**Sir Arthur Lewis**

**and**

**The Westminster Inheritance in Africa and the Caribbean Abstract**

**Abstract**

W Arthur Lewis is internationally recognized for his work in the field of economics, and justly deserves the many honours that have been bestowed on him, including the award of the coveted Nobel Prize. Less is perhaps known about Lewis’ contributions as a political analyst. With the growing currency of the concept of “good governance” and power sharing, increasing attention is being given to Lewis’ views as to how best these desiderata might be achieved, particularly in the territories that secured their independence from Britain and France following the conclusion of World War II.

This lecture seeks first of all to examine Lewis’ general contributions to the discourse on nature of good governance in “plural” as opposed to class based societies. It follows with an exposition of his specific critique of the Westminster first-past-the-post political system as it operates in the post independence societies of Africa and the Caribbean.

Finally, I offer some of my own views as to whether Lewis’ visions and alternative prescriptions have the healing power which he believed them to possess in curing some of the political diseases that affect and afflict Caribbean democracy and those in East, West and Southern Africa.

*Prof. Selwyn Ryan*