

CARIBBEAN HISTORY- CORE

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

POPULAR PROTESTS IN THE 1930s

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

POPULAR PROTESTS IN THE 1930s

- The economic, political and social factors which created the protests of the 1930s in the Caribbean.
- *The role of outstanding male and female protest leaders.*
- Consequences of the protests - the Moyne Commission, the development of trade unions and political parties; the emergence of male and female personalities.

KEY TERMS

- **Crown Colony Government** – a system of colonial government by which England governed a colony directly through a governor assisted by a *legislative council*. Free citizens didn't have the right to elect government representatives.
- **Hansen's disease/leprosy** – a nerve disease, also called *leprosy*, that causes skin lesions and sometimes deformity, and which surfaced in the Bahamas around 1905. Victims of this disease were isolated from the rest of society due to its contagious nature. One such isolation facility – a leprosarium – was located on the island of Chacachacare off Trinidad's western peninsula.
- **Legislative Council** – the law-making body presided over by the governor in the crown colony system of government. It consisted of 'official' members – the colony's top civil servants – and 'unofficial' members – leading citizens of society such as merchants and professionals who were chosen directly by the governor. Pure crown colony government was where the entire membership of the council was nominated and elected by the governor, while partial crown colony government emerged when England began allowing a proportion of the unofficial members to be elected by popular vote.
- **Mico Charity** – a £1,000 will. The money was invested in 1690, left by Lady Jane Mico in England in 1666 for her nephew, Samuel, on condition that he marry one of his cousins. If he chose not to marry, then the money was to be used to ransom captured English Christians enslaved in North Africa. It turned out that Samuel didn't marry any of his cousins, and the enslaved Christians were eventually freed. The money was invested in 1690, and by 1834 had grown to £120,000, and British abolitionists, led by Thomas Fowell Buxton, persuaded the British government to devote part of it to funding schools and teacher training colleges for the education of the black masses in the British West Indies after emancipation.

KEY TERMS

- **Moyne Commission Report** – the report of The Royal West India Commission sent out by Britain in 1938 to the British West Indies to investigate the causes of the widespread social unrest and numerous protests throughout the region in the 1930s. The report was written in 1938 but was only published in 1945. This commission was headed by Lord Moyne, hence the name Moyne Commission.
- **Negro Education Grant** – an annual subsidy of at first £25,000 (1835 & 1836), then £30,000 made by the British government between 1835 and 1845 to build schools and pay teachers in the British West Indies. After 1841 the amount was gradually reduced.
- **Adult suffrage** – the right of all adult citizens to vote. This was introduced in most of the English-speaking Caribbean between 1944 and 1951.
- **Aristocracy** – the upper social class in the Caribbean, especially within influential and powerful French or English families, who held political and economic power.
- **Bound yards** – crude barrack ranges built to accommodate the Indian indentured labourers on the plantations in Trinidad & Guyana, so called because the indentured workers were ‘bound’ by their contract.
- **Cholera** – an infectious disease that causes diarrhoea, dehydration and even death caused by the consumption of unclean and contaminated water. In the unhygienic post-emancipation living conditions of the majority of the British West Indian black population, contaminated water was common, and there were cholera outbreaks in several colonies between 1850 and 1856, resulting in thousands of deaths.
- **Class stratification** – the separation of a society into different layers or tiers based on criteria such as race, skin colour, religion, and economic and political power. Each tier, depending on its status, either enjoyed or had little or no access to privileges, benefits and rights. West Indian society was originally stratified on the basis of race and colour. After emancipation additional criteria were introduced to distinguish between social classes.
- **Communicable diseases** – diseases that are easily transmitted from person to person, such as tuberculosis, Hansen’s disease, or ringworm, which were easily spread in the cramped living conditions of the black masses in West Indian cities and towns.
- **Emigration** – movement of large number of people out of an area or region in order to resettle elsewhere. There was significant emigration from the rural areas to the cities and towns in the British Caribbean colonies, which worsened living conditions and unemployment there.

