

THE COUNTRIES AND DEPENDENCIES OF THE CARIBBEAN REGION: A PRIMER

by
Brad Roberts
Foreign Affairs and National Defense Division



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ABSTRACT

This report provides basic information about the countries and dependencies of the Caribbean region. It contains comparative statistical data useful in assessing the regional variation in size, economic well-being, ethnic diversity, and sovereignty. It also includes country summaries of location, history, government, defense, and economy.

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I. INTRODUCTION

To the casual observer, the twenty-six countries and dependencies of the Caribbean region seem fairly indistinguishable. But the appearance is deceptive. This primer provides basic data about the highly diverse history, demography, politics, and economics of the entities of the region. Following this introduction is a map of the region. Part II contains comparative data bearing on the region's demography, economic significance, level of development, and economic well-being. Part III presents country-by-country data about location, history, government, defense, and economy.

The Caribbean region is defined here as including the 23 island-states in the Caribbean as well as some of the countries on the bordering land-masses, in particular, Guyana, Suriname, and French Guiana in South America. It does not include the countries of Central America, which are covered in a separate CRS primer. Belize (formerly British Honduras), though sometimes considered a Caribbean state, is covered in the Central American report. Given its location bordering on Mexico and Guatemala, and the expectation that it will play an increasingly important role in Central America now that it is independent, we have considered it more appropriate to include Belize there.

When speaking of the Caribbean, one is not always speaking of independent states--indeed, only half of them are fully independent. Six are associated with Britain: four (Anguilla, Cayman Islands, Turks and Caicos, and the British Virgin Islands) as colonies and two (Montserrat and St. Kitts-Nevis) as Associated States. Three countries are associated with France as French Overseas Departments (French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique). Two are associated with the United States: Puerto Rico as a U.S. Commonwealth and the United States Virgin Islands

as an organized though unincorporated area. The Netherlands Antilles is a colony of Holland. The remaining fourteen are independent: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Most of the information on the following pages is statistical. Please note that statistics reported by developing countries are subject to numerous qualifications, so that there is a lack of strict comparability between countries in some indicators. Therefore values shown in the tables of this report should be interpreted as being indicative rather than precise.

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BAHAMAS

CUBA

CAYMAN ISLANDS

TURKS & CAICOS

JAMAICA

HAITI

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

PUERTO RICO

Hispaniola

CARIBBEAN SEA

MEXICO

GUATEMALA

BELIZE

EL SALVADOR

HONDURAS

NICARAGUA

COSTA RICA

PANAMA

COLUMBIA

VENEZUELA

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

ANGUILLA

NETHERLANDS ANTILLES

ST. KITTS-NEVIS

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

MONTSERRAT

GAUDELOUPE

Leeward Islands

Windward Islands

DOMINICA

MARTINIQUE

ST. LUCIA

BARBADOS

ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES

GRENADA

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

GUYANA

SURINAME

FRENCH GUIANA

FLORIDA

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VENEZUELA

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II. COMPARATIVE DATA

A. Demographics

The demographics of the region give some indication of its diversity, both culturally and geographically.

Linguistically, there are four major official languages. Spanish is the official language of 18.6 million, French of nearly 6.7 million, English of 5.6 million, and Dutch of 700,000. A number of the countries have major linguistic subgroups speaking a local creole or patois.

<u>English</u>	<u>Spanish</u>	<u>French</u>
Anguilla	Cuba	French Guiana
Antigua and Barbuda	Dominican Republic	Guadeloupe
Bahamas	Puerto Rico	Haiti
Barbados		Martinique
British Virgin Islands		
Cayman Islands		
Dominica		
Grenada	Netherlands Antilles	
Guyana	Suriname	
Jamaica		
Montserrat		
St. Kitts-Nevis		
St. Lucia		
St. Vincent		
Trinidad and Tobago		
Turks and Caicos		
U.S. Virgin Islands		
	<u>Dutch</u>	

The region also has a mixed ethnic heritage. Peoples of African, European, and East Indian descent populate the region, and while the populations of some countries strongly reflect the descent of a single ethnic group, others are predominantly mixed.

The countries and dependencies of this region are among the smallest and most densely populated in the world. The largest (Guyana) is only slightly larger than Kansas. Most of the countries are considerably smaller than Guyana, however, with a number of the smallest not even as large as the District of Columbia.

Area - Square Miles

Guyana	83,000	Barbados	166
Suriname	55,600	Turks & Caicos	166
Cuba	44,200	St. Kitts-Nevis	150
French Guiana	35,100	St. Vincent	150
Dominican Republic	18,800	Grenada	133
Haiti	10,700	U.S. Virgin Islands	133
Jamaica	4,410	Antigua & Barbuda	108
Bahamas	4,400	Cayman Islands	93
Puerto Rico	3,435	British Virgin Islands	50
Trinidad & Tobago	1,980	Anguilla	46
Guadeloupe	687	Montserrat	32
Martinique	425		
Netherlands Antilles	394	compare:	
Dominica	305	Kansas	81,787
St. Lucia	238	District of Columbia	67

Though there are a few countries with substantial populations, most have relatively few inhabitants.

Population - Millions in 1981

Cuba	9.8	U.S. Virgin Islands	0.12 (1979)
Haiti	6.0	Grenada	0.11 (1980)
Dominican Republic	5.6	Dominica	0.1
Puerto Rico	3.2	St. Lucia	0.1
Jamaica	2.2	St. Vincent	0.1
Trinidad & Tobago	1.2	Antigua & Barbuda	0.076
Guyana	0.88 (1980)	French Guiana	0.066
Suriname	0.4	St. Kitts-Nevis	0.04
Bahamas	0.3	Anguilla	0.018
Barbados	0.3	Cayman Islands	0.017 (1979)
Guadeloupe	0.3	Montserrat	0.012 (1980)
Martinique	0.3	British Virgin Isls.	0.011 (1980)
Netherlands Antilles	0.3	Turks & Caicos	0.007 (1978)

But small populations combined with small size can still mean high population density, and the Caribbean exhibits some of the highest population densities in the world.

Population Density Per Square Mile

Barbados	1542	Dominican Republic	308
Puerto Rico	993	Montserrat	304
U.S. Virgin Islands	901	Dominica	273
Grenada	805	Cuba	223
St. Vincent	773	British Virgin Islands	186
Martinique	734	Guadeloupe	178
Antigua & Barbuda	705	Cayman Islands	167
Netherland Antilles	634	Suriname	61
Trinidad & Tobago	594	Bahamas	46
Haiti	549	Turks & Caicos	37
St. Lucia	521	Guyana	10
Jamaica	504	French Guiana	2
St. Kitts-Nevis	388		

B. Economic Significance

The following information gives some approximate idea of the relative economic significance of these entities, particularly to the United States.

The first measure is simply Gross Domestic Product - i.e., the size of each country's economy. Though there is considerable variation in the size of the region's economies, all are dwarfed by the economies of their neighbors to the north and south. Fully consistent data are not available. Though deviations from the norm are noted below, the ranking should be viewed as approximate. Note that the figure for the U.S. Virgin Islands is for Gross Territorial Product, the equivalent of GDP.

Gross Domestic Product in millions of US \$ (1979)

Puerto Rico	13,915.0 (1980)	U.S. Virgin Islands	542.0 (1978)
Cuba	13,300.0 (1978 est)	Guyana	515.6
Dominican Republic	5,496.3	St. Lucia	99.2 (GNP)
Trinidad & Tobago	4,504.0	Antigua	84.1 (GNP)
Jamaica	2,436.9	Cayman Islands	72.0 (1977)
Martinique	1,135.0 (1978)	Grenada	71.0
Haiti	1,119.8	St. Vincent	50.3 (GNP)
Bahamas	1,073.8	St. Kitts-Nevis	39.6
Guadeloupe	957.0 (1978)	Dominica	34.0 (GNP)
Suriname	931.8	British Virgin Islands	28.0 (1976)
Netherlands Antilles	864.0 (1978)	Montserrat	15.2 (GNP)
Barbados	639.9	Turks & Caicos	15.0 (1980)

The second measure of economic significance is trade with the United States. In 1980, the region exported to the United States goods valuing \$6,487.85 million and imported from the United States goods totalling \$3,655.93 million. Though not a large component of American trade (3% of total U.S. imports and 1% of its total exports), these transactions represented a significant portion of the economic activity of most Caribbean states. Once again, caution must be used in interpreting these tables. Countries that are not independent may not report trade figures, or where they are reported they are aggregated with different kinds of figures. The following should provide, however, an approximate assessment of trade between the region and the United States.

<u>Exports to US in Millions US \$ 1980</u>		<u>As a % of Total Exports</u>
Netherlands Antilles	\$ 2,435.7	45%
Trinidad & Tobago	\$ 2,326.2	59%
Dominican Republic	\$ 633.7	65%
Jamaica	\$ 380.0	38%
Haiti	\$ 239.8	69%
Bahamas	\$ 130.4	51%
Guyana	\$ 123.0	30%
Suriname	\$ 114.3	19%
Barbados	\$ 85.2	39%
French Guiana	\$ 16.2	45%
Guadeloupe	\$ 2.5	1%
Martinique	\$ 0.5	1%
Grenada	\$ 0.4	2%

<u>Imports from US in Millions US \$ 1980</u>		<u>As a % of Total Imports</u>
Trinidad & Tobago	\$ 836.8	26%
Dominican Republic	\$ 692.9	43%
Netherlands Antilles	\$ 492.4	6%
Bahamas	\$ 435.3	10%
Haiti	\$ 342.0	56%
Jamaica	\$ 335.4	28%
Barbados	\$ 178.8	34%
Suriname	\$ 150.0	28%
Guyana	\$ 105.9	28%
Martinique	\$ 36.1	4%
Guadeloupe	\$ 34.4	4%
French Guiana	\$ 16.0	7%

A third indication of significance to the United States is economic and military assistance. Bilateral assistance is not the only form of assistance from the United States to the region. The Caribbean regional figures below are for programs that the Agency for International Development funds but which benefit a number of countries either through sharing the benefits of ongoing research projects or channelling funds through multilateral institutions.

Aid from U.S. FY 1982*
in Millions of US \$

	PL 480 &					Per
	<u>Development</u>	<u>Peace Corps</u>	<u>ESF</u>	<u>Military</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Capita</u>
Bahamas	-	-	-	1.000	1.000	\$ 3.33
Barbados	-	.040	-	2.085	2.125	\$ 7.08
Dominica	-	-	-	0.050	0.050	\$ 9.38
Dominican Republic	24.700	22.364	-	5.450	52.514	\$ 0.50
Guyana	2.210	0.076	-	0.040	2.326	\$ 2.64
Haiti	12.015	19.743	-	0.550	32.308	\$ 5.38
Jamaica	29.571	19.384	40.0	2.075	91.030	\$41.38
St. Lucia	-	-	-	0.050	0.050	\$ 0.50
St. Vincent	-	-	-	0.050	0.050	\$ 0.50
Suriname	-	-	-	0.060	0.060	\$ 0.15
Caribbean regional	30.605	2.162	20.0	3.612	56.379	-

C. Level of Development

This section presents comparative indicators of the level of development of the countries of the Caribbean. If a country does not appear in the following tables, figures for that country are not available for that category.

*These figures do not include the proposed FY 1982 supplemental for the Caribbean Basin Initiative, which proposes the following additional amounts: \$50 million for Jamaica, \$5 million for Haiti, and \$10 million for the Eastern Caribbean. The remainder of the \$350 million is intended for Central America, primarily El Salvador (\$128 million) and Costa Rica (\$70 million). Per capita figures are in exact 1982 dollars divided by population figures from this report's population tables which are not current to 1982, so use as a rough comparison only. ESF stands for Economic Support Fund.

Two standard measures of development are life expectancy and literacy. On the whole, the countries of the Caribbean do well in these categories, and the general distribution is fairly similar in the two tables, with the Dominican Republic, Guyana, and Haiti falling at the bottom and Cuba and Barbados near the top of both.

<u>Life expectancy</u>	<u>Literacy</u>	<u>% of Population</u>
Puerto Rico	British Virgin Islands	100 (approx.)
Cuba	Barbados	99
Barbados	Cuba	96
Jamaica	Dominica	95
Bahamas	Netherlands Antilles	95
Grenada	Martinique	93
Guadeloupe	Grenada	91
Netherlands Antilles	Bahamas	90
St. Lucia	Guadeloupe	88
St. Vincent	Puerto Rico	88
Suriname	Jamaica	86
Trinidad & Tobago	St. Lucia	85
Martinique	Suriname	84
Dominican Republic	Trinidad & Tobago	82
Dominica	St. Kitts-Nevis	80 (approx.)
Guyana	St. Vincent	76
Haiti	French Guiana	73
	Dominican Republic	67
	Guyana	60
	Haiti	23
compare with averages for:	compare with averages for:	
developing countries	developing countries	54
developed countries	developed countries	99

The Overseas Development Council has devised another useful measure of development, called the Physical Quality of Life Index (PQLI). It is an abstract measure of the diffusion of public goods based on an average of life expectancy, infant mortality, and literacy rates. Generally, the countries of the Caribbean exhibit fairly strong performance in this category, faring considerably better than most developing countries. Haiti, however, exhibits exceedingly poor performance.

Physical Quality of Life Index - Current

Cuba	93	Suriname	84
Barbados	92	Netherlands Antilles	83
Puerto Rico	92	Dominica	80
Trinidad & Tobago	90	St. Vincent	80
Bahamas	88	Dominican Republic	66
Guadeloupe	88	Haiti	39
Jamaica	88		
Martinique	87	compare with averages for:	
Grenada	86	developing countries	60
Guyana	86	developed countries	94
St. Lucia	84	United States	96

D. Economic Well-Being

Measured in terms of per capita Gross Domestic Product, the countries of the Caribbean are performing respectably viz-a-viz the rest of the developing world. Indeed, Haiti is the only low-income country in the region as defined by the Overseas Development Council.

Per Capita GNP - 1980

Martinique	\$ 4,640	St. Lucia	\$ 850
Trinidad & Tobago	\$ 4,370	Grenada	\$ 690
Netherlands Antilles	\$ 4,290	Guyana	\$ 690
Guadeloupe	\$ 3,870	Dominica	\$ 620
Bahamas	\$ 3,300	St. Vincent & Grend.	\$ 520
Barbados	\$ 3,040	Haiti	\$ 270
Suriname	\$ 2,840		
Cuba	\$ 1,410	compare with averages for:	
Dominican Republic	\$ 1,140	developing countries	\$ 711
Jamaica	\$ 1,030	developed countries	\$ 8,262

But measured in terms of per capita growth rates, economic performance has been poor. The relative prosperity of the 1960's and early 1970's has waned. The first table below compares the average annual variation of GDP for four time periods. Since this type of comparative data is not available for each country, the second table is simply a ranked comparison of GNP growth rates for 1970-79. The most recent available GNP growth rate figures are in the country-by-country data in the next section.

Gross Domestic Product Average Annual Variations (in per cent)

	<u>1961-70</u>	<u>1971-75</u>	<u>1976-80</u>	<u>1980</u>
Bahamas	n.a.	n.a.	6.2	6.9
Barbados	8.3	n.a.	3.6	5.4
Dominican Republic	5.4	9.1	4.8	5.4
Guyana	3.7	3.4	-0.1	3.7
Haiti	0.8	3.8	4.8	5.5
Jamaica	5.4	1.7	-2.9	-3.5
Suriname	n.a.	1.2	10.8	n.a.
Trinidad & Tobago	4.0	2.9	6.1	3.5
Latin American average	8.5	6.8	5.4	5.7

Per Capita GNP Growth Rate 1970-79 (in per cent)

Suriname	6.4	Guyana	0.0
Guadeloupe	5.1	Grenada	-1.3
Cuba	4.7	St. Vincent & Grend.	-1.7
Trinidad & Tobago	4.5	Dominica	-3.2
Martinique	4.3	Jamaica	-3.7
Dominican Republic	3.7	Bahamas	-4.7
St. Lucia	2.8		
Barbados	2.1	compare with averages for:	
Haiti	1.8	developing countries	2.4
Netherlands Antilles	0.9	developed countries	3.2

A further measure of economic well-being is the rate at which prices have increased. The following table exhibits the same general trend as above: relative economic well-being has been replaced in recent years by increasingly severe problems.

Average Annual Variation in the Consumer Price Index (in per cent)

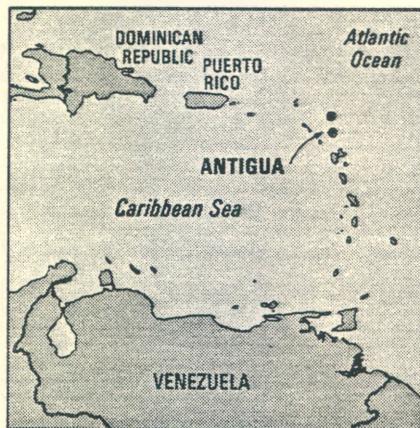
	<u>1961-70</u>	<u>1971-75</u>	<u>1976-80</u>	<u>1980</u>			
Dom. Repb.	2.1	Guyana	7.8	Bahamas	6.9	Dom. Repb.	8.6
Guyana	2.3	Bahamas	8.1	Haiti	8.4	Suriname	10.7
Haiti	2.9	Suriname	8.4	Dom. Repb.	10.0	Bahamas	12.1
Barbados	3.0	Dom. Repb.	11.0	Barbados	10.9	Haiti	14.3
Trn. & Tob.	3.1	Trn. & Tob.	13.3	Suriname	11.5	Barbados	14.8
Jamaica	4.2	Haiti	13.4	Guyana	12.9	Guyana	15.0
Suriname	4.2	Jamaica	14.1	Trn. & Tob.	13.0	Trn. & Tob.	15.1
Bahamas	6.2	Barbados	18.9	Jamaica	22.4	Jamaica	15.4

III. COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY DATA

The following section contains country-by-country data about the location, history, government, defense, and economy of each country and dependency in the region. This information is in large part synopsized from the much more comprehensive Caribbean Databook cited in the list of sources (part IV). Note that there is no country-page for Anguilla. Anguilla only recently ended its association with St. Kitts and Nevis, and information on Anguilla can be found in the section on St. Kitts-Nevis. One further note about St. Kitts: the island is officially named St. Christopher but as part of the state it is very often abbreviated St. Kitts. In the following pages, CARICOM is often cited as a major trading partner. The acronym stands for Caribbean Community and Common Market and it provides for duty-free trade between member nations. CARICOM also works to establish a common external tariff for all goods coming into the community, to arrange an integrated system of fiscal incentives to industry, and to eliminate double taxation within the CARICOM region. CARICOM members are former and present British dependencies, including Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago. All figures are in U.S. dollars unless otherwise indicated.

ANTIGUA

size:	108 square miles
population:	76,000 (1981)
GNP:	\$84.1 million (1979)
annual GNP growth rate:	7.7% (1979)
per capita GNP:	\$ 1,150 (1979)
unemployment:	approximately 17%
sovereignty status:	independent



location: located in the eastern Caribbean islands at the southern end of the Leeward Islands, 250 miles southeast of Puerto Rico.

recent history: Antigua and Barbuda was a member of the Federation of the West Indies 1958-62. On February 27, 1967, the island and its two dependencies entered into a free association with other British dependencies in the Windward and Leeward Islands. As a British Associated State, it was a dependent territory with full internal autonomy. Antigua and Barbuda achieved full independence in November 1981. Two days afterwards, the 1200-person island of Barbuda began to talk of secession. They plan to attempt to block the new state's admission to the United Nations.

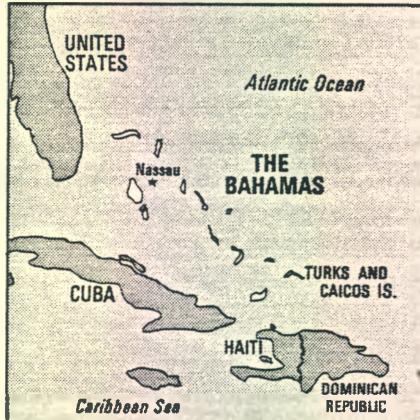
government: Queen Elizabeth II is the Head of State and is represented there by a Governor who can act only on the advice of the Premier and Cabinet. Antigua has a bicameral legislature and a legal system based on English law. Current Prime Minister: Vere C. Bird, Sr.

defense: It has a small military force.

economy: As with many of the Caribbean islands, Antigua is heavily dependent on tourism which accounts for approximately 40% of the GNP. In recent years, growth in the public sector, manufacturing, and tourism has assisted in absorbing some of Antigua's high unemployment. Nevertheless, industrial development (mainly import substitution) is still in an early stage. Major trading partners (1975): Britain, U.S., Commonwealth Caribbean countries. Exports (\$50.0 million, 1979) primarily composed of mineral fuel lubricants and related materials, machinery, and transport equipment. Imports (\$63.0 million, 1979) primarily composed of mineral fuel lubricants and related materials, food, live animals, machinery, and transport equipment.

THE BAHAMAS

size: 5,382 square miles
 population: 249,000 (1981)
 GNP: \$ 572.7 million (1978)
 annual GNP growth rate: 4.1% (1978)
 per capita GNP: \$ 2,322 (1978)
 exports to US: \$ 130.4 million (1980)
 imports from US: \$ 435.3 million (1980)
 aid from US: \$1 million (FY82 est)
 unemployment: 19% (1979)
 sovereignty status: independent



location: An archipelago of 700 islands and more than 2,000 cays about 50 miles off the southeast coast of Florida and extending in a 750 mile arc towards the northern edge of the Caribbean.

recent history: The islands became a British crown colony in 1717 and remained so until January 1964 when internal self-government was attained. In May 1969 the Bahamas was given increased responsibility for internal security, external affairs, and defense, and on July 10, 1973 became an independent nation within the Commonwealth.

government: Queen Elizabeth II acts as ceremonial Chief of State and appoints a Governor-General to act as her representative. But real executive power rests in the Prime Minister of the bicameral legislature, the upper house of which is appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of Bahamian party leaders. The current Prime Minister is Lynden Pindling.

defense: Defense forces are now being built up to be predominantly naval; a small air wing is to be formed. Paramilitary forces: the Royal Bahamas Police Force, a semi-military organization, has about 900 officers.

economy: Tourism is the major source of revenue for the Bahamas, directly or indirectly accounting for about 70% of GNP. An open attitude toward foreign investment, very little direct taxation, and a minimum of regulations governing offshore financial business, have made finance the economy's second most important sector. Bahamians have a relatively high per capita income compared with other Caribbean nations. While there are shortages of skilled labor, the high population growth rate has produced heavy unemployment among the young. Major trading partners (1977): Saudi Arabia, Angola, Iran, Nigeria, U.S., Puerto Rico, Belgium, Netherlands, Indonesia, Gabon, and Venezuela. Exports (\$791.2 million, 1978) primarily composed of pharmaceuticals, crawfish, salt, cement. Imports (\$647.6 million, 1978) primarily composed of mineral fuels, lubricants and related products, food and live animals, machinery and transport equipment, and chemicals.

BARBADOS

size: 166 square miles
 population: 256,000 (1981)
 GNP: \$ 511.2 million (1978)
 annual GNP growth rate: 5.1% (1978)
 per capita GNP: \$ 2,010 (1978)
 exports to US: \$ 85.2 million (1980)
 imports from US: \$ 178.8 million (1980)
 aid from US: \$ 2.125 million (FY82 est)
 unemployment: approx. 15% (1979)
 sovereignty status: independent



location: Most easterly of the Caribbean islands: immediately east of the Windward Islands and 270 miles northwest of Venezuela.

recent history: Barbados remained a colony of Britain until achieving full internal autonomy in October 1961. The House of Assembly, which began meeting in 1639, is the third oldest legislative body in the Western Hemisphere. Barbados was one of the ten members of the West Indies Federal from January 1958 until its dissolution in May 1972. With the termination of the federation, Barbados reverted to its former status as a self-governing colony. It became an independent sovereign state within the Commonwealth on November 30, 1966. It has a history of even political transition from one administration to the next.

government: Executive authority is vested in the Prime Minister and Cabinet, who are collectively responsible to the bicameral Parliament. The British Monarch, represented by a Governor-General, is the largely ceremonial Head of State.

defense: The Barbados Defense Force established in 1978 consists of 154 regular personnel. It is to be divided into regular defense units and a coast guard service. A volunteer force and a reserve are also planned. Paramilitary forces consist of a 675-man police force.

economy: Barbados is one of the largest and most prosperous islands in the eastern Caribbean. Within the last 20 years the Barbadian economy has experienced substantial structural changes, with tourism becoming the most dynamic sector. Political stability, moderate government policies, and favorable industrial relations have attracted export-oriented small-scale assembly operations. During the 1970's there was rapid growth in the manufacturing sector, particularly in electronic components. In recent years, Barbados has had relatively high rates of real economic growth, due in part to its well-developed infrastructure. But unemployment remains a serious problem. Major trading partners (1979): U.S., U.K., other West Indies States, and Canada. Exports (\$349.5 million, 1978) composed primarily of sugar, clothing, electrical components, rum, and molasses. Imports (\$372.7 million, 1978) composed primarily of foodstuffs, other non-durables, fuels and lubricants, building materials, chemicals, and textiles.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

size: 59 square miles
 population: 11,000 (1980)
 GDP: \$ 28 million (1976)
 sovereignty status: British colony



location: Some 36 islands in the Caribbean Sea (11 of which are not inhabited), about 50 miles east of Puerto Rico.

recent history: A part of the Leeward Islands until 1956, the group of islands did not join the 1958-1962 West Indies Federation in order to maintain close economic ties with the U.S. Virgin Islands. In 1967, a new Constitution was promulgated that provided for a ministerial system of government headed by a Governor. The island group remains under British control today.

government: The Governor is responsible for defense and internal security, external affairs, terms and conditions of service of public officers, and the administration of the Courts. There is an Executive Council presided over by the Governor, and a Legislative Council which is popularly elected.

defense: responsibility of Great Britain.

economy: The major contributor to the economy is the tourism industry, which is expanding and appears to hold the most growth potential. Manufacturing has not been significant. A large part of the labor force is employed in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Exports (\$0.706 million, 1978) primarily composed of fresh fish, gravel and sand, fruits and vegetables. Imports (\$19.8 million, 1978) primarily composed of food and petroleum products.

CAYMAN ISLANDS

size:	93 square miles
population:	16,677 (1979)
GDP:	\$ 72 million (1977)
per capita GDP:	\$ 4,800 (1977)
sovereignty status:	British colony



location: 180 miles northwest of Jamaica and 460 miles south of Miami.

recent history: The Cayman Islands were a dependency of Jamaica until 1959. All constitutional links were severed when Jamaica gained its independence in 1962. In 1959, the islands became a unit territory within the Federation of the West Indies until the association was dissolved in 1962. The Cayman Islands remain a separate dependent territory of the United Kingdom.

government: The 1972 Constitution empowers the Crown-appointed Governor to make laws with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly, 12 members of which are popularly elected and 3 of which are governor-appointed. An Executive Council, which is responsible for day-to-day government operations, is also partially elected and partially appointed. The United Kingdom retains full control over foreign affairs.

defense: Responsibility of Great Britain.

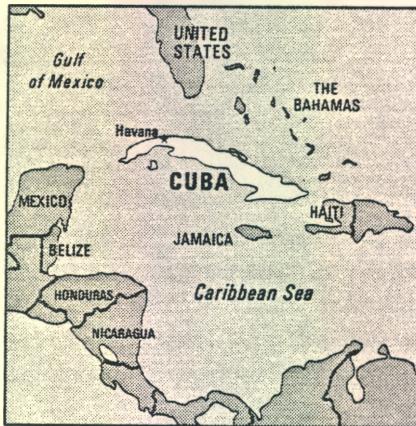
economy: The Cayman Islands' tourist and international business sectors have grown rapidly while generating employment, foreign exchange, government revenue, and GDP. Tourism increased five-fold in the number of arrivals between 1971 and 1978. An absence of income, corporate, and property taxes combined with liberal foreign exchange regulations have contributed to the rapid development of the offshore financial industry. The agricultural sector has remained small. Lack of natural resources and skilled labor combined with relatively high wages have somewhat limited the manufacturing sector. Exports (\$8.34 million, 1978 est) primarily composed of turtle shell, tropical fish, and dried fish. Imports (\$4.28 million, 1978 est) primarily composed of foodstuffs, textiles, building materials, automobiles, petroleum products, and turtle meat.

CUBA

CRS-19

size: 44,000 square miles
population: 9,796,000 (1981)
GDP: \$ 13.3 billion (1978 est)
annual GDP growth rate: 4% (1978 est)
per capita GDP: \$ 1,360 (1978 est)
sovereignty status: independent

location: About 90 miles south of Florida.



history: Cuba was a Spanish colony until the Spanish-American War of 1898 when it was occupied by the United States. Cuba was established as an independent republic in 1902 but remained subject to the U.S.-proposed Platt Amendment which gave the United States the right to intervene to guarantee Cuban independence. The Platt Amendment remained in effect until 1934 when it was abrogated by the U.S. Army Sergeant Fulgencio Batista y Zaldivar seized power in 1934 and controlled politics until he was replaced in elections in 1944. In 1952, Batista seized power again, increasingly becoming more dictatorial. He was overthrown by Fidel Castro in 1959. Relations with the U.S. quickly deteriorated as anti-American sentiments culminated in the expropriation of all U.S. business interests in Cuba. The U.S. retaliated with a severance of diplomatic relations, a trade embargo, and, in April 1961, an attempted invasion by Cuban exiles at the Bay of Pigs. Castro gradually established a communist system of government, retaining tight control. A new constitution was approved by the First Congress of the Cuban Communist Party in December 1975 and was adopted by popular referendum in February 1976. In December 1976 the Assembly was inaugurated and Fidel Castro was elected President of the newly created Council of State.

government: The Cuban government is organized in a Party-Government-State structure similar to the one in the Soviet Union. The elected National Assembly (elections held every five years) is formally vested with legislative powers. From among its members, the Assembly elects a 31-member Council of State, with President Castro being both Chief of State and Government.

defense: As of July 1980, force levels were as follows: Army = 206,000; Navy = 10,000; Air Force = 16,000; Army reserves = 90,000; paramilitary forces = 15,000; border guards = 3,000; People's Militia = 100,000

economy: Cuba's socialist economy is based on agriculture with sugar providing nearly 80% of total export revenues. Cuba's second largest export is nickel. The government has stepped up investment in the fishing industry which has been showing results in larger annual catches. High priority is given to industrial development with the state allocating a large portion of the budget for such purposes. Private enterprise is permitted only on a limited and controlled basis. Major trading partners: U.S.S.R., Spain, East Germany, Japan, Canada, Bulgaria. Exports (\$4.7 billion, 1977) are composed primarily of sugar, nickel oxide, shellfish, tobacco. Imports (\$5.0 billion, 1977) are composed primarily of capital goods, industrial raw material, petroleum, and foodstuffs. Between 1960 and 1978, the U.S.S.R. granted \$5.7 billion in economic credits, \$11 billion in subsidies, and \$1.6 billion in military assistance.

DOMINICA

size:	289.5 square miles
population:	79,000 (1981)
GNP:	\$39.6 million (1978)
annual GNP growth rate:	3.9% (1978)
per capita GNP:	US\$459 (1978)
aid from US:	\$0.05 million (FY82 est)
unemployment:	23% (1980 est)
sovereignty status:	independent



location: The most northerly and largest of the Windward Islands, situated between Guadeloupe to the north and Martinique to the south.

recent history: In 1960, Dominica achieved separate status with its own administrator and was a participant in the West Indies Federation until 1962. The island became a West Indies Associated State in March 1967, achieving full autonomy in internal affairs. Great Britain retained responsibility for defense and foreign relations. On November 3, 1978, Dominica became an independent republic within the Commonwealth. In April 1981, the United States F.B.I. foiled a plot which involved American mercenaries with Ku Klux Klan connections to overthrow the government.

government: Dominica is a republic with an executive branch composed of a President and a Prime Minister. Executive authority is vested in the President, but in most matters he heeds the advice of the Cabinet and acts as a constitutional Head of State. Real power is vested in the Prime Minister who heads the unicameral legislature. The legal system is based on English common law. Currently, the President is Aurelius Marie and the Prime Minister is (Mary) Eugenia Charles.

defense: Dominica's defense force numbered 99 regulars and volunteers until it was fired after the coup attempt. The police force has about 350 members but is being expanding to 500.

economy: Dominica has experienced severe economic problems and is one of the poorest Caribbean nations. Slow improvement in the economy during the 1970's was wiped out by Hurricanes David, Frederick, and Allen in 1979 and 1980. After the hurricanes, gross domestic expenditure was sustained by substantial inflow of foreign assistance. There is sufficient arable land to expand production. The manufacturing industry is in its infancy. Major trading partners: U.K., CARICOM nations, U.S., other Caribbean nations, Canada, and Latin America. Exports (\$9.4 million, 1979) primarily composed of bananas, coconuts and coconut products, citrus fruits and citrus products. Imports (\$39.4 million, 1979) primarily composed of foodstuffs, manufactured goods, machinery and equipment, and chemicals.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

size:	18,700 square miles
population:	5,762,000 (1981)
GNP:	\$ 5.5 billion (1979)
annual GNP growth rate:	5.0% (1979)
per capita GNP:	\$ 990 (1979)
exports to US:	\$ 633.7 million (1980)
imports from US:	\$ 692.9 million (1980)
aid from US:	\$ 52.514 million (FY82 est)
unemployment:	about 25% (1979)
sovereignty status:	independent



location: Occupies the eastern two-thirds of the island of Hispaniola which is located between Puerto Rico and Cuba; western one-third is occupied by the nation of Haiti.

recent history: General Rafael Trujillo Molina overthrew an elected government in 1930, and his dictatorship lasted until his assassination in 1961. Free elections were held in December 1962 but the new President, Juan Bosch, was removed in a military coup in September 1963. In April 1965, Bosch supporters attempted to overthrow the civilian junta. This movement was put down with the assistance of some 23,000 U.S. armed forces which were subsequently incorporated into an Inter-American Peace Force by the Organization of American States (OAS). Conservative Joaquin Balaguer won OAS-sponsored elections in 1966 and won subsequent elections in 1970 and 1974, but Antonio Guzman of Bosch's PRD party won in 1978 to strengthen democracy in the island.

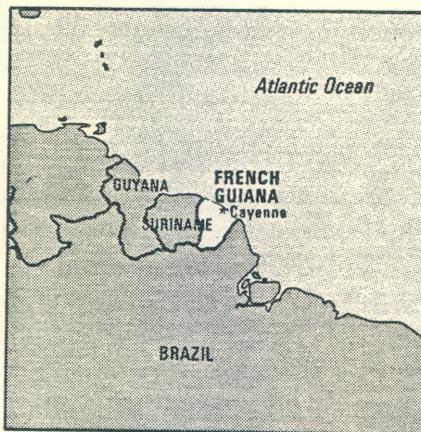
government: The Dominican Republic is a representative democracy. Executive power is vested in a President, elected by direct popular vote every four years. Legislative power resides in a bicameral Congress also elected by direct popular vote.

defense: As of July 1980, there were combined armed forces of 19,000 regulars and 10,000 paramilitary.

economy: Agriculture is the most important economic activity in terms of its contribution to employment, GDP, and exports, with sugar being the principal cash crop. The export of gold and silver draws large revenues and the tourism industry is becoming increasingly important as a major employer and revenue producer. Easy access to domestic and foreign credit as well as liberal fiscal incentives have stimulated industrial development of garment producers, cigars, jewelry, shoes, and electronic components. Major trading partners: U.S., Switzerland, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles, Japan. Exports (\$961.9 million, 1980) primarily composed of sugar and by-products, ferronickel, gold and silver, cocoa and by-products, and bauxite. Imports (\$1,093.9 million, 1980) primarily composed of foodstuffs, petroleum, industrial raw materials, capital equipment.

FRENCH GUIANA

size:	35,135 square miles
population:	66,000 (1981)
GNP:	\$ 100 million (1975)
per capita income:	\$ 800 (1975)
exports to US:	\$ 16.2 million (1980)
imports from US:	\$ 16.0 million (1980)
unemployment:	10% (1980)
sovereignty status:	French Overseas Dept.



location: Located on the northeast coast of South America, a few degrees north of the equator; bordered by Suriname on the west, the Atlantic Ocean on the north, and Brazil in the east and south.

recent history: French Guiana, under direct French control since 1676, became an Overseas Department of the French Republic in 1946.

government: French Guiana is administered by an appointed official of the French central government; a 16-member General Council votes on the departmental budget and has legislative jurisdiction over purely local matters. It is represented in the National Assembly and Senate in Paris.

defense: France is responsible for defense.

economy: The main source of income is aid received from the French government. This money goes mainly toward the development of social services. Basic infrastructure such as roads, communications, and services are limited. Farm production does not nearly meet domestic demands. Timber reserves, which are quite extensive, are being planned for further exploration. There are also undeveloped resources of gold and bauxite which may bring additional employment and revenues. Expansion is also planned for the tourism industry.

Major trading partners: U.S., France, French Antilles, Trinidad and Tobago. Exports (\$7.2 million, 1977) primarily composed of shrimp, timber, rum, rosewood essence, and sugar cane. Imports (\$143.4 million, 1977) primarily composed of food (grains), processed meat, other consumer goods, producer goods, and petroleum.

GRENADE

size: 133 square miles
 population: 107,000 (1981)
 GNP: \$ 61.3 million (1978)
 annual GNP growth rate: 6.6% (1975-78)
 per capita GNP: \$544 (1978)
 exports to US: \$ 0.44 million (1980)
 unemployment: estimated 30-40% (1980)
 sovereignty status: independent



location: The most southern of the Windward Islands; 85 miles north of Trinidad.

recent history: Grenada joined the Federation of the West Indies after the dissolution of the Windward Islands Administration in 1958, though this Federation collapsed in 1962. It joined the West Indies Associated States in 1967 and was granted full autonomy over its internal affairs, with Britain retaining responsibility for defense and external affairs. Grenada became an Associated State in 1967 and was the first of the associated states to seek full independence, which was granted in 1974. In March of 1979, Prime Minister Eric Gairy was replaced in a coup by the leader of the left-wing New Jewel Movement, Maurice Bishop, and a People's Revolutionary Government was formed with friendly ties with Cuba.

government: The People's Revolutionary Government is composed of a 7-member Cabinet and a 16-member Revolutionary Council.

defense: There is a People's Revolutionary Army numbering over 1,000; there is a Royal Grenada Police Force and a People's Militia which consists of over 25,000 volunteers.

economy: Agriculture forms the base of the economy, contributing about one third of GDP. Nevertheless, for the last 15 years actual land under cultivation has decreased. Tourism also contributes significantly to the economy but has been constrained by limited air access and political uncertainty. International price and demand changes as well as the vagaries of the weather have had a substantial impact on Grenada's fluctuating GDP growth rate. Inadequate infrastructure, problems of landholding and land use, and lack of agricultural credit have also led to poor economic performance. Cuba and the USSR are providing Grenada with equipment and expertise to develop its fishing industry. While relatively well educated, the population is predominantly young and unemployment tends to be high. Major trading partners: U.K., West Indies, West Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, Canada, Netherlands, and U.S. Exports (\$21.7 million, 1979) primarily composed of nutmeg, cocoa, bananas, and mace. Imports (53.6 million, 1979) primarily composed of beverages and tobacco, machinery and equipment, minerals and fuels.

GUADELOUPE

size: 687 square miles
 population: 317,000 (1981)
 GDP: \$ 957 million (1978)
 annual GDP growth rate: 14.3% (1977)
 per capita GDP: \$3,040 (1978)
 exports to US: \$ 2.45 million (1980)
 imports from US: \$ 34.35 million (1980)
 sovereignty status: French Overseas Dept.



location: Guadeloupe is the most northerly of the Windward Islands in the east Caribbean, Dominica lies to the south and Antigua and Montserrat to the northwest. Grande-Terre and Basse-Terre, two large islands separated by a narrow sea channel, form Guadeloupe.

recent history: Since 1815 Guadeloupe has been an integral part of the French Republic. It gained departmental status in 1946 when it received representation in the National Assembly in Paris on the same basis as the departments of metropolitan France.

government: It is administered by an appointed Prefect, an elected General Council of 36 members, and a Regional Council. It is also represented in the National Assembly in Paris. A French legal system is followed.

defense: Responsibility of the French government.

economy: Guadeloupe enjoys a higher standard of living than many of the other Caribbean nations due to the large amounts of economic assistance it receives from the French government. Tourism and agriculture are the major industries. Agriculture is especially plagued by organizational and infrastructure problems which hinder efforts to increase production. Government policy has been to bring the local minimum wage up to that of metropolitan France. With relatively high wages prevailing, the small size of the local market, and the distances from sources of raw materials and large markets, the islands do not have a climate conducive to large-scale industrialization. Exports (\$119 million, 1978) primarily composed of sugar, bananas, and other fruits and vegetables. Imports (\$455 million, 1978) primarily composed of foodstuffs, clothing and other consumer durables, raw materials and supplies, and petroleum products.

GUYANA

size:	83,000 square miles
population:	850,000 (1981)
GNP:	\$ 489.4 million (1979)
annual GNP growth rate:	-5.6% (1979)
per capita GNP:	\$ 580 (1979)
exports to US:	\$ 123.0 million (1980)
imports from US:	\$ 105.9 million (1980)
aid from US:	\$ 2.326 million (FY82 est)
unemployment:	approx. 20% (1979)
sovereignty status:	independent



location: On the continent of South America bounded by the Atlantic Ocean on the north, Brazil to the south, Suriname to the east, and Venezuela to the northwest.

recent history: In 1953, a new Constitution was introduced for this British crown colony, and elections were held in which the left-wing People's Progressive Party won. Claiming that a communist dictatorship was imminent, the U.K. suspended the Constitution in October 1953. Following another PPP victory in the 1957 elections, a new Constitution providing for internal self-government was adopted in 1961 and domestic unrest in the racially divided country increased. A coalition government led Guyana to full independence on May 26, 1966. On February 23, 1970, Guyana became a Cooperative Republic. The country still has unresolved boundary disputes with both Venezuela and Suriname.

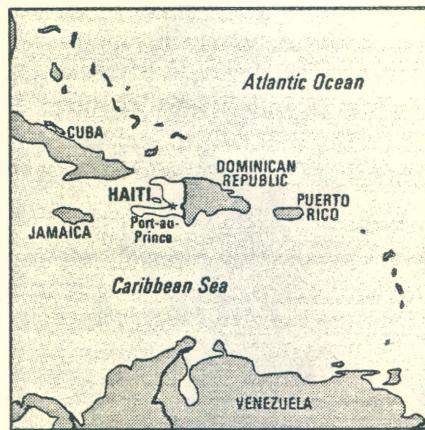
government: Guyana is a republic headed by President Forbes Burnham, the leader of the majority party in the assembly.

defense: As of July 1980, total armed forces were: 3,000 in the Guyana Defense Force and 5,000 in para-military forces.

economy: Historically dependent on sugar, the Guyanese economy is basically agrarian. The largest export earner is bauxite, an industry that has been wholly state-owned since 1975. Many foreign interests have also been nationalized in recent years. Poor weather, shortages of needed equipment and foreign exchange, work stoppages, and a high fuel import bill plague the economy. The government recently has indicated an interest in attracting foreign investment. Major trading partners: U.K., U.S., CARICOM, and Canada. Exports (\$306.7 million, 1979) primarily composed of bauxite and alumina, sugar, rice, shrimp, rum, and molasses. Imports (\$350.0 million, 1979) primarily composed of fuels and lubricants, foodstuffs, capital goods, building materials, and machinery and transport equipment.

HAITI

size: 10,714 square miles
 population: 5,878,000 (1981)
 GNP: \$ 1.3 billion (1979)
 annual GNP growth rate: 1.9% (1979)
 per capita GNP: \$ 230 (1978)
 exports to US: \$ 239.8 million (1980)
 imports from US: \$ 342.0 million (1980)
 aid from US: \$ 32.308 million (FY82 est)
 (plus \$5 million CBI-proposed)
 unemployment: 14% (50% in certain areas)
 sovereignty status: independent



location: Occupies the western one-third of the island of Hispaniola. Dominican Republic occupies the eastern two-thirds; Cuba is less than 50 miles to the west.

recent history: After a period of chaotic politics and economic conditions, a U.S. military intervention and occupation occurred in 1915, lasting until 1934. Francois Duvalier, who had been elected President in 1957 following a year of political turmoil, became President for Life in 1964 and remained in absolute political control of the country until his death in 1971. Under an amendment to the Constitution allowing the President to name his successor, Duvalier's son, Jean-Claude Duvalier, assumed the presidency and became President for Life.

