

Barbados finally becomes Republic after long time under the Crown



Barbados is a little island in the Caribbean which was part of the Commonwealth until 30 November 2021.

It is one of the most populated islands and for some years now, Barbados has wanted to detach itself from the Crown to free itself from the memory of colonization. Yet, according to WION, an Indian channel, Barbados was recognized for its anglophile tendencies by its love for Cricket. So, after many denied requests, their last one last year was finally listened to, and so, they became a republic. They elected their first president, the same day of their independence, who was Sandra Mason. The election was celebrated with a joyful ceremony where the singer Rihanna was present. The latter was also recognized as the national heroine of Barbados for her numerous donations.



Since the election, Barbados hopes to influence other countries still under the authority of Queen Elizabeth II like Jamaica and some others. Although being part of the Commonwealth has been very positive, they decided to take their independence

because of the symbolism of having some person that is your head of state who is not a citizen of your country and so you can't feel that you are in your country. Of course they cannot identify with someