

ABSTRACT**Industrial Planning in Trinidad-Tobago:****A Critical Appraisal**

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Since the post World War II era, the industrialisation process has been the vehicle used by the developing countries in their attempts at achieving economic transformation. Today, almost forty years later, the results of their efforts have been mixed. A small number of developing countries has managed to achieve phenomenal economic success through industrialisation, while a large number of developing countries has failed to do so. In an attempt to understand the process of industrial planning and to find out what are the factors which influence successful industrialisation, in this thesis, a critical appraisal was done of the industrial planning undertaken in the small, developing country of Trinidad-Tobago during the period 1958 to 1984. Trinidad-Tobago belongs to that large group of developing countries which utilising the vehicle of industrialisation, has failed to achieve the desired economic transformation.

On comparing Trinidad-Tobago's approach used in planning for

the development of industry to the approach utilised by three successful industrialisers: Japan, South Korea and Brazil, it appears that if Trinidad-Tobago is to successfully pursue a strategy of industrialisation several factors must be in place. These include a dynamic leadership which plays an overarching role over every aspect of the industrialisation process; the implementation of an export-oriented industrialisation strategy; the selection of industries which are informed and tailored by international demand; a forum for articulation between the government and the business sector; an emphasis on acquiring an indigenous technological capability; institutions whose roles are clearly defined in the context of industrialisation, are vested with the resources (human and financial) necessary for their efficient functioning, and are mandated to carry out the specific function of information generation and diffusion; and an emphasis on human resource development.