a United States law that banned the sale of alcohol between 1920-1933. During this time, American citizens often visited Cuba to purchase alcohol, gamble and engage in other activities. The presence of thousands of US tourists led to USA's culture being spread to Cuba.
- **Puppet Administration** – an administration whereby the government of one country is controlled by another country who exerts influence over it. Often the latter would have assisted in the rise to power of that administration.
- **Roosevelt Corollary** – President Roosevelt in 1904 following the principles of the Monroe doctrine of 1823, declared that the USA would intervene in the Caribbean and Latin America to preserve democracy and stop European colonization of the region. This policy was used in US intervention into the affairs of the Dominican Republic in 1905.
- **Socialism** – where the state controls the economy and distributes its resources. On 1st May 1962 Fidel Castro stated that Cuba was a socialist state.
- **U.S. Expansionism** – A US policy to increase its territory. President Jefferson's purchase of Louisiana (1803), Florida (1819) and interest in purchasing Cuba were examples of US expansionism.

## **KEY TERMS**

- **U.S.S.R /Soviet Union** – the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics formerly comprised nations in Eastern Europe for example Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Armenia. They followed communist policies after the 1917 Russian Revolution. This difference in ideology led to the Cold War between USSR and USA.
- **White Man's Burden** – assumed duty of whites to take care of the others in the world. This was taken from Rudyard Kipling's poem that he sent to Theodore Roosevelt in 1898 and influenced US foreign policy with the Caribbean.
- **Bilateral and Multilateral Treaty** – bilateral treaties are written agreements negotiated between a limited number of states (mainly two).  
Multilateral treaties are written agreements among three or more sovereign states establishing the rights and obligations among the parties involved.
- **Treaty of Versailles (1783)** – a Peace treaty adopted at the end of World War I. US President Woodrow Wilson played an important role in forming the treaty. The treaty started the League of Nations to promote peace and safety in the world.
- **Destroyer for Base Agreement/Deal** – a treaty signed between the US and Britain in September 1940 where the USA agreed to give Britain 50 naval destroyers. In exchange, the USA were allowed to set up military bases in the colonies in Antigua, Barbuda, Guyana, Jamaica, St Lucia and Trinidad.
- **Clayton-Bulwer Treaty (1850)** – an agreement between the US and Britain to not take control of Central America by either governments if either of them built a canal in Central America it would be under the control of both governments.
- **Teller Amendment (1898)** – the Teller Amendment of 1898 stated that the USA would not take possession of Cuba despite providing US military aid to Cuba in the Spanish-American War of 1898.
- **Treaty of Paris (1898)** – treaty between US and Spain following the Spanish-American War of 1898. The US became a world power acquiring Puerto Rico and Guam. They also obtained the Philippines from Spain for \$20,000.000. Cuba was taken away from Spain being given nominal independence.



## **KEY TERMS**

- **Foraker Act (1902)** – the 1902 Foraker Act, was introduced by US Senator Foraker. The Act made Puerto Rico a US territory with the right to have an internal civilian government. Plantations on the island could only be up to 200 hectares. However, large sugar estates continued to dominate the island's economy.
- **Platt Amendment 1901** – this was an amendment to Cuba's Constitution proposed by the US and adopted by Cuba's Constitution convention on 12th June, 1901. It gave US the right to open naval bases in Cuba, and to intervene in foreign policy and trade and it gave the US the right to intervene in Cuban affairs to protect their independence and stability.
- **Hay-Pauncefote Treaty 1901** – a treaty between the US and Britain that allowed the US to construct a canal in Central America providing that commercial and military ships will have access to the canal.
- **Hay-Herran Treaty 1903** – a proposal by the US ratified in the Senate in March 1903 to give the US the right to build and control a canal in Colombia for 100 years. The US in return would pay Colombia an initial \$10 million followed by an annual payment of \$250,000.00. The Colombian government rejected the treaty. The Panama Revolution followed in the same year and USA acquired the rights to the canal from Panama.
- **Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty 1903** – a treaty between the US and Panama that recognised Panama's independence. It gave the US the right to a 16 km wide canal zone. USA could build a canal, exempt from taxes and could bring in workers. Panama was to be given US\$10 million and US\$250,000 million annually. This was also known as Panama Canal Treaty 1903.
- **Treaty of Cession 1916** – sale of the Danish West Indies to the United States by Denmark on 16th August, 1916 for US\$25 million. These islands then became known as the US Virgin Islands which had strategic military importance to the USA and were to be used as a US naval base.
- **Hull-Alfaro Treaty 1936** – this treaty of March 1936 was ratified by US Senate in 1939. The US was required to give up total control of the Panama Canal area and

