

## **Jamaica**

Rice

Jamaica gained independence from the British in 1962. Political history since then as a member of the British Commonwealth has been a contest between two parties, the Jamaican Labour Party (JLP) and the People's National Party (PNP).

William Alexander Bustamante was the first prime minister after independence, representing the Jamaican Labour Party (JLP). His term lasted until 1967, when the former second in command Donald Sangster was elected prime minister, as also a member of the JLP. Sangster, however, died after being in office for only a couple of months. Hugh Shearer was chosen in the elections following Sangster's death, but as also a member of the JLP, no SOLS change was coded.

1972 elections saw the first victory for the PNP and a corresponding SOLS change. Michael Manly became the new prime minister, and served his term until 1976. He was then reelected for a term until 1980, when the SOLS changed again and the JLP came back to power with Edward Seaga as prime minister.

The next SOLS change occurred in 1989, when the PNP came back to power and put former Prime Minister Manley into power. Then, in 1992, Manley stepped down and Percival Patterson became the new PNP Prime Minister. Patterson stepped down in 2006, followed by Portia Simson-Miller serving as the PNP leader of the nation until her defeat in 2007 elections.

2007 saw the country's return to rule by the JLP under Bruce Golding. He was in power through 2008, and his term was a clear SOLS change.

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