

INTERNATIONAL THIRD WORLD STUDIES

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Book Note: Charting Caribbean Development

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Payne, Anthony and Sutton, Paul. *Charting Caribbean Development*. Gainesville, Fla.: University Press of Florida, 2001. 284 pp. \$55.00 (cloth).

This volume has an interesting structure and a surprising effect. The chapters cover a variety of places including Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Grenada, and the Eastern Caribbean. At first the book seems to lack focus, as many of the chapters were articles previously published in various academic journals, and seem only loosely related. The overall effect, however, is of a patchwork quilt, and the final product is a greater understanding of this complex and changing region. In order to offer a glimpse into the intricacies of post-independence political and economic development, the authors have chosen this effective approach, which is especially useful for students trying to understand the modern Caribbean for the first time.

The unifying focus of the book, as the title suggests, is on development. The last forty years have seen enormous changes in the Caribbean, and with the shakiness of relatively new independent countries, these regions face the challenges of grabbing hold of their own political processes,

economies, and national identities, all the while being torn between the geographic pressures of the United States and the historic ties to Europe. This book acts as a map, guiding the reader through the process of the Caribbean's various models of development, and the philosophies that helped shape such models. The first few chapters solidify a foundation for discussing the different approaches Caribbean countries enacted in order to establish national developed states. From there, specific important events, such as the Grenadian revolution, establish key themes faced by all developing Caribbean nations. Individual chapters are dedicated to the Caribbean's relationship with Europe and North America. The book is rounded out with an especially enlightening case study on "the international political economy of Caribbean bananas" which draws from the themes already established by the previous chapters. This illustration brings into focus the complex challenges facing the Caribbean world as it emerges into the twenty-first century.

As the Caribbean world is still finding its place in the new era of globalization, this book offers the reader an understanding into the complex progression of developing countries with its blend of history, present-day challenges, and possibilities for the future.