Panama would assist in protecting the Canal Zone. The annuity paid to Panama for the Canal was increased from \$250,000 annually to \$436,000.

## **KEY TERMS**

- **Charter of Bogotá 1948** – the Charter established the Organisation of American states. The organisation was formed to promote peace, economic, social and political collaboration. (This could be included with the information on the OAS).

## **KEY PERSONALITIES**

- **John Quincy Adams** – President of the United States from 1825-1829. He had a desire to take control of North, Central, South America and the Caribbean Islands following the Manifest Destiny.
- **Fulgencio Batista** – Cuban President from 1940-1944. Realising that he had no chance of being elected as president in the 1950's, he launched a successful coup d'état, which allowed him to serve as president from 1952-1959. He formed an alliance with the USA. He was known as a dictator.
- **Maurice Bishop** – leader of New Jewel Movement (NJM) in Grenada. He commanded a coup that took over Grenada's government in March 1979. He was taken into house arrest and killed by Deputy Prime Minister Coard in October 1983.
- **Eugenia Charles** – Prime Minister of Dominica (1980-1995). As a Member of the Organisation of the Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Dominica under her leadership welcomed USA's assistance in Grenada following Maurice Bishop's capture.
- **Bernard Coard** – member of New Jewel Movement in Grenada. He became the Deputy Prime Minister when they overthrew the government in March 1979. He took over the government on 13th October 1983 from Maurice Bishop, placing him under house arrest where he was later killed. Coard was defeated by US military Operation Urgent Fury that started on 25th October 1983.
- **Jean Pierre Boyer** – ruler of northern Haiti from 1818. He controlled the entire state of Haiti from 1820. He reigned until 1843 when he was overthrown.

- **James Buchanan** – fifteenth President of the United States. He served from 1857-1861.
- **Henry Bulwer** – British ambassador to the USA who negotiated the Clayton – Bulwer (1850) treaty whereby USA and Britain agreed not to exclusively control a canal in Central America.

## **KEY PERSONALITIES**

- **Phillipe Bunau-Varilla** – French engineer who had major ownership of French Canal Company. He sold his interest in the canal company to the USA for \$40 million. He became an intermediary between Panamanian revolutionary forces and the USA in their bid to acquire canal rights. He worked with US Secretary of State John Hay in 1903 to draft the Panama Canal Treaty. He became chief minister when Panama achieved independence from Columbia.
- **Raul Castro** – brother of Cuban leader, Fidel Castro. Raul was part of the revolutionary army that took over Cuba in 1959 and formed part of Castro's government. He later served two terms as president of Cuba in 2008 and 2013 respectively.
- **Fidel Castro** – became Cuba's ruler following a revolution in 1959. He instituted his version of communist policies known as Castroism. His policies led to disagreements with the USA and allegiance to the USSR, Venezuela and other communist/socialist countries.
- **John Clayton** – The American Secretary of State who signed the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty with the British representative Henry Bulwer in 1850.
- **Carlos Manuel de Céspedes** – President of Cuba (August-September 1933) when he was overthrown by Fulgencio Batista in 193.
- **Eric Gairy** – first Prime Minister of Grenada (1974-1979), under the Grenada United Labour Party (GULP). He used his 'Mongoose gang to quell his opponents. He was ousted in 1979 by Maurice Bishop and the New Jewel Movement.
- **Ernesto 'Ché' Guevara** – Argentine physician and high ranking member of Fidel Castro's revolutionary army and government.
- **Ulises Heureaux** – President of Dominican Republic from 1882-1884 and 1887 until his assassination on 26th July 1899.

