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Caribbean Messiah for the Masses: The Relevance of Walter Rodney to the 21st Century.

This proposed paper will attempt to link Rodney's works -- *The Groundings with my Brothers* and *A History of the Guyanese Working People* to the socio-economic and political challenges facing the working class in the Caribbean. This would include social problems such as poverty, homelessness, HIV/AIDS, pollution, corruption and political instability.

Furthermore, there will be an analysis of Rodney's influence on the Black Power movement, politicians and trade unionists and working class organizations. The paper will also focus on topics such as the relations among the Indo-Caribbean and other ethnic groups. Emphasis will be given to certain territories and their accompanying problems such as ethnic tension in Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago, the absence of democracy in Cuba and political instability in Haiti and Venezuela. Also, the extent of the relevance of Rodney's work to the Indo-Caribbean communities who suffer racial and religious discrimination.