

(JLP). Manley organized the Trade Union Congress and the National Workers' Union (NWU). The JLP/BITU-PNP/NWU division still remains the basis for political and trade-union activity in Jamaica today.

Elections were held in 1944 based on universal suffrage, and full internal self-government was realized in 1959. In 1958 Jamaica became part of the Federation of the West Indies, a rather weak grouping of British island colonies in the Caribbean. Bustamante, as Leader of the Opposition, campaigned against federation, and following a national referendum on the question in 1961, Jamaica withdrew from the federation. Bustamante became prime minister after winning the ensuing general election, and Jamaica was formally declared independent on August 6, 1962. The JLP retained power in the 1967 general election but was defeated by the PNP under Michael Manley in 1972. His government was returned to office in December 1976. It actively pursued a policy of "democratic socialism" based on improving the lot of the masses in Jamaica, combined with support for Third World objectives abroad. The JLP under Edward Seaga regained power in the 1980 elections and was returned in the 1983 election, which the PNP did not contest. New elections are due in early 1989.

Government

Jamaica is a constitutional monarchy under Queen Elizabeth II with a Jamaican, the Most Honourable Sir Florizel Glasspole, as its governor general. The Parliamentary system is similar to Canada's, including an elected House of Representatives and a nominated Senate. Elections are held, at a minimum, every five years. The prime minister, the Right Honourable Edward Seaga, leads the JLP. The Leader of the Opposition, Michael Manley, heads the PNP. The PNP chose not to contest the 1983 elections because of a dispute over electoral boundary reform and changes to the voters list. The JLP, therefore, holds all the seats in Parliament.