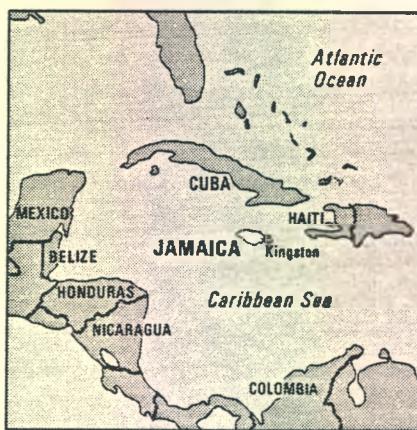
government: Jean-Claude Duvalier is President for Life under the 1971 constitution. The Constitution provides for a lifetime president to be designated by his predecessor and ratified by the electorate in a plebiscite. There is also a unicameral Legislative Chamber.

defense: As of July 1980, armed forces (Army, Navy, Air Force) totalled 7,500; paramilitary forces numbered 14,900, and National Security volunteers numbered 7,000.

economy: Haiti's economy, suffering from increasing demands of a growing population, remains one of the poorest in the Western Hemisphere. Agriculture is the most important sector of the economy, employing about 60% of the work force and producing about 40% of GDP. Manufacturing, which is beginning to contribute a larger portion of the GDP, constituted 12% of the total in 1980. Despite economic difficulties, Haiti is still able to attract US business investment for labor-intensive assembly with its abundant supply of skilled and cheap labor. Major trading partners: U.S., France, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands, U.K., Netherlands Antilles, Japan, Canada, Germany. Exports (\$189.06 million, 1979) primarily composed of coffee, light industrial products, bauxite, sugar, essential oils, sisal, cocoa, and cement. Imports (\$323.5 million, 1979) primarily composed of consumer durables, foodstuffs, industrial equipment, petroleum products, and construction materials.

JAMAICA

size:	4,411 square miles
population:	2,225,000 (1981)
GDP:	\$ 2.936 billion (1979)
annual GDP growth rate:	-3.5% (1979)
per capita GDP	\$ 1,352 (1980)
exports to US:	\$ 380.0 million (1980)
imports from US:	\$ 335.4 million (1980)
aid from US:	\$ 91.030 million (FY82 est) (plus \$50 million CBI-proposed)
unemployment:	31% (1980)
sovereignty status:	independent



location: 90 miles south of Cuba and 100 miles west of Haiti.

recent history: After a long period of direct British colonial rule, Jamaica began to gradually achieve local political control in the late 1930's. In 1958 Jamaica joined the West Indies Federation but withdrew in 1961 following a referendum. Complete independence from the United Kingdom was attained in August 1962, but Jamaica remains a member of the Commonwealth. In the 1970's, Jamaica was plagued by violence and crime culminating in the declaration of a one-year emergency in 1976. Governed in the late 1970's under a philosophy of democratic socialism, Jamaica was experiencing severe economic problems and there was widespread unrest by 1980. This situation led to a call for early elections, held in late October of 1980, in which Edward Seaga, was elected on a platform of promotion of free enterprise.

government: Under Jamaica's British-style parliamentary system, Queen Elizabeth II, as Chief of State, appoints a Governor-General on the advice of the Prime Minister, but his duties are largely ceremonial. Executive power resides in a Cabinet led by a Prime Minister responsible to the bicameral Parliament. The current Prime Minister is Edward Seaga.

defense: As of July 1980, the defense force totalled approximately 4,000 and paramilitary forces numbered 8,200. The size of the police force in 1978 was 5,898.

economy: Jamaica shows significant promise of developing its economy in the 1980's through its many valuable resources. Among these are a highly educated and skilled workforce, a well-developed financial system, and abundant natural resources. The Jamaican economy experienced its seventh consecutive year of decline in 1980. Agricultural output, generally accounting for about 9-10% of Jamaica's GDP, declined in 1979 and 1980 due to shortages of imported inputs, adverse weather conditions, and limited government participation in that sector. The economic strategy planned by the Seaga government, favors increased private investment and hopes to bring about rapid economic recovery and growth. Major trading partners: U.S., U.K., and Canada. Exports (\$979 million, 1980) primarily composed of alumina, bauxite, sugar, bananas, citrus fruits and fruit products, rum, cocoa. Imports (\$1,129 million, 1980) primarily composed of fuels, machinery, transportation and electrical equipment, food, and fertilizer.

MARTINIQUE

size: 425 square miles
 population: 312,000 (1981)
 GDP: \$ 1.135 billion (1978)
 annual GDP growth rate: 13.4% (1977)
 per capita GDP: \$ 3,559 (1978)
 exports to US: \$ 0.470 million (1980)
 imports from US: \$ 36.1 million (1980)
 unemployment: 21% (1980)
 sovereignty status: French Overseas Dept.



location: One of the Windward Islands in the Eastern Caribbean, and one of the largest of the lesser Antilles, lying about 370 miles southeast of Puerto Rico, with Dominica to the north and St. Lucia to the south.

recent history: Since 1946, the island has been an overseas Department of France.

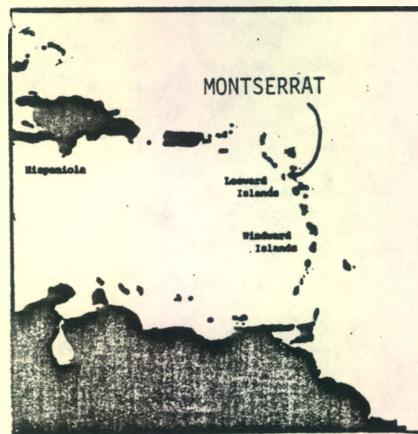
government: As a French Overseas Department, Martinique is represented in the French National Assembly. The prefect appointed by Paris administers the department. There is a popularly elected council and a Regional Council.

defense: As a Department of France, Martinique has no significant defense forces of its own; males are inducted into the French military.

economy: The base of the economy is agricultural, employing about 30% of the labor force. Large sums of money received from the French government support social welfare programs. High unemployment, economic stagnation, and an increasingly large balance of payments are major economic concerns. Two industrial zones have been established and a number of tax exemptions are in operation to encourage industrial and commercial development. Major trading partners: France, Venezuela, Guadeloupe, Algeria, and Italy. Exports (\$166 million, 1978) primarily composed of bananas, refined petroleum products, rum, sugar, pineapples. Imports (\$545 million, 1978) primarily composed of foodstuffs, clothing and consumer goods, raw materials and supplies, and petroleum products.

MONTSERRAT

size: 39.5 square miles
 population: 12,000 (1981)
 GNP: \$ 15.2 million (1979)
 annual GNP growth rate: 13.3% (1978)
 per capita GNP: \$ 1,250 (1979)
 sovereignty status: British Assoc. State



location: One of the Leeward Islands in the West Indies, 25 miles southwest of Antigua.

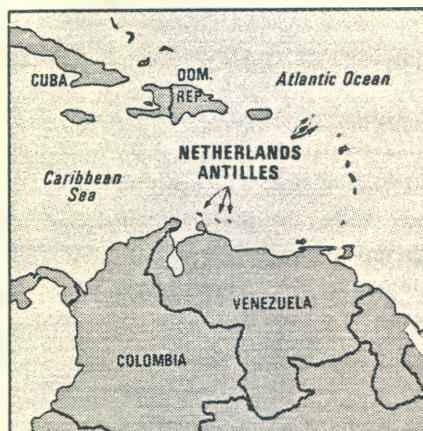
recent history: Originally colonized by Irish settlers, Montserrat has been a British possession since the Treaty of Versailles of 1783. Montserrat, Antigua, St.Kitts-Nevis, and Anguilla were combined into the Territory of the Leeward Islands in 1956. In 1958 the islands were incorporated into the Federation of the West Indies. In 1967 Montserrat elected to remain a British colony rather than become one of the West Indies Associated States.

government: As a British Crown Colony under the 1960 Constitution, Montserrat is governed by a Crown-appointed Governor who maintains responsibility for defense, external affairs, and internal security. An Executive Council consists of the Governor, the Chief Minister, and five other members. There is also a Legislative Council.

defense: Responsibility of Great Britain.

economy: Montserrat's small size and population, and limited resource base, have discouraged rapid industrial growth. However, since the 1960's, an inflow of funds from retired persons and tourists has stimulated a construction industry that has displaced agriculture as the largest sector of the economy. Major trading partners: U.S., U.K., and Commonwealth countries. Exports (\$4.5 million, 1979) primarily composed of cotton lint, electric machinery, cattle, tomatoes, retread tires, and hot peppers. Imports (\$13.4 million, 1979) composed primarily of food, machinery and transport equipment, and manufactured goods.

size: 383 square miles
 population: 243,000 (1981)
 GDP: \$864 million (1978)
 annual GDP growth rate: 5.2% (1975-78)
 per capita GDP: \$ 3,472 (1978)
 exports to US: \$ 2,435.7 million (1980)
 imports from US: \$ 492.4 million (1980)
 sovereignty status: Dutch colony



location: Consists of two groups of islands situated about 500 miles apart: the Leeward Islands group, composed of Curacao, Bonaire, and Aruba, which are 40-70 miles off the northwestern coast of Venezuela, and the Windward Islands group of Sint Maarten, Sint Eustatius, and Saba, which are about 220 miles east of Puerto Rico.

recent history: In 1954, the Kingdom Charter granted the islands full autonomy in domestic affairs and made them a member of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Negotiations have taken place with the Dutch government on the question of independence. In 1980, a 10-year deadline was proposed for independence with referenda to be held in each of the islands by 1988.

government: In practice, the Netherlands Antilles is a parliamentary democracy. The Governor of the Netherlands Antilles, appointed by the Crown, represents the Queen of the Netherlands. He has executive power over external affairs and is assisted by an Advisory Council. Executive power in internal affairs is vested in the eight-member Council of Ministers, which is responsible to the 22-member Staten (unicameral legislature) elected by universal adult suffrage. The territory is administratively divided into four island groups, each with its own Island Council, Executive Council, and Lieutenant-Governor.

defense: Although defense is the responsibility of the Netherlands, the Governor is the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces in the islands and a division of the Royal Netherlands Navy is stationed in the Netherlands Antilles.

economy: The Netherlands Antilles is one of the wealthier Caribbean nations due to the presence of oil refineries and large sums of financial aid received from the Dutch government. Petroleum and petroleum products account for over 80% of the dollar volume of imports and exports. The Netherlands Antilles have some of the largest refineries in the world. Tourism is also a main component of the economy. Agriculture is considerably less important, employing only about 1% of the labor force. The government wishes to lessen the nation's dependency on the petroleum industry by attracting new industries through incentives of tax holidays and customs-free zones in Curacao and Aruba. Almost all agricultural and commercial goods are imported. Major trading partners: U.S., Canada, Venezuela, Netherlands, Latin America, U.K. Exports (\$3.0 billion, 1978) primarily composed of petroleum products, crude petroleum, and phosphates. Imports (\$2.9 billion, 1978) primarily composed of petroleum and petroleum products, food and live animals, and machinery and transport equipment.

PUERTO RICO

CRS-31

size:	3,435 square miles
population:	3,410,000 (1979)
GDP:	\$ 13.915 billion (1980)
annual GDP growth rate:	-1% (1979)
per capita GDP:	\$ 2,860 (1980)
unemployment:	18% (1980)
sovereignty status:	U.S. Commonwealth



location: The most easterly of the Greater Antilles, lying about 50 miles east of Hispaniola (Haiti and the Dominican Republic) and about 37 miles west of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

recent history: The Spanish-American War of 1898 (fought partly in Puerto Rican waters and on their soil) ended with Spain ceding Puerto Rico to the United States. Puerto Rico was subsequently governed as an unincorporated U.S. territory. In 1917, Puerto Ricans were granted U.S. citizenship, and in 1947 were given the right to elect their own chief executive, the governor. The present commonwealth status, based on a U.S. Congressional enactment of 1950 and approved by a plebiscite, came into effect in July 1952. Under its terms, Puerto Rico exercises approximately the same control over its internal affairs as do the 50 states. In a plebiscite held in 1967, 60.5% of voters favored continuation of their commonwealth status in preference to independence.

government: Puerto Rico has a representative government with a bicameral Legislative Assembly elected by universal suffrage to four-year terms. Executive power is vested in the Governor, also elected directly by the people for a four-year term. Residents, though U.S. citizens, do not vote in national elections and are represented in the U.S. Congress by a resident commissioner who has only committee voting privileges.

defense: Defense is the responsibility of the United States; Puerto Ricans serve in the U.S. armed services.

economy: The economy of Puerto Rico, once based on agriculture, now derives its chief source of income from manufacturing. Leading manufacturing products are textiles, clothing, electrical and electronic equipment, plastics, chemicals, petrochemicals, and processed foods. The second largest source of income is agriculture with dairy and livestock the main revenue earners. Imports of foods have remained at high levels. The government has highly encouraged and promoted industrialization with tax incentives and duty-free access to the U.S. Tourism is also being promoted. Major trading partners: U.S., Virgin Islands, Venezuela, Dominican Republic, Netherlands Antilles, Italy. Exports (\$6.942 billion, 1980) primarily composed of chemical and related matters; animal and vegetable products, machinery and transport equipment. Imports (\$8.636 billion, 1980) primarily composed of machinery and transport equipment, animal and vegetable products, chemical and related products.

ST. CHRISTOPHER-NEVIS-ANGUILLA

CRS-32

size: 104 square miles
population: 40,400 (1980)
GNP: \$ 39.6 million (1979)
annual GNP growth rate: 5.0% (1979)
per capita GNP: \$ 790 (1979)
sovereignty status: British Assoc. State



location: St. Christopher-Nevis is a part of the Leeward Islands group lying about 200 miles southeast of Puerto Rico and to the north of the Windward Group.

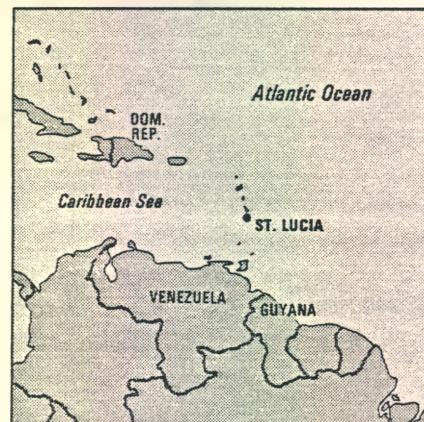
history: In 1816, St. Kitts, Nevis, Anguilla, and the Virgin Islands formed a single British colony, and at various points in their history they were distinct units. During 1958-61 they were a part of the West Indies Federation. In 1966, St. Kitts, Nevis, and Anguilla joined with others in a State of Association with Great Britain with complete internal self-government but with the U.K. retaining responsibility for external defense and foreign relations. There is a history of internal strains in the St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla federation. British troops landed in 1969 to put Anguilla directly under British control after it dismissed the St. Kitts police and set up its own council. In February 1976, Anguilla was granted a constitution under which it remained technically a part of St. Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla as an associated state but operated as a separate state with regard to its internal affairs. The association of St. Kitts and Nevis with Anguilla ended in December 1980, with Anguilla reverting to the status of a dependent territory.

government: The 1966 constitution provides St. Kitts and Nevis provides that the parliament be headed officially by Queen Elizabeth II, who is represented there by a Governor. Executive authority is vested in the Premier, who currently is Kennedy Simmonds.

defense: Britain retains responsibility for defense; each island has its own police force.

economy: The economy largely reflects its main crop (sugar) basis even though agriculture has actually declined during the last two decades. Economic growth, balance of payments, and public finances are largely determined by production and prices for that commodity. Since 1975, when the government took over the industry, there have been improvements. The government is attempting to diversify the economy with some light manufacturing industry being developed by the private sector, especially through the availability of government constructed factory shells. Offshore assembly operations (e.g., electronics and clothing) predominate. The tourism industry is still in its infancy but there is potential for growth. A significant problem is high unemployment and underemployment during the slack season for sugar and tourism. Major trading partners: U.K., U.S., Trinidad and Tobago, Canada. Exports (\$21.1 million, 1978) primarily composed of sugar, molasses, beer and ale, cotton, and lobster). Imports (\$31.9 million, 1978) primarily composed of food, manufactured goods, machinery and transportation equipment, mineral fuels, lubricants, and related materials.

size:	238 square miles
population:	124,000 (1981)
GNP:	\$ 99.2 million (1979)
annual GNP growth rate:	11.7% (1979)
per capita GNP:	\$ 790 (1979)
aid from US:	\$ 0.05 million (FY82 est)
unemployment:	about 13% (1979)
sovereignty status:	independent



location: One of the Windward Islands between Martinique and St. Vincent.

recent history: St. Lucia was a member of the Windward Islands Federal System until December 1959 and a member of the West Indies Federation from 1958 until 1962. Having been granted full autonomy in internal affairs, with the U.K. retaining responsibility for defense and foreign relations, the island joined the West Indies Associated States in March 1967. St. Lucia became an independent nation within the Commonwealth on February 22, 1977.

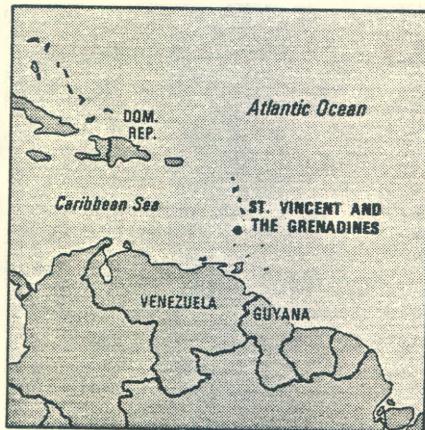
government: Parliament exercises legislative power, with the 17-member House of Assembly elected by universal adult suffrage for up to a 5-year term. The 11-member Senate is appointed. The British sovereign is ceremonial Head of State, and is represented in St. Lucia by a Governor General. On January 16, 1982, the government of Prime Minister Winston Cenac resigned over labor disputes that had been paralyzing the country. Elections are pending.

defense: The Royal St. Lucia Police Force, numbering 300, is to be expanded for purposes of defense. An agreement has been made to establish a joint regional coastguard and fisheries protection service for Barbados, Dominica, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent with assistance from the U.K. and the U.S.

economy: St. Lucia's economic performance was strong in the 1960's and 1970's but slowed in 1979. Traditionally the economy has been heavily dependent on agriculture, though as a sector it declined in importance during the 1970's, representing only 13% of GDP in 1977. The economy has been in a transitional phase with considerable expansion taking place in manufacturing, agricultural crops other than bananas (the dominant crop), and in tourism. These sectors have profited from the island's favorable geographic location, good external communications and transportation links, and relatively well-educated and trainable population. However, St. Lucia lacks adequate technical and managerial manpower. Major trading partners: U.K., U.S., and Canada. Exports (\$65.6 million, 1979) primarily composed of bananas, cardboard boxes, and coconut products. Imports (\$105.4 million, 1979) primarily composed of manufactured goods, foodstuffs, machinery, fuels, and chemicals.

ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

size:	150 square miles
population:	116,000 (1981)
GNP:	\$ 50.3 million (1979)
annual GNP growth rate:	14.6% (1978)
per capita GNP:	\$ 485 (1979)
aid from US:	\$0.05 million (FY82 est)
unemployment:	20% (1978)
sovereignty status:	independent



location: St. Vincent is situated in the Windward Islands at the lower end of the Caribbean chain; the Grenadines comprise a chain of little islands and rocks between St. Vincent and Grenada.

recent history: St. Vincent was a member of the West Indies Federation from 1958 to 1962 and became a British Associated State with complete internal self-government in October 1969. In October 1979, the nation of St. Vincent and the Grenadines achieved full independence from the U.K.

government: Legislative power is vested in a bicameral parliament, the lower house of which is elected and the upper house of which is appointed. The British sovereign is the largely-ceremonial Head of State, and is represented on the islands by a Governor-General. The current Prime Minister is R. Milton Cato.

defense: St. Vincent is developing its police force of 473 for defense purposes. A coordinated coast guard service, in collaboration with Barbados, Dominica, and St. Lucia, is under active consideration.

economy: Increased agricultural output and the start-up of a manufacturing sector brought about high growth rates averaging 9% for the period 1975-78. The manufacturing sector's performance was stimulated by a new flour mill, a new boxing plant, and increased activity of a yacht factory. The eruption of a volcano in 1979 and Hurricane Allen in 1980 resulted in a slowdown of previous growth rates. Major trading partners: U.K., CARICOM, and U.S. Exports (\$27.3 million, 1979) primarily composed of bananas, arrowroot, and sweet potatoes. Imports (\$52.4 million, 1979) primarily composed of food and beverages, tobacco, machinery and equipment, and manufactured goods.

SURINAME

size: 63,227 square miles
 population: 388,000 (1981)
 GNP: \$ 822.4 million (1978)
 annual GNP growth rate: 7.0% (1974-78)
 per capita GNP: \$ 2,347 (1979)
 exports to US: \$ 114.3 million (1980)
 imports from US: \$ 150.0 million (1980)
 aid from US: \$ 0.06 million (FY82 est)
 unemployment: about 3% (1980)
 sovereignty status: independent



location: On the north central coast of South America; bordered by Guyana on the west, Brazil on the south, French Guiana on the east, and the Atlantic Ocean on the north.

recent history: Under a 1954 Charter, Suriname became an autonomous part of the Netherlands and the Netherland Antilles. On November 25, 1975, Suriname, formerly known as Dutch Guiana, gained complete independence. General elections were held in 1977, but the government was toppled by a military coup on February 25, 1980. Another coup occurred in August of that year, which brought Henk-A-Sen to power.

government: Until the military coup of February 1980, Suriname was governed under a parliamentary democracy. An 8-member National Military Council appointed a civilian government, which was dissolved in the subsequent coup. Executive power is now held by the National Military Council. Elections are tentatively scheduled for the fall of 1982 after a referendum on a new constitution. The current Acting President is Ramdat Misier.

defense: The Suriname Armed Forces were formed in 1975 when Suriname became independent and numbered about 800 men in 1980.

economy: Suriname's economy is heavily dependent on the bauxite industry which provides most of the country's foreign exchange and government revenues. Agriculture is also a major contributor and employer. Economic aid from the Netherlands has been an integral part of the development scheme for social services, education, and infrastructure. Since 1975, when Suriname became independent, joint ventures between the government and private investors have come into being. Major trading partners: U.S., Netherlands, Trinidad and Tobago, Scandinavia, U.K., Yugoslavia, Japan, Germany, and the People's Republic of China. Exports (\$613 million, 1980) primarily composed of bauxite, alumina, aluminum, rice, shrimp, wood, and wood products. Imports (\$656.7 million, 1980) primarily composed of capital equipment, fuel and lubricating oils, cotton, flour, meat, and dairy products.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

size:	1,980 square miles
population:	1,176,000 (1981)
GDP:	\$ 4.500 billion (1978)
annual GDP growth rate:	6.5% (1974-78)
per capita GDP:	\$ 3,960 (1978)
exports to US:	\$ 2.326 billion (1980)
imports from US:	\$ 836.8 million (1980)
unemployment:	12% (1979)
sovereignty status::	independent



location: Southernmost islands of the Lesser Antilles chain; geologically, an extension of the South American continent; separated from Venezuela by 7 miles of straits; 19 miles separate the islands of Trinidad and Tobago.

recent history: From 1958 until 1962 Trinidad and Tobago was a member of the autonomous Federation of the West Indies. Independence was achieved in 1962 and in August 1976 it adopted a new Constitution under which it became a republic within the British Commonwealth. In 1980 a Tobago House of Assembly was formed, with certain powers over that island's finances, economic development, and social services.

government: Under its republican constitution, Trinidad and Tobago has a President as a constitutional Head of State who is elected by an Electoral College. The effective control of the government is vested in a Cabinet, which is responsible to the Parliament. A bicameral Parliament whose normal term is 5 years exercises legislative power. The current President is E.E.I. Clarke and the current Prime Minister is George Chambers.

defense: There is a defense force of about 1,000 troops.

economy: Trinidad and Tobago has a relatively strong economy with one of the highest GDP's in the Caribbean basin. This is largely due to petroleum production and refining, which accounted for about half of GDP, 90% of export income, and the major part of government revenue in 1979. Petroleum is produced locally as well as imported from all over the world for refining. Tourism is the second largest foreign exchange earner (primarily in Tobago). The country continues to enjoy a significant balance of payments surplus and has been able to provide substantial funding to programs of development in food and agriculture, fisheries, infrastructure, commercial enterprises, health centers, schools, and housing. Major trading partners: Saudi Arabia, U.S., U.K., Netherlands, Indonesia, Japan, Canada, Netherlands Antilles, Suriname, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Exports (\$2.5 billion, 1979) primarily composed of petroleum and petroleum products, sugar, and cocoa. Imports (\$1.9 billion) primarily composed of crude petroleum machinery, fabricated metals, transportation equipment, manufactured goods, and food.

TURKS AND CAICOS

size:	192 square miles
population:	7,155 (1978)
GNP:	\$ 15 million (1980)
annual GNP growth rate:	25% (1980)
per capita GNP:	\$ 2,000 (1980)
sovereignty status:	British Colony



location: The Turks and Caicos Islands are a southeastward extension of the Bahamas chain, 90 miles north of Haiti; of the 30 islands, eight are inhabited.

history: The islands became a British possession in 1766 and were administered as part of the Bahamas until the Separation Act of 1848. Twenty-six years later, in 1874, the islands were annexed to Jamaica, and remained so until Jamaica became independent in 1962. The islands since then have maintained the status of a Crown Colony.

government: A new constitution was introduced in September 1976, providing for an Executive Council and a Legislative Council. The Governor is responsible for foreign affairs, internal security, defense, and certain other matters.

defense: The 80-man Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force is stationed among all the inhabited islands.

economy: The economy has been limited by inadequate infrastructure and few natural resources. Large sums of aid from Britain have been necessary to keep the economy running. Tourism and fishing account for most of what is earned. The investment climate has been improving with two major multi-million dollar resorts now undergoing construction. Exports (\$1.7 million, 1978 est) primarily composed of conch shells, crayfish, salt, and fishmeat. Imports (\$2.4 million, 1978 est) primarily composed of food, beverages, tobacco, manufactured goods, and fuel.

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

size: 132 square miles
 population: 118,000 (1979)
 Gross Territorial Product: \$ 542 million (1978)
 Per capita income: \$ 4,743 (1977)
 unemployment: 6% (1980)
 sovereignty status: U.S.-organized though unincorporated area



location: Approximately 60 islands, most of which are uninhabited, located 40 miles east of Puerto Rico.

recent history: The U.S. purchased the islands from Denmark for \$25 million in 1917. They were then administered by the Department of the Navy until 1931, when responsibility for their administration was transferred to the Department of the Interior.

government: The Organic Act of July 22, 1954 gives the U.S. Department of the Interior ultimate jurisdiction. Limited legislative powers are given to a single-chamber legislature. All legislation is subject to the approval of a U.S.-appointed Governor. Residents of the islands who are U.S. citizens and over 18 years of age may vote in the elections of the non-voting representative to the U.S. Congress, but may not vote in the U.S. Presidential elections. A new constitution recently received Congressional approval. It calls for greater home rule and eliminates some superfluous government positions.

economy: Tourism is by far the largest contributor to the Virgin Islands economy. Although the tourist industry has brought about prosperity it has also added to social and labor shortage problems. Almost one-third of the population are aliens, recruited to work in the tourism business. The Virgin Islands offers liberal tax exemptions to persons or firms investing in new industries or promoting tourism. The rum industry is also an important revenue earner for the economy. Major trading partners: U.S., Netherlands, Italy, Nigeria, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Libya. Exports (\$2.542 billion, 1978) primarily composed of petroleum products. Imports (\$3.139 billion, 1978) primarily composed of crude petroleum.

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