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### **RODNEY AND RASTAFARI: CULTURAL IDENTITY IN 1960s JAMAICA**

During the second half of the twentieth century, black people around the world engaged in struggles that sought to bring about change yet today they remain on the margins of power. Using Jamaica as a case study, this paper discusses the role of the academic in the struggle for cultural identity. The paper looks at Walter Rodney's activities in relation to Rastafari, the socio-religious and black consciousness movement born in Jamaica. Realizing that the government had failed to achieve its mandate of actively supporting and championing improvements in the daily life of the masses, Rodney looked again at the question of culture in Jamaica to find a way to begin to improve life for the underclass and thereby progress for all. The paper begins with a discussion of the Rastafari on the eve of Jamaican independence before reviewing the events that surrounded the banning of Dr. Walter Rodney.