CONFERECE ON RE-EXAMINING THE POLITICAL DECOLONIZATION PROCESS IN THE CARIBBEAN: 1946-2012

Fernando Ortiz High Studies Centre, Faculty of Philosophy and History
and
Institute of International Relations,
The University of The West Indies at St Augustine,
Trinidad and Tobago

Place: Havana University
Dates: 12th to 14th September, 2012

Objective

The Caribbean islands were the gateway that the Europeans used to access to the New World. From that time the capitalist colonial system became a powerful force for European capitalist development and consolidation. Meanwhile, after the decolonization process which began in 1804 with the Republic of Haiti, the region has been a space of unfinished decolonization. There has been a persistence of dependency relations among the ex-colonies and their former metropolis, but this relationship has been manifested in different forms.

The impact of global capitalist tendencies in the Caribbean constitutes a significant challenge to the goal of attaining complete regional decolonization. World War II presented a new reality to the political systems in the region. National consciousness and nationalism in colonial territories grew, there was a renewed demand for higher standards of living by the masses, and this led to a call for independence across the region.

These factors led to the emergence of a strong decolonization process. In order to explore the decolonization process from the Second World War to present the Conference entitled: “Conference on examining the Decolonization Process of the Caribbean: 1946-2012” is being convened.

In order to accomplish its objective the Conference will be opened with a keynote conference on the decolonization process, from a theoretical, methodological and historical perspective, which will access the Caribbean participation in a post World War II international relations system.

As part of the Conference’s main objective there will be a series of panels with will discuss each of the metropoles and their ex-colonies, and the Conference will culminate with a plenary session. Another objective of the conference is to edit and published a book containing the keynote address and the papers presented in the panels and the results of the final plenary session.
Finally, the conference will give priority to the participation of young lecturers, undergraduate and graduate students, in order to improve knowledge of the Caribbean among young scholars.

**Preliminary Program**

**Wednesday 12th September (afternoon)**

Opening ceremony.

Keynote Address “The Decolonization process: Its Origin and Development after the Second World War”

**Thursday 13th September**

- Panel: *French speaking Caribbean: from independence to departmentalization*
  - The Haitian Revolution
  - The Republic of Haiti: Confronting the Imperial Politics
  - The departmentalization in the French Caribbean

- Panel: Independence, Annexation, Interventionism and Socialism in the Spanish Speaking Caribbean
  - The History of the Dominican Republic
  - Puerto Rico: from American Union state to *estado libre asociado*
  - Cuba: From Tutelaged Sovereignty to Socialism

**Friday 14th September**

- Panel: From the British West Indies Federation to the Commonwealth Caribbean
  - Constitutional Reforms
  - Nationalism and Federalism
  - The British West Indies Federation
  - Independence in the Commonwealth Caribbean
  - Integrationism: From CARIFTA to the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States

- Panel: Colonies, Overseas Territories and Independence in the Dutch Caribbean
  - The Kingdom of the Netherlands
  - Suriname and its Independence

- Plenary Session