

Jamaica

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Jamaica gained its independence in 1962, and since that year this country is considered a parliamentary democracy. There are two major political parties: Jamaican Labor Party (JLP) and People's National Party (PNP). Recently, another political party, the National Democratic Movement was formed. In April 1962, general elections were held. Jamaica gained independence, and the JLP candidate William Alexander Bustamante won the election to become a prime minister. This first change from Norman Washington Manley to Bustamante is not considered as a SOLS change because Bustamante was the first leader that took power in a newly independent country.

Alexandre Bustamante served one and a half terms due to health problems, and was replaced by Donald Burns Sangster. However, a few days later, the latter died, and also was replaced by Hugh Lawson Shearer. Both, Burns Sangster and Lawson Shearer, belonged to the same party. So, neither of these changes are SOLS changes. In 1972, the other major party, the PNP, took power and Michael Manley became prime minister. He stayed in office for two four-year terms. Therefore, this change is a SOLS change. In the 1980 elections, due to economic hardship, the PNP lost several seats in parliament. As a result, the JLP returned to power. Edward Phillip Seaga became prime minister. This change is also a SOLS change.

Seaga governed from 1980 to 1989 when the PNP returned to power, and Micheal Norman Manley became prime minister for the second time. This change is a SOLS change. Manley stayed in office until 1992 when an illness forced him to retire. He was replaced by Percival James Patterson from the same party. Patterson was the first African Jamaican to be prime minister. He governed Jamaica four times until 2006 when he was replaced by Portial Simpson Miller from the same party. This is not a SOLS change. However, Miller ruled Jamaica just for one year. In 2007, Miller was replaced by JLP member Bruce Golding. This change is a SOLS change.

References

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