- **John F. Kennedy** – President of the United States (1961-1963) during the Bay of Pigs and the Cuban Missile Crisis. He was assassinated in November 1963.
- **Nikita Khrushchev** – Premier of USSR during the Cuban Missile Crisis of October 1962.

## **KEY PERSONALITIES**

- **Cheddi Jagan** – leader of the communist leading Peoples Progressive Party. He was elected President of Guyana in April 1953. Britain, encouraged by the US suspended the constitution in October 1963. The US organised activities to destabilise the Jagan government with strikes and riots in 1963.
- **William Mc Kinley** – US President 1897-1901. He led the US during the Spanish/American War of 1898.
- **Gerardo Machado** – President of Cuba from 1925 to 1933. He called for the removal of the Platt Amendment. It was not until he left office that the Platt Amendment was discontinued.
- **José Martí** – Cuban hero that was a writer, nationalist and revolutionary leader. He started the Cuban Revolutionary Party in 1892. He assisted in planning Cuba's independence and sought US assistance in 1895.
- **Mario Menocal** – President of Cuba from 1913-1921. He maintained favorable relationships with the US and who supported his administration in stopping the Liberal Revolt of 1917 which occurred because of presidential election irregularities in November.
- **James Monroe** – President of the US during the period 1817-1825. His famous statement was the Monroe Doctrine of 1823 which was the basis for his and successive President's foreign policies.
- **John O'Sullivan** – American journalist who coined the term Manifest Destiny in 1845.
- **Tomas Estrada Palma** – first President of Cuba. He became president on 24th February 1902. His presidency was supported by the the US government.

- **Franklin Pierce** – President of the US from 1853-1857. He attempted to purchase Cuba from Spain during his administration.
- **James Polk** – President of the US who unsuccessfully attempted to buy Cuba from Spain for one hundred million dollars in 1848. He also supported the Monroe Doctrine by giving the Polk Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine which prevented European expansion into the Americas.
- **Ronald Reagan** – US president from 1981 until 1989. He sanctioned Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada in 1983.

### **KEY PERSONALITIES**

- **Franklin D. Roosevelt** – President from 1933-1945. Implemented the Good Neighbour Policy. American protectorate over the Dominican Republic was removed in 1941. American troops left Haiti in 1934.
- **Theodore Roosevelt** – United States President from 1901-1909. In 1904 he gave his famous Roosevelt Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine where he stated that the USA will intervene in the Americas where there were instances of 'chronic wrongdoing'.
- **Guillaume Sam** – President of Haiti following a coup on 24th February 1915. He was overthrown in July 1915. The Roosevelt Corollary then was used by President Wilson due to the political instability in Haiti. The US then intervened with troops and occupied Haiti from 1915-1934.
- **Pierre Soulé** – US Minister to Spain in 1853. In Ostend, he and other US ministers drafted the Ostend Manifesto to purchase Cuba from Spain.
- **William Taft** – President of the US from 1909 to 1913. He was responsible for the foreign policy of Dollar Diplomacy enacted by the US.
- **Raphael Trujillo** – General Trujillo was President of Dominican Republic from 1930 to 1930 and from 1942 to 1961. He was a dictator who continued to make major decisions within the government until his assassination in 1961. His policies brought US condemnation. The Organisation of American States placed economic and diplomatic sanctions against the Dominican Republic in August 1960, after Trujillo's attempted assassination of Venezuelan President. He was assassinated in May 1961.

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### **Contributors:**

Meera Moniquette

Sherril-Anne Richardson-Hart

Anna-Rose Madray-Mitchell