KEY TERMS

- **Hookworm** – a parasite that affects a person's lungs, skin and intestines. It is contracted through coming into contact with hookworm larvae found in dirt contaminated with faeces, which was prevalent in the unsanitary living conditions in post-emancipation black West Indian communities.
- **Illegitimate children** – children born to parents out of wedlock, that is, not married to each other. This was common among the black poor in West Indian society. Social and economic conditions made formal marriage quite impractical for many. Interestingly though, once the father acknowledged and took responsibility for the child/children, they weren't generally considered illegitimate by the working class, even though the parents were unmarried, or even lived apart from each other. In the eyes of the law, and in the view of most whites though, they were still illegitimate.
- **Infant mortality** – the number of deaths of children within the 1st year of their life out of every 1,000 live births in a country or region. This statistic can give some indication of the level and effectiveness of health care in a country. This figure was high in the British Caribbean in the post-emancipation era.
- **Intelligentsia** – the emergent class of black and coloured intellectuals, writers and artistes in post-emancipation Caribbean society who influenced life both at home and particularly abroad.
- **Pauper** – the term used to categorise individuals in post-emancipation British Caribbean society who had no means of subsistence. A pauper qualified for free medical attention.
- **Slums** – overcrowded neighbourhoods that sprung up without any planning in and around the major urban centres of the English-speaking Caribbean colonies as more and more poor and unemployed masses came in search of employment.
- **Social mobility** – the movement from one social class to another (usually from low to middle) often through education and improved employment opportunities. This accounted for the black middle class in Caribbean society.
- **Tuberculosis** – one of several communicable diseases that plagued post-emancipation West Indian society. An infectious disease affecting the lungs, its spread was made easier by the overcrowded, unsanitary conditions in which the masses lived.
- **Typhoid** – another bacterial infection that afflicted the poor masses of the West Indian colonies after 1834. Like several others, the living conditions that were the norm in and around the cities and towns facilitated its spread.

KEY TERMS

- **Venereal disease** – any one of several diseases, e.g. syphilis, that are transmitted from one person to another by sexual contact and intercourse. Like tuberculosis and typhoid, its spread was made easier by the living conditions that obtained in many urban West Indian working class communities.
- **Yaws** – another infectious skin disease common in the squalid living conditions in post-emancipation West Indian communities. In the absence of adequate medical attention, this, along with diseases like tuberculosis, typhoid, venereal diseases, cholera, malaria, yellow fever and hookworm often proved fatal.

KEY PERSONS – TRINIDAD

- **Tubal Uriah 'Buzz' Butler** – a fiery, charismatic labour leader who emerged during the 1935 Apex oil workers' strike. Butler was born in Grenada and came to Trinidad in 1921 in search of employment. He is best known perhaps for his leadership of the massive oil workers' strike in June 1937, during which two police officers were killed, one – Corporal Charles 'Charlie' King – being burnt to death by Butler supporters as he attempted to arrest Butler. After this incident Butler went into hiding as a warrant was issued for his arrest. He later however turned himself in, was found guilty of inciting a riot, and sentenced to two years' imprisonment. Soon after his release in 1939, World War II broke out, and the British government re-arrested him on the grounds that he posed a security risk. He spent six years detained on Nelson Island, only being released in 1945 after the war had ended. After the war Butler got involved in politics and formed the British Empire Workers & Citizens Home Rule Party (BEW&CHRP).
- **Andrew A. Cipriani** – he was a descendant of a white French family in Trinidad who served as a soldier in the British West India regiment (BWI) during World War I. The open discrimination and racism he and other BWI soldiers faced while stationed at Taranto, Italy, together with his exposure to new ideas and socialist influences while abroad forged Cipriani on his return to Trinidad into a tireless advocate for workers' rights and political reform in the colony, the champion of 'the barefoot man.' He especially pressed for representative government. He revived the Trinidad Workingmen's Association (TWA) joining in 1919 and being elected president in 1923. He was elected to the Port of Spain City Council, and largely through his continuous agitation, Trinidad was granted limited franchise in 1924. He was elected to the Legislative Council in the island's first elections in 1924, and never lost his seat. He also served as Mayor of Port of Spain. Later on in 1934 he created the Trinidad Labour Party (TLP) but as the 30s progressed his influence as a labour leader was overshadowed by leaders like Butler and Rienzi.

KEY PERSONS – TRINIDAD

- **Albert Gomes** – a member of Trinidad’s middle class, he was one of a group of “Trinidad’s angry young men of the Thirties” who led a cultural awakening through the publication of poems, stories and articles via the magazine *The Beacon*, which was financed and edited by him. He returned from the USA in 1930 and worked alongside intellectuals and writers like Alfred Mendes and CLR James. He was also very active in the trade union movement and played a leadership role after 1938 in the T&T Union of Shop Assistants and Clerks, as well as the Federated Workers Trade Union (FWTU). In 1941 he was appointed to a local committee to chart a way forward toward full representative government in Trinidad & Tobago. Universal adult suffrage was granted in 1945, and the first national election with it was held in 1946. Gomes won his seat as a United Front (UF) candidate, and remained the most influential political figure until 1956.
- **Albertina Husbands** – one of several women who played a significant role in the protests of the 1930s.
- **Alfred Richards** – an Afro-Chinese Port of Spain druggist who became president of a revived TWA in 1906, an organisation it is believed he founded back in 1894. He opposed the practice of a wholly nominated Port of Spain town council, and agitated for both a representative town council and legislative council. Under his leadership the TWA frequently petitioned the Secretary of State in London on issues such as an elected borough council, the termination of Indian indentureship, and the wages and working conditions of railway workers. He also forged a close relationship with the British Labour Party in England.
- **Adrian Cola Rienzi** – born Krishna Deonarine, he changed his name in 1927 to reflect two of the influential figures on his development as a labour leader and social activist – Adrian Clarke, a British magistrate, and Cola di Rienzi, a medieval-age Italian activist and nationalist. He qualified as a lawyer and became an ardent supporter of Cipriani until 1936 when he separated from him to focus his energies on assisting the workers on the island’s sugar estates. He also worked very closely with Butler in championing workers’ rights, taking over leadership of the protest movement when Butler went into hiding after June 19, 1937. He served as first ever president of the sugar workers’ union, the All Trinidad Sugar Estate & Factory Workers Trade Union (ATSEFWTU), first ever president of the oil workers’ union, Oilfield Workers Trade Union (OWTU), as well as the first president of the Trinidad & Tobago Trade Union Council (TUC). He also served as a member on the Legislative Council, the Mayor of San Fernando, and the San Fernando Borough Council.

KEY PERSONS – TRINIDAD

- **Elma François** – born in St. Vincent, she was one of several women who played leading roles in the protests of the 1930s. She was a vibrant member of Cipriani's TWA, but left in 1934 to found the National Unemployed Movement (NUM) with Jim Headley and Dudley Mahon, then later that same year co-founded the Negro Welfare, Cultural & Social Association (NWA) alongside Jim Barrat, Clement Payne, Christina King and Rupert Gittens, which galvanised workers and unemployed alike in Port of Spain. She was a fiery and inspirational orator, and was arrested on several occasions. In 1938 she was charged with sedition, represented herself in the court trial, and was found not guilty by the jury.
- **Daisy Crick** – one of several women participating in the social unrest and protests in Trinidad during the 1930s. She was also the first female executive member of the Oilfield Workers Trade Union.
- **Charlie King** – the police officer who was doused with oil and set on fire at an oil workers protest meeting in Fyzabad on June 19, 1937, as he attempted to arrest Buzz Butler while he was addressing the crowd.

KEY PERSONS – JAMAICA

- **Augustus Bain Alves** – one of the most outstanding trade unionists of his era, he was founder and president of the Longshoremen's Union #1 of the Jamaica Federation of Labour in 1919. He had also petitioned the governor in 1918 for official recognition of labour unions in Jamaica.
- **Agnes Bernard** – she was one of several women who played a significant role in the protests of the 1930s.
- **Allan Coombs** – president of the Jamaica Workers and Tradesmen's Union, established in 1936. He was a former policeman and soldier, and described himself as "a peasant of low birth, very limited education and a very poor man."
- **Edna Manley** – born in England to a Jamaican mother and English father. She studied art and became quite proficient at sculpting. She met Norman Manley while he was in England. They got married in 1921 and returned to Jamaica in 1922 where she began producing work in different media – wood, clay, stone and bronze casting. Her work was recognised and exhibited internationally. In 1950 she co-founded the Jamaica School of Art.

KEY PERSONS – JAMAICA

- **Alexander Bustamante** – the first prime minister of Jamaica (1962 – 1967), he has the distinction of sharing the honour of co-founder of Jamaica's independence with his cousin, Norman Manley. He was the founder in 1938 of the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union, a big and powerful trade union that represented estate labourers, clerks, dockworkers and factory workers. He also established the Jamaica Labour Party in 1943. He was of mixed descent, his father being an Irish planter and his mother of mixed race. His extensive travels during the first 3 decades of the 1900s to places like Panama, Cuba and the USA – where he allegedly made substantial revenue speculating on the stock market – gave him an enlightened world view, and on his return to Jamaica in the mid-thirties he became involved in trade unionism. His influence grew rapidly and he became the voice agitating for the downtrodden. He was twice detained by the authorities, in 1938 and again in 1940, and was seen as a trouble-maker by the authorities. He was released in 1943 largely through the efforts of Norman Manley, with whom he immediately broke ranks, forming the JLP. He won the 1944 election, becoming Jamaica's first chief minister. He also simultaneously served as Mayor of Kingston from 1847. He was also aggressively anti-federation, opposing and attacking Jamaica's membership in the West Indies Federation.
- **Marcus Garvey** – a charismatic and dynamic leader who was a significant contributor to the wave of West Indian nationalism that swept through the region in the 1920s and 1930s. He was a staunch advocate of social reform and African consciousness and pride, and in 1914, after his return from two years in England, launched the United Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) in Jamaica. This grew into an international organisation, with chapters in the Caribbean and in several parts of the USA. He travelled to the USA in 1916 where he travelled throughout the country speaking to large African-American audiences, establishing as many as 700 UNIA branches in 38 states. He started the newspaper *Negro World* in 1918, and established the Black Cross Navigation & Trading Company in 1919 to ship goods among the African diaspora and ship African-Americans back to Africa. In 1925 he was charged with fraud, found guilty, and imprisoned. His sentence was commuted and he was released and deported to Jamaica in 1927. Back at home, he launched his political party, the People's Political Party, in 1929. He was unsuccessful in elections. In 1935 he returned to London, England, where he died in 1940.

KEY PERSONS – JAMAICA

- **Gladys Longbridge** – she started working for Bustamante as his secretary in his private business enterprise. She continued working for him as secretary as he moved into trade unionism and politics, becoming a trustee of the BITU in 1938 and later on treasurer, and remaining his secretary until he became prime minister. She also was heavily involved in the trade union work, as well as social work, particularly among port workers, sugar estate workers and destitute families. In 1962 she married Bustamante.
- **Norman Manley** - honoured alongside his cousin, Alexander Bustamante, as one of the fathers of Jamaican independence. He studied law at Oxford University in England, and became involved in trade unionism, working along and supporting Bustamante, donating his time and advocacy to the cause of the working class; he also got heavily involved in politics, launching the People's National Party (PNP) in 1938. He formed the Trade Union Advisory Council in 1939. He was a strong advocate for universal adult suffrage, but lost the first such national election to his cousin Bustamante in 1944. He won the 1955 election, and strongly supported the idea of a West Indian federation. Unrelenting opposition to Jamaica's membership in the federation from Bustamante though prompted him to put the issue to a referendum, which he lost, and was forced to withdraw Jamaica. He led the delegation that negotiated Jamaica's independence from Britain, but lost the ensuing national election, leaving the way clear for Bustamante's JLP to win, and for Bustamante to become Jamaica's first prime minister.

KEY PERSONS – GUYANA

- **Hubert Critchlow** – a dockworker who had called several strikes within the first decade of the 20th century, and who established the British Guiana Labour Union in 1919.

KEY PERSONS - GRENADA

- **Theophilus Albert Marryshow** – born ‘Maricheau,’ he adopted the anglicised form ‘Marryshow’ as his surname perhaps in his teenage years. He was exposed as a young man to the then radical ideas of representative government and federation as he worked in the printery of WG Donavon, who recognised his intellect and quickly became his mentor. By 1916 he had established his own newspaper, *The West Indian*, and in either 1917 or 1918 set up the Representative Government Association to advocate for an end to the crown colony system. When elected members were admitted into government, he won the right to represent St. George’s, a seat he won throughout his political life. He was a staunch supporter of the West Indies Federation, and participated in several efforts to promote it at home and in the region. He was nominated to represent Grenada in the upper house of the federal government, but was only able to serve up to 1958, the year of his death in office.

KEY PERSONS – BARBADOS

- **Grantley Adams** – described as a West Indian statesman, Grantley Adams won a Barbados scholarship in 1918 and left for Oxford University where he studied law. On his return to Barbados he became an advocate for social, economic and political change and improvement, and co-founded the island’s first trade union, the Barbados Progressive League, in 1938, which became the Barbados Labour Party, with Adams as first political leader. In 1941, coming out of the League, he formed the Barbados Workers’ Union, which became a very large and powerful union, with a membership of over 11,000 by 1947. In 1951 he secured the introduction of universal adult suffrage and the BLP won the election in 1954, the first with full ministerial government for Barbados, with Adams becoming Barbados’ first premier. A firm believer in federation, he then left internal Barbados politics to head the West Indies Federal Labour Party (WIFLP) in the federal election of 1958. His party won, and Adams became the first and only Prime Minister of the short-lived West Indian Federation.
- **Clement Payne** – born in Trinidad to Barbadian parents, he was active in both Trinidad and Barbados. In late 1934 he co-founded the NWA in Trinidad along with leaders like Elma Francois, Jim Barrat and Rupert Gittens. He returned to Barbados where he began holding meetings with increasingly large crowds and made plans to launch a trade union. He was arrested on a charge of issuing a false declaration when he claimed to have been born in Barbados. He led a march to see the governor next day and was arrested again and put in custody. He successfully appealed, represented by Grantley Adams, but was secretly deported to Trinidad the night prior to the announcement. There was widespread rioting in Bridgetown the next day.

KEY PERSONS – BARBADOS

- **Lord Moyne** – the British government set up the Royal West India commission of enquiry in 1937 to investigate the social and economic conditions in several British West Indian colonies after serious and widespread riots and protests there. The commission was chaired by Lord Moyne, and came to be known as the Moyne Commission.
- **Sir Walter Citrine** – the General Secretary of the Trades Union Congress (TUC) in England who sat as a member on the Moyne Commission. While in Trinidad as a commissioner he actively advised the labour union movement and strongly recommended the establishment of a trade union congress. His input was very instrumental in preventing or reducing inter-union conflict here.
- **J.D. Tyson** – an emissary of the Indian government to Trinidad, he advocated the “re-indianisation” of Indian indentured labourers and their offspring to prevent complete absorption into westernised Trinidad society. His formula was that the Indian should “become a Trinidadian in outlook” even as he sort to retain his Indian identity.
- **Major Orde-Brown** – the labour advisor to the British Secretary of State. He was sent to the Caribbean in 1939 to investigate labour conditions here. His report of May of that year recommended the encouragement and guidance of the labour movement as well as the establishment of a labour department in the colonial government to oversee the union movement and provide the function of conciliator as required.

KEY LAWS

- **Trade and Labour Unions (Prohibition) Ordinance 1916** – a law passed by the legislature in St. Kitts that made it an offence for anyone to attempt to form a trade union. The offence carried a fine of £50 or 6 months imprisonment, and this was to remain in force until the end of World War I. The authorities feared unions would cause strikes and riots at a time when security was a high priority.
- **Colonial Development and Welfare Act 1940** – following up on a recommendation of the Moyne Commission Report, the British government in 1940 passed this act specifically to promote development and welfare in the British Caribbean colonies by pumping significant money into a new development and welfare organisation. The annual amount was £5 million per year for the entire region for 10 years. In 1945 this period was extended to 1956.

EVENTS/DATES

- **1914-1918** – World War I
- **1919** – Strikes in Trinidad
- **1934** – riots in Belize, Trinidad and St. Vincent
- **1935** – riots in St. Kitts, St. Lucia and Guyana
- **1937** – riots in Trinidad, Barbados and St. Lucia
- **1938** – riots in Guyana and Jamaica
- **1938** – Forster Commission was sent to Trinidad
- **1938-39** – Moyne Commission was sent to the British West Indies
- **1940** – riots in Jamaica

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