

Using a rich legacy of excellence to navigate stormy waters and existential threats

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ABSTRACT

Caribbean leaders and their societies are looking for answers and adequate responses to the manifold issues affecting the region. Thus, it becomes worthy to reflect on past contributions that emerged out of a rich legacy of excellence. For many Caribbean countries, the problems of high debt levels, widespread demands for increased and targeted public expenditure, limited access to external financing, and narrow fiscal space for social reforms pose significant challenges. There is the prevalence of internal security challenges, including increased gun crimes together with gun and drug trafficking. Additionally, the Caribbean region faces must navigate complex global issues such as significant trade imbalances, eruptions from geopolitical tensions, problems of climate change and environmental degradation, together with the effects of President Donald Trump's economic and foreign policies. These phenomena all show signs of undermining internal stability and stifling integrated economic development within the region. The key question is what lessons are practical and available for the Caribbean to be able to safeguard its sustainable development. This inquiry is anti-foundational and is reliant on social constructivism; it draws on selected academic works that emerged from within the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus. It utilises critical and documentary analysis to achieve the aim of sharing possibilities and opportunities that may exist for the region with students, academics, and leaders. The findings are likely to produce pertinent details capable of guiding the Caribbean through the prevailing conditions while adding to the literature on elements of the current local and geopolitical political architecture, governance practices, and sustainable development. By doing so, the study provides possible alternatives and practical responses to the complexity of issues perplexing the region.

Keywords: *Governance, geopolitics, sustainable development, primacy, discursive practices.*