

# INTELLECTUAL TRADITIONS

An ideology refers to the ideas and manner of thinking of a group, social class or individual.

It also refers to a system of ideas or ideals, especially one that forms the basis of economic or political policy.

# INTELLECTUAL TRADITIONS INFLUENCING THE CARIBBEAN

Pan Africanism

Negritude

Industrialization by Invitation

Marxism and neo-Marxism (Dependency Theory)

Feminism

Indo-Caribbean thought

Indigenous perspectives



# PAN AFRICANISM

MARCUS GARVEY

- Pan Africanism is a socio-political worldview, philosophy and movement which seeks to unify native Africans and those of African heritage in the diaspora into the 'global African community'.
- It calls for a politically and economically united Africa or unity of African people. It also seeks to educate Africans about their glorious history, common struggles as well as to advocate for equal rights for all.
- Though it did not originate with Marcus Garvey, he is remembered as its main proponent and his brand of Pan Africanism became known as Garveyism.
- Several other popular movements including Rastafarianism were heavily influenced by Marcus Garvey's teachings.

# SOME KEY FIGURES OF THE PAN-AFRICAN MOVEMENT

W.E.B. Du Bois

Sylvester Williams

Claude McKay

George Padmore

Kwame Nkrumah

Kwame Ture

Booker T- Washington

CLR James

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Pan-Africanism>

# THE NEGRITUDE MOVEMENT

- This movement involved the French colonies of Africa and the Caribbean which called on all people of African origin to celebrate their blackness.
- Started by intellectuals in Paris who were opposed to a new French policy of total assimilation of all colonies.
- Its main proponents included Martinican, Aime Cesaire, Leon-Gontran Damas (French Guiana) and Leopold Senghor who was president of Senegal from 1960 to 1980.
- Much disparity in views persisted in how and by what means liberation should come about. However there exists a plethora of **writings in philosophy, politics, history and art** that celebrates this popular movement.

# IMPACTS ON DEVELOPMENT

- Both Pan Africanism and Negritude influenced Caribbean Development by stimulating Caribbean leaders to form key institutions in the post-war era. These included **political parties, trade unions and health centres.**
- Cultural development was seen in the form of **publications, performing companies, libraries and museums.**
- Pan-Africanism's greatest impact however was seen in the strong workers' movements of the 1930s and 1940s.



# RASTAFARIANISM

(SEE “RASTA” DOCUMENT ON WEBSITE)

- A religion centred on the belief in the divinity of Haile Selassie of Ethiopia
- Its founder Leonard Howell was an ardent supporter of Grady's philosophies. On the coronation of Haile Selassie in 1930, he developed the religion.
- It is an Afrocentric religion that espouses some Judeo-Christian values
- True proponents of the religion wear their hair in dreadlocks (Nazarite vow), refrain from meat (deadens) and smoke marijuana during religious rituals (holy weed).
- Some live in self-sufficient communities apart from the influence of modern society (Babylon). Its most famous disciple was Robert Nesta Marley.
- The three main sects are 12 Tribes, Nyabingi and Bobo Shanti

# EFFECTS OF RASTAFARIANISM ON DEVELOPMENT

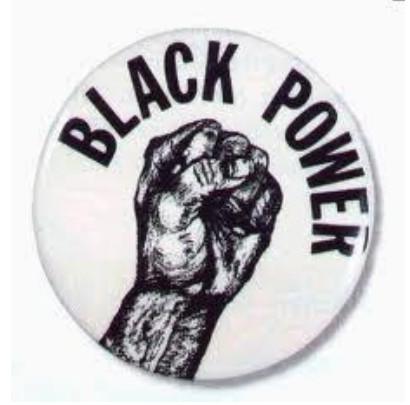
Rastafarian culture, symbolism and universal values of love, peace and social justice influence many in the social and political milieu of the Caribbean experience.

Additionally, lifestyle habits include diet and communal living were adopted by several people all over the world from North America to Europe, Africa and as far as Japan where Rasta festivals are held highlighting this specific culture.

The Rasta brand made popular by Bob Marley, has also been a key revenue earner for Jamaica's tourist industry. Reggae music, which has Rastafarian roots has become a permanent fixture on the world music stage, earning international recognition for the region as a place of cultural innovativeness and consciousness.



