

has been little attempt since independence to draw on the collective wisdom and experience, the substratum of values, that resides among the ordinary folk and which could provide a basis for an appropriate approach to development and change.

Vulnerability to Natural Disaster

A factor which is usually ignored when discussing the political economy of small islands (all but two of the membership of the Caribbean community) is the incidence of natural disasters. In the case of one Caribbean island, for example, a hurricane had, in the recent past, reduced its GNP by sixty percent in one night. In addition, the basic security of island communities is often subject to longer term threats arising from forms of development which jeopardize fragile eco-systems, by such unfortunate effects as the erosion of fertile top soil, the reduction of water tables and the contamination of the marine environment.

These dangers should be taken into account in formulating criteria to determine the eligibility of small countries for concessionary funding, especially island states in the Caribbean.

Threats to Territorial Integrity

The threats to territorial integrity in this region derive in the main from historical and geographical factors, particularly border disputes, threats of secession, and the problems of maritime delimitation.

The territorial disputes confronting Guyana and Belize are a carry over from colonial rule. In the case of Guyana, there are now arrangements for economic co-operation with Venezuela and the border controversy has been entrusted to the UN Secretary-General to resolve. In the case of Belize, the re-establishment of full diplomatic relations between Britain and Guatemala has increased the chances of that country's independence and territorial integrity being recognized although, there are as yet no indications that a settlement is near at hand.

Although, the extension of coastal jurisdiction has advanced the security of the small states in certain respects (they are now entitled to regulate and exploit activities in waters adjacent to their coasts), it has also confronted them with the problem of mobilizing resources to police territorial waters. Maritime delimitation likewise poses complex issues because of such factors as the claims of the larger countries in the area to maintain access. The challenge for the Caribbean small state is to work out joint arrangements with the larger countries of the area for negotiating maritime delimitation, while making the necessary arrangements for the exploitation of its own exclusive economic zone.