

The *Bahamas* are ruled by a governor, assisted by an executive and legislative council. The latter is a representative assembly elected by limited male suffrage.

British Guiana's 1943 constitution created ministerial government based on universal suffrage. The lower chamber consists of 24 elected and 4 appointed members. The higher chamber has nine members, six nominated by the governor, two by the majority party, and one by minority political groups. The strongest political organization is the Communist-inclined People's Progressive Party, led by Dr. Cheddi Jagan. The centrist United Democratic Party won only one seat in the last elections.

British Honduras Constitution of 1954 provides for adult suffrage, an elected majority in the legislative council, and an executive council. Ministerial government began in 1955. The People's United Party, leftwing and nationalistic, controls all elective seats in the legislature.

The *Falkland Islands* is a crown colony administered by a Governor. He is assisted by an executive and a legislative council. In 1949, the latter became an elective body.

2. *French possessions*

French possessions are Martinique, Guadeloupe (with its dependencies Marie Galante, Les Saintes, Désirade, St. Barthelemy, and St. Martin) and French Guiana. The French Constitution of 1946 made these territories overseas departments. They are all ruled by a prefect, appointed by the French Minister of the Interior. They have an elected general council with jurisdiction in local matters, especially taxes. In France they are represented in the national assembly, in the senate, and in the Assembly of the French Union. Because of the centralized structure, political groups follow mostly the lines of the parties in the mother country.

3. *Netherlands possessions*

The *Netherlands Antilles* consist of the Leeward Islands (Curacao, Aruba, and Bonaire) and the Windward Islands (St. Martin, St. Eustatius, and Saba). Though autonomous in internal affairs, these islands are considered part of the kingdom. Executive power in internal affairs is vested in a Governor and the Council of Ministers. In external affairs, it resides in the Council of Ministers of the Kingdom, in which the Antilles are represented. Domestic legislative power belongs to a unicameral legislature of 22 members, popularly elected.

Surinam (Dutch Guiana) is ruled by a Crown Governor, and a Council of Ministers responsible to a popularly elected legislative council. As is in the case of the French possessions, local political groups take their cues from parties in the mother country.

4. *The West Indies Federation*

The most important post-World War II development in the non-self-governing territories was the creation by the United Kingdom of the Federation of the West Indies in 1958. The primary purposes of the federation are to foster economic development and self-government in the British territories. The mother country recognized the need for a Caribbean association as early as 1922, but it was not until the depression of the 1930's that the idea gained ground in the