

**Self-Determination and Sovereignty in the Caribbean:
Migration, Transnational Identities, and Deterritorialisation
of the State.**

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Abstract

The massive movement of Caribbean peoples to metropolitan centers outside the Caribbean has created another sphere of contestation in the construction of allegiance and identity. However, Caribbean peoples insist that they are "Caribbean" regardless of where they live holding on to all their foreign passports and partial alien identities thrown into the new ecumene. Caribbean peoples, both within and without the Caribbean, have now renegotiated their identities creating new reconfigured mental mixes from their old insular spheres and new metropolitan residences. The secure self needs new non-exclusive and deterritorialised boundaries of belonging rendering sovereignist claims an inconvenience if not an absurdity. In effect, in the Caribbean as elsewhere, the contemporary state can now no longer lay on its citizens any sort of exclusive claim to identity or attempt to impose one. In effect, a new discourse is needed to comprehend and negotiate entities and processes which are not fixed and mutually exclusive but disjointed, contradictory, protean, unstable, hybrid, transitional, and non-territorial. New ideas and institutions rooted in practices of Caribbean peoples are compelled for survival in the new globalized future. Sovereignty as symbol may have served its purpose in the past as a constructed artifact but now needs to be readapted to the new realities of the times.