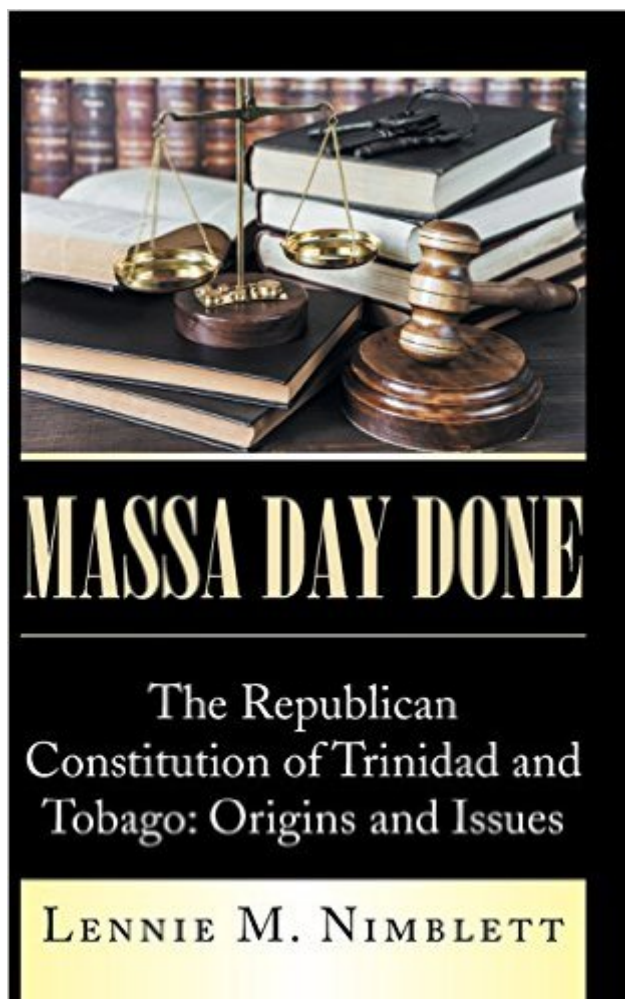


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Massa Day Done: The Republican Constitution Of Trinidad And Tobago: Origins And Issues



Synopsis

This book describes the transition of Trinidad and Tobago from a British crown colony to an independent republic. Divided into two parts, the first sketches the constitutional developments from the Spanish capitulation of Trinidad in 1797 to changes associated with a British crown colony. It describes in greater detail the move, after 1956, towards republicanism and the debate about the 1976 constitution. Part I ends with a review of that debate. The second part examines some of the issues generated by the new constitution and, in particular, looks at problems associated with the president, the Privy Council, and representation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Massa Day Done 21 was recently asked to review a book titled Mass Day Done: Our Republican Constitution, written by former Tapia member, Lennie Nimblett. No other study of Trinidad and Tobago's politics covers so much in one volume. The book analyses the full text of the Trinidad and Tobago Constitution. What makes it useful and valuable is that it integrates political theory relevant to the Caribbean as well as political history... In attempting to do all those things in one volume, Mr Nimblett has produced neither fish nor fowl, but a bit of good Caribbean stew consisting of a well-rounded political understanding of Trinidad and a similar analysis of Tobago. Mr Nimblett previously wrote a volume which dealt with the union of Trinidad and Tobago 1889-1899 which he published in 2012. Given the encyclopaedic nature of the study, I had to be selective. In the history section, I chose for analysis the 'colour bar' as used by Governor Picton who saw it as his principal instrument of governance. As the Colonial Office advised him: 'The only model of rendering these people useful, without their becoming formidable to the colony is to have them

where they are; to establish no artificial distinction; to humiliate them by no marks of degradation or incapacity. You need not promote them to any office of importance or honour, but it is not necessary is not necessary to show them that you have raised an insuperable bar to their advancement and ambition.â •Nimblett argued that the â œcolour barâ • lasted until 1970 when the Black Power movement despite its inarticulateness, pointed obliquely to the persistence of this colonial phenomenon. Some white businessmen claimed that the colour bar was substantially abolished long before 1970.

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