

The Development Process in the Commonwealth Caribbean and Its Environmental Impact

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Abstract: *This paper illustrates how environmental degradation is related to the development process. It traces historically, the pattern of development of the Commonwealth Caribbean through its two main phases. Firstly, the colonial era, in which the colonies only produced basic raw materials for the colonial powers, resulting in widespread environmental damage and secondly the post-independence era marked by the policies of industrialisation by invitation and import substitution, which were not local resource-base oriented but merely demand responsive. Finally, the paper draws attention to the environmental dangers of the new policy being discussed, that is the broadening of the industrial base of the region and the creation of vertical and horizontal industrial linkages in the absence of an appropriate environmental policy. It is contended here that such a policy must be consistent with the development objectives of need satisfaction of the broad mass of the people.*

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