

ABSTRACT

ETHNICITY AND NATIONALISM IN THE POST-1970 CALYPSO OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Louis Regis

This dissertation examines the treatment of the themes of ethnicity and nationalism in the calypsoes performed and recorded between 'The February Revolution' of 1970 and the 31st anniversary of Independence celebrations of 1998. Escalated racialisation of consciousness and politicisation of ethnicity have challenged the ideological basis of the nation and have questioned the Calypso which is perceived as the voice of a threatened Black nationalism. Ignored in the contestation is the role of the Calypso which represents a hopeful Trinidadian Creole nationalism. The Calypso analyses, catalyses, reflects and chronicles the phenomenon of social confrontation since 1970.

Keywords: Louis Regis, Calypso, ethnicity and nationalism.