
Students should be able to: outline the major stages in the integration movement

West Indian Federation (1958-1962)

CARIFTA (1968-1973)

CARICOM (1973 ...)

OECS: Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (1981...)

CSME: 1989

ACS: Association of Caribbean States (1995...)

The West Indian Federation

1958-1962

The West Indies Federation (WIF) was the first major effort at regional integration. The WIF was established in 1956 by the British Federation Act and came into effect on January 3, 1958. It lasted until May 31, 1962.

10 Member States

Antigua	Jamaica	St. Lucia
Barbados	Montserrat	Trinidad and Tobago
Dominica	St. Kitts/Nevis/Anguilla	
Grenada	St. Vincent	

Aims and Objectives of The West Indian Federation

- ❖ **To generate ideas to solve their social and economic problems**
 - Sugar industry in decline (unprofitable)
 - Shortages of goods & high prices after World War 2
 - Low wages
 - High unemployment
 - Poor social facilities (hospitals, schools, utilities)
- ❖ **To increase their bargaining power**
 - thereby securing cheaper prices for imports and better prices for exports through a united voice

- ❖ **To safeguard the democratic system of government**
 - resist the US intervention in the affairs of the Caribbean (Monroe Doctrine)
- ❖ **To reduce foreign control over their economies**
 - (foreigners controlled most of the fertile land)
- ❖ **To strengthen the movement towards independence and self-government**

Achievements

- Increased effectiveness in dealing with international bodies such as the UN
- Facilitated the move of member states from colonialism to self-government;
- Led members to have a stronger voice when dealing with multinational organizations, such as the United Nations
- Created a federal civil service
- Established the West Indies Shipping Service, to operate 2 multi-purpose ships (the Maple and the Palm) in 1962;
- Strengthened and expanded tertiary education, with the opening of a second campus of the University College of the West Indies (now University of the West Indies) in Trinidad and Tobago in 1960

Factors leading to the Collapse of the Federation in 1962

- ❖ Trinidad and Jamaica thought it unjust that they were expected to provide 82% of the funding for running the Federation.
- ❖ Smaller states distrusted the larger states
 - Felt Jamaica and Trinidad would change the constitution of the Federation in their own interest
- ❖ Conflict over choice of the Prime Minister of the Federation
 - (Sir Grantly Adams, Premier of Barbados- 1st Prime Minister)
- ❖ Conflict over choice of the capital site, Chaguaramas, Trinidad
 - Jamaica wanted to be the site of the headquarters of the Federation
 - Others felt it was unsuitable because the US had a military base there
- ❖ Selfish Goals
 - Islands at various stages of political development and the more advanced countries felt that Federation might stifle their political progress i.e. their move towards independence
 - The most competent people to act as federal Prime Minister refused the role (Dr. Williams and Mr. Manley both preferred to remain as heads of their own countries)
- ❖ Envy and jealousy among member states stemming from their varying levels of economic prosperity
- ❖ Inefficient communication between the islands
 - (inadequate shipping, telephone and postal services)
 -
- ❖ The British government had control over foreign affairs.

- ❖ There were disagreements over measures proposed for the operation of the federation in terms of taxation, customs, freedom of movement, capital site and financing. The Federation had no powers re taxation, customs, and freedom of movement.
- ❖ Political unity came before economic agreement.
- ❖ Not enough was done to alleviate the suspicion and fears of the smaller states.
- ❖ Mainland colonies – British Guiana (Guyana) and British Honduras (Belize) – did not join the Federation.
- ❖ People in the Caribbean were not sufficiently informed about the importance and benefits of WIF. In Jamaica, a referendum was held and the majority vote was against federation. Jamaica withdrew from the union and other countries followed suit.

CARIFTA stands for: - Caribbean Free Trade Association

(1968-1973)

- ❖ The Caribbean Free Trade Association (CARIFTA) was founded by Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago on 15 December 1965, with the signing of the Dickenson Bay Agreement.
- ❖ The agreement to establish the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) was made in 1969, and put into effect in 1970. This agreement included 18 countries and territories which were a part of CARIFTA. The purpose of the bank was to promote economic growth and cooperation among the members states.
- ❖ The purpose of CARIFTA was to increase intra-regional trade.

11 member states

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------------|
| 1. Guyana | 5. St. Lucia | 10. St. Kitts/ Nevis/
Anguilla |
| 2. Trinidad and
Tobago | 6. Belize | 11. Jamaica |
| 3. Barbados | 7. Dominica | * <i>Grenada <u>not</u> a
member</i> |
| 4. St. Vincent | 8. Montserrat | |
| | 9. Antigua | |

- ✓ These territories were the first signatories in May 1968: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago.
- ✓ Countries which joined in August 1968: Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
- ✓ Belize joined in 1971.

NOTE: CARIFTA did not fail. In 1973, CARIFTA became the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

WEST INDIES ASSOCIATED STATES COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (WISA)

The West Indies Associated States Council of Ministers (WISA) was formed in November 1966 by countries in the Eastern Caribbean, after the collapse of the West Indies Federation.

OBJECTIVES:

WISA was formed in order to promote economic integration and functional cooperation among member states.

MEMBER STATES:

Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent

- After CARIFTA was established in 1965 those who formed WISA recognised that they needed to strengthen their bargaining power in relation to the larger CARIFTA states such as Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, and Barbados.
- The Eastern Caribbean Common Market (ECCM) was formed by the members of WISA
- WISA was the foundation for the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, an alliance which exists today

After the formation of WISA, the following organisations were established:

- ❖ Eastern Caribbean Common Market (ECCM)
- ❖ The West Indies Associated States Supreme Court
- ❖ The Eastern Caribbean Council Authority (ECCA)
- ❖ The Joint Overseas Mission in United Kingdom and Canada
- ❖ Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)

Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM)

MEMBER STATES TO DATE

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1) Antigua | 7) Guyana | 13) St. Vincent and the Grenadines |
| 2) Bahamas | 8) Haiti | 14) Suriname |
| 3) Barbados | 9) Jamaica | 15) Trinidad and Tobago |
| 4) Belize | 10) Montserrat | |
| 5) Dominica | 11) St. Kitts & Nevis | |
| 6) Grenada | 12) St. Lucia | |

What is the Treaty of Chaguaramas?

The Treaty of Chaguaramas is the Treaty which established the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). It was signed at Chaguaramas, Trinidad, on 4 July 1973.

When did the Treaty of Chaguaramas enter into force?

The Treaty of Chaguaramas which established the Caribbean Community came into force on 1 August 1973.

Less developed countries signed the treaty on April 17, 1974; Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Lucia, & St. Vincent. Others joined later on.

Non-English –speaking members joined later on; Surinam in 1995 & Haiti in 1997.

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) is an International Inter-governmental Organisation dedicated to economic harmonisation and integration, protection of human and legal rights, and the encouragement of good governance among independent and non-independent countries in the Eastern Caribbean.

The Organisation came into being on June 18th 1981, when seven Eastern Caribbean countries signed a treaty agreeing to cooperate with each other and promote unity and solidarity among the Members. The Treaty became known as the Treaty of Basseterre, so named in honour of the capital city of St. Kitts and Nevis where it was signed.

The 1981 Treaty was replaced in 2010 with a Revised Treaty of Basseterre, creating an economic union. This Revised Treaty was signed on 18th June 2010 in Saint Lucia during the 51st Meeting of the Authority of the OECS.

The Revised Treaty establishes a single financial and economic space within which goods, people and capital move freely, monetary and fiscal policies are harmonized and countries continue to adopt a common approach to trade, health, education and the environment, as well as to the development of such critical sectors as agriculture, tourism and energy.

OECS is a group of the Lesser Developed Countries (LDCs) of the Commonwealth Caribbean. It was established in 1981 following the signing of the Treaty of Basseterre. The British Virgin Island joined in 1984 and Anguilla in 1995.

Member States

Antigua and Barbuda	St Kitts and Nevis
Commonwealth of Dominica	Saint Lucia
Grenada	St Vincent and the Grenadines
Montserrat	

Associate Members

The British Virgin Islands
Anguilla
Martinique
Guadeloupe

Association of Caribbean States (ACS)

The ACS is a product of the desire of the 32 Contracting States, Countries and Territories of the Greater Caribbean to enhance cooperation within the region, an initiative aimed at building upon obvious geographic proximity and well-documented historical linkages. As stated in the Convention Establishing the ACS, its primary purpose is to be an organization for “consultation, cooperation and concerted action” for its member countries. Its framework provides a forum for political dialogue that allows Members the opportunity to identify areas of common interest and concern that may be addressed at the regional level, and the solutions for which can be found through cooperation. The ACS Membership has identified 5 areas of concern for the attention of the Association

The agreement establishing the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) was signed in Cartagena de India in Columbia on the 29th July 1994; the agreement was approved in July 1995. The organization’s headquarters is in Port of Spain, Trinidad.

MEMBERS

The ACS links countries with a geographic position in the Caribbean region; it therefore includes countries in the Caribbean and the Latin American States. The following table indicates the members and associate member states of the ACS.

Antigua and Barbuda	Haiti
The Bahamas	Honduras
Barbados	Jamaica
Belize	Mexico
Colombia	Nicaragua
Costa Rica	Panama
Cuba	Montserrat
Dominica	St Kitts and Nevis
The Dominican Republic	St. Lucia
El Salvador	St. Vincent and the Grenadines
Grenada	Suriname
Guatemala	Trinidad and Tobago
Guyana	Venezuela

ASSOCIATE MEMBER STATES

Aruba
Turks and Caicos Islands
The Netherlands Antilles
France (on behalf of French Guiana, Guadeloupe & Martinique)