

The Negative and Positive Effects of Industries based on Natural Resources

Negative Effects

1. Much of the huge profits that were made from the Bauxite industry in particular went back to Canada and the United States. It is not until the era and reign of Michael Manley (Prime Minister of Jamaica 1972-1980) that Jamaica received what could be termed a 'fair' offer for her bauxite.



Michael Manley

2. Children of expatriates from these companies secured places in the islands' best schools.
3. Racism and prejudiced raised their ugly heads in the tourism industry. Americans visiting Barbados in the 1960's made it clear that they would NOT sit in a restaurant where blacks were present!
4. In order to attract and secure returning clients the hotels and other places of services only used brown skinned or white females for front office operations.
5. Managerial posts were offered to expatriates first. Technical expertise and advice of locals were not considered or asked for.
6. Much of the jobs in this industry were for men. The women were at a distinct advantage. They were seen as unsuitable for the kind of work that was required.
7. Work in the tourism industry is mainly seasonal. For example, a driver could be effectively employed during the 'tourist' season transporting tourists all over the island but during the off season finds that he cannot make enough to put food on his table.

Positive Effects

1. An influx of foreign exchange helped to boost the economy
2. Jobs were provided for many. In addition there were spin offs in other industries. For example there was an increase in the demand by hotels for vegetables and other food items and services.
3. There was a corresponding increase in the number of persons employed in the construction, transportation and catering services.
4. The Americans who invested heavily in the oilfields of Trinidad also invested heavily in Carnival and the steel pan (band). The latter was literally started by oilfield workers.



A Carnival performer

5. The government in the respective countries did their best to upgrade the infrastructure in their islands. They promoted cleaner beaches, the construction of shopping centres, craft markets and so on.