# THE BLACK POWER MOVEMENT



By the 1960s the struggle for uplifting African peoples was taken up in the USA by Martin Luther King Jr whose peaceful movement for equality was thwarted by his assassination in 1966 .

Following his demise the Black Power movement emerged as a more radical force to combat white supremacy. Some of its famous leaders had Caribbean roots, such as Malcolm X from the Nation of Islam and Kwame Toure (Stokely Carmichael)

The Marxist influence of the movement also attracted trade unionists who incorporated its philosophy into their struggles for social justice. In 1970 in Trinidad , A young Lieutenant, Raffique Shah led an armed rebellion against the government with a small battalion of soldiers.

This was a culmination of months of protests from trade union leaders for better working conditions, civil society groups for social justice and political movements for political rights and freedoms.

# EFFECTS OF THE BLACK POWER MOVEMENT ON DEVELOPMENT

Key figures in the Black Power movement include Makandal Daaga, Clive Nunez, Basdeo Panday and Raffique Shah. The movement was responsible for bringing about significant social changes within Trinidad & Tobago, in particular the upward mobility of blacks in corporate Trinidad.

For a perspective from Raffique Shah, a main figure in the 1970 insurrection of Trinidad and Tobago view,

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sg9UBFtjfUA&list=PLj49iYBYQ-agX8rd3i-sJTfCE\\_tgd1rvQ&index=7](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sg9UBFtjfUA&list=PLj49iYBYQ-agX8rd3i-sJTfCE_tgd1rvQ&index=7)

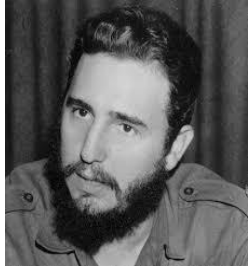
# INDUSTRIALISATION BY INVITATION

Operation Bootstrap is the popular name for this concept which was first initiated by Puerto Rico after WWII

It would later be modified by Sir Arthur Lewis of St. Lucia to become the model for the new economic model of the British colonies

It's main characteristics included **heavy foreign direct investment, tax holidays and large scale production geared to a foreign market; cheap local labour and adequate infrastructure to set up industrial estates.**

It was hoped that this initiative would jump start Caribbean economies that were reeling from the economic depression and social unrest of the 1930s. For some countries such as T&T this system benefitted the economy. Others such as Jamaica found it to be a failure, hence their experimentation with socialism.



# MARXISM AND NEO-MARXISM

Marxism developed by Karl Marx put forward a theory of development that espoused ideas of empowering the majority in a **classless society through joint ownership of the means of production of a centrally planned economy.**

It saw capitalism as an unjust system of distribution of resources which would eventually fall – often by violent means to usher in a new order.

Neo- Marxists fused the ideas of Marxism within the context of their respective societies. These are often referred to as *socialist* states which can be seen as a stage in *communism* (a utopian ideal, where the state is no longer relevant in the society)

From the original implementers of Marxism such as Lenin(Russia) to Caribbean leaders and thinkers such as Fidel Castro, C.L.R. James, Cheddi Jagan and Michael Manley these ideas in its many versions have greatly influenced intellectual thought in the region. **Most governments in the region have a mix of capitalist and socialist policies.**

# DEPENDENCY THEORY



This Neo-Marxist philosophy that developed as a critique of *modernization theory* has been used to explain the seemingly permanent world system set-up of First and Third World economies that have come about through imperialism and colonialism particularly in the West.

It argues that the capitalist economic structure of the world keeps former colonies at the periphery in a state of permanent arrested development since they are made to produce primary products to sell to 'core' countries. The core then manufactures products to sell for a much higher price to periphery nations, completing the vicious cycle

# DEPENDENCY THEORY

Some main thinkers:

- ☐ Norman Girvan

- ☐ Lloyd Best

- ☐ George Beckford

# DEPENDENCY THEORY

**Plantation economy** in this vein is also used to describe the dependency syndrome. The economic structure perpetuates inefficiency and dependency and discourages diversification, entrepreneurship and innovation.

The structuralist branch included other thinkers such as Raul Prebisch, Celoso Furtado and Anibal Pinto who posited that development at the periphery was in fact possible so long as a country's internal short-comings are addressed.

Dependency theory has been used to explain the predicament of St. Vincent, Guyana, Dominica and Jamaica. However it does not account for the prosperity of Barbados or the Bahamas.

# CARIBBEAN FEMINISM



Feminism involves the struggle for equal rights for women in the society. According to Professor Rhoda Reddock, feminism can be defined as the awareness of the oppression, exploitation and/or subordination of women within the society and the conscious action to change and transform this situation.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century events have challenged the traditional roles of women. For example in the World Wars women 'manned' the factories in USA and Europe while the men were at war. USA's influence in the world meant that American women influenced women everywhere.

In the Caribbean women were traditionally the sole breadwinners anyway so the movement has a different focus – domestic situations such as rape, violence and property rights were the main issues, in addition to equal pay and opportunities for education.



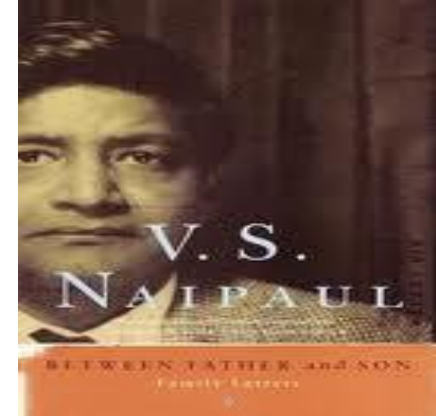
# CARIBBEAN FEMINISM

CAFRA – Caribbean Association for Feminist Research and Action is the main body advocating for women's rights in the Caribbean. Other organisations exist such as Women's Action for New Directions (WAND).

Through various media the message has been slowly getting out , e.g. through literary works such as 'Crick Crack Monkey' by Merle Hodge, in politics through Eugenia Charles (Dominica) and Kamla-Persad Bissessar (T&T), in law through Lynette Seebarran Suite and in education Patricia Mohammed.

One of the greatest challenges for feminist awakening is that most of these advocates are academics thus women at the lower social levels are still socialized in a male dominated manner.

# INDO-CARIBBEAN THOUGHT



Much effort has been made by immigrants from India and their descendants to preserve their religion, culture and identity through cultural retentions and works of literature and music and through political associations.

Trinidad, Guyana and Suriname have the largest East Indians and in these territories one can observe the perpetuation of Islam and Hinduism, the celebration of Eid and Divali, the infusion of Indian culinary arts dress, language and music into local culture.

Even though many practices persist, there has been some degree of assimilation and hybridisation of culture as seen for example in the growing number of mixed marriages, and the emerging of 'cross-over' music such as chutney soca in Trinidad.

Some influential intellectuals include Samuel Selvon (Guyana) and V.S. Naipaul (Trinidad) who wrote about the struggles of Indians as a minority group in the Caribbean.

# INDO-CARIBBEAN THOUGHT

A dominant theme is the struggle to make sense of strong ethnic loyalties within a context where there are calls for national identity. They practice endogamy and still feel a strong tie to India.

Some feel that a creole-centred Caribbean identity is as alien to them as an Afro-centred identity. Their efforts are complicated by the fact that some creolization has already taken place- the East Indian 'West Indian' conundrum.

They are found in nine Br. Caribbean territories(T&T, Guyana, Jamaica, Barbados, Belize, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Grenada and Antigua) French Guiana, Martinique and Guadeloupe as well as in the Spanish-speaking islands of Puerto Rico and Cuba.

# INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES



Territories where indigenous people have maintained their racial characteristics: Caribs of Dominica, Amerindians of Guyana and the Mayans of Belize.

Territories where they are racially mixed, especially with people of African descent when enslaved people fled the plantations and intermarried with the indigenous population: the Maroons of Jamaica, the Bush Negroes of Suriname and the Black Caribs of St. Vincent.

Their belief system has been the sources of conflict when it comes to land ownership, treatment of the environment and the pressure to conform to a national identity.

# INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES

Several intellectual works by West Indian historians have sought to debunk certain myths about the indigenous population – that they were extremely naïve and docile(Arawaks) or war-like(Caribs) or that they have been completely wiped out with the remaining few not of ‘pure’ Amerindian ancestry, or that they have no history and thus have had little effect on Caribbean history, society and culture.

In Guyana, Dominica and Belize there have been struggles to correct injustices against Amerindians with reference to land rights, social economic and political marginalisation as well as a thrust to link to indigenous people in the region and around the world to strengthen their legacy.