

JAMAICAN INDEPENDENCE: *A Timeline*



1865

*Morant Bay Rebellion results in the hanging of **George William Gordon** (on October 23) & **Paul Bogle** (on October 24), thus increasing the feeling of discontentment and injustice.*



PERIOD: 1866-1885

Full Crown Colony Government leads to rising expectations of more self-governance.

1884

A new constitution marks the initial revival of local autonomy.

FEBRUARY 24: *Sir William Alexander Clarke is born.*



1887

AUGUST 17: *Marcus Mosiah Garvey is born.*



1893

JULY 4: *Norman Washington Manley is born.*



1914

*The Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA) is founded by **Marcus Mosiah Garvey** and **Amy Ashwood**, strengthening the desire of the black man to chart his own destiny.*

1929

***Marcus Mosiah Garvey** forms the People's Political Party laying the foundation for political independence.*

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1938

SEPTEMBER 18: *The People's National Party (PNP) is launched at the Ward Theatre by Norman Washington Manley.*

Labour Riots break out at Frome in Westmoreland.

The first trade union - the Bustamante Industrial Trade Union (BITU) - is formed creating a deeper platform for the fight for sovereignty.

1943

JULY 8: *The Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) is launched at the Ward Theatre by Alexander Bustamante.*

1944

Universal Adult Suffrage is introduced.

NOVEMBER 20: *a new Constitution is proclaimed, under which the island obtains representative, though not responsible Government.*

DECEMBER 12: *The first election held under the new system is won by JLP.*

1947

Conference is held in Montego Bay in September to consider uniting the British West Indies under a single Federal Government.

Alexander Bustamante becomes first Mayor of Kingston.

1953

Ministerial system of Government introduced, giving the Government a Cabinet. Ministers are now responsible for their portfolios and the elected leader becomes 'Chief Minister'.

MAY 5: *Alexander Bustamante becomes the first Chief Minister.*

1955

FEBRUARY 2: *General election is held with the People's National Party (PNP) gaining the majority and Norman Manley takes office as Chief Minister.*

1958

FEBRUARY 23: *Jamaica becomes a member territory of the West Indies Federation.*

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1959

JULY 28: *The People's National Party (PNP) returns to power with Norman Manley becoming Premier of Jamaica.*

1961

SEPTEMBER 19: *Referendum held for the people of Jamaica to vote whether they wished the island to remain in the West Indies Federation. 54% voted against Federation. As a result, Jamaica withdraws. The West Indies Federation is then dissolved and Norman Manley announces that Jamaica will proceed with preparations for the attainment of Independence.*

OCTOBER 17: *a bipartisan parliamentary committee is established to prepare proposals for a new Constitution. An agreement is reached on a draft Constitution between Jamaican leaders and the British Government at a conference in London.*

1962

FEBRUARY 27: *The Constitution is ratified by the Jamaican Parliament.*
APRIL 10: *the JLP wins the general election, making Alexander Bustamante Jamaica's first Prime Minister.*

MIDNIGHT, AUGUST 5: *the British flag is lowered and the Jamaican flag is hoisted, to symbolise Jamaica becoming an independent nation within the British Commonwealth.*

A ceremony is held at the newly constructed National Stadium.

AUGUST 6 *is celebrated as a Public Holiday from this moment onward.*

