

The West Indian
Colonies

The precedents derived from the West Indian Colonies also are all illustrative of the power of the Crown to divide its Provinces, and of the irrevocable nature of any grant of a separate Legislature, notwithstanding the combination of several Provinces into one government.

the Charibbee Is-
lands

James the First is said to have granted all the Charibbee Islands to the Earl of Marlborough, erecting them into a Province by the name of Carlola, on the model of the Palatinate of Durham. The patent (or right) of the Earl of Marlborough having been acquired by the Earl of Carlisle, King Charles I., in the first year of his reign (1625) granted all the Charibbee Islands to the latter Earl, with authority to make for the good government of the said Province such laws as he or his heirs, "with the consent, assent, and approbation of the free inhabitants of the said Province, or the greater part of them, thereunto to be called, and in such form as he or they in his or their discretion shall think fit and best. And these Laws must all men for the time being that do live within the limits of the said Province observe." And a further clause provided that the inhabitants of that Province should "freely, quietly, and peaceably have and possess all the liberties, franchises, and privileges of this kingdom." This Patent, having been revoked, and the Province granted to the Earl of Pembroke during the absence of the Earl of Carlisle from England, was on his return restored or regranted to him, and in the next year, 1628, he sent out planters to Barbadoes, and a Governor, Sir William Tufton, in 1629.

General Assembly
for each Island
Separately

A General Assembly for Barbadoes was at an early date (1645) called and held by these Governors, consisting of the "Governor, Council, and Freeholders of every parish of the Island;" and in 1645 an act of this Legislature provided that "every parish should have two representatives." The power to convene General Assemblies seems always to have been construed and acted upon as divisible and several in its application to each of the Islands. The Patent of the Earl of Carlisle was surrendered by him to the Crown in the 15th of King Charles the Second, on purchase; and he, on the 12th of June in that year, appointed Lord Willoughby Captain-General and Chief Governor of Barbadoes and all the Charibbee Islands. There was one Great Seal "appointed for Barbadoes and the rest of the Charibbee Islands." He held the Assembly of Barbadoes as theretofore; and in 1663 that body granted the four-and-a-half per cent. duty on all exports of *that Island*, by an enactment in the following style: "Be it enacted, by His Excellency, Francis Lord Willoughby, Captain-General and Chief Governor of this Island of Barbadoes, and all the other Charibbee Islands, and by and with the Council and the Gentlemen of the Assembly of this Island." An Assembly was called in Antigua as early as 1668; in Montserrat, some time before; and in Nevis in 1664. These were all separate and distinct Assemblies in the same Government of the Charibbee Islands. The other Islands were in no condition for such an institution till some time afterwards.

Division of the Cha-
ribbee Islands into
the Windward and
Leeward.

In 1672, the Windward and Leeward Islands were formed into two distinct Governments by King Charles the Second, who by a new Commission appointed Lord Willoughby Governor of Barbadoes, St. Vincent, St. Lucia, and Dominica. (Tobago was possessed by the Dutch till 1748, and then, by the Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle, made one of the neutral Islands, Grenada, which was in the hands of the French till 1672, St. Vincent, and Dominica, being the others).

The Leeward Islands

Sir William Stapleton was appointed Governor of the Leeward Islands, consisting of Antigua, St. Christopher's, Nevis, Montserrat, and the Virgin Islands. Anguilla and Barbuda also belonged to this division. This Government continued until the year 1816, and was then dissolved, new Governments being formed by a different combination of the Islands.

Antigua

Antigua was first planted in 1632 by the English. An Assembly for the Island was called as early as 1688. The Governor-in-Chief of the Leeward Islands has for many years resided there permanently, and is directed by his instructions to visit occasionally the other Islands in his Government. But these have all separate and distinct Councils and Assemblies, and form what is now called the General Government of Antigua.

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