



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

ST. AUGUSTINE, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, WEST INDIES

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CALL FOR PAPERS

THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRENADA REVOLUTION

A SALISES SYMPOSIUM - 13th March, 2019

On 13th March, 1979 at approximately 0400 hours, the Government of Grenada led by Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy was overthrown by the New Jewel Movement (NJM) led by Maurice Bishop. This ushered in the tenure of office of the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) in Grenada, and was the first non-democratic transfer of power in the Anglophone Caribbean by a Marxist-Leninist movement. The PRG governed by way of People's Laws which were to "become effective upon oral declaration and/or publication on Radio Free Grenada by the Prime Minister or in the official Gazette under the hand of the Prime Minister" (People's Law No. 10, 1979).

In overthrowing the Gairy administration, the Declaration of the Grenada Revolution said that constitutional government "had been interrupted as a consequence of the violations and abuses of democracy committed by the administration of Eric Matthew Gairy under the guise of constitutionality."

The Constitution of Grenada was suspended by People's Law No. 1 and the PRG was established by People's Law No. 2. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II would continue to be the Head of State and the Governor-General, Sir Paul Scoon, would continue to serve as Her Governor-General (People's Law No. 3).

In his address to the nation upon overthrowing the government, Maurice Bishop, who would become Prime Minister, said "People of Grenada, this revolution is for work, for food, for decent housing and health services, and for a bright future for our children and great grand-children" (13th March 1979, Radio Free Grenada, Maurice Bishop, Address to the Nation). The Revolution however took an authoritarian path, and the promise of a bright future remains unfulfilled, and while it lasted less than five years, coming to an end with the US invasion/intervention, it was a defining period with far reaching impacts and lessons beyond the island of Grenada alone.

Forty years after these events, it is useful to examine how Grenada has developed in all sectors of its economy, polity and society. What has been the legacy of this Revolution and what impact has it had on Grenadian life? This symposium proposes to analyse Grenada today by examining the impact of the Revolution on its way of life and its development since that time.

Papers will be welcomed on topics that seek to address the following:

1. The Economy.
2. The Polity.
3. The Society.
4. The Law.
5. Culture and the Arts.
6. Youth Development.

7. Sport.
8. CARICOM and International Affairs.
9. Tourism.
10. Other topics of interest in the development of Grenada.

Kindly submit your paper proposals to salises@sta.uwi.edu or to Sharon.hodge@sta.uwi.edu by Friday 1st February, 2019 for consideration.

HG
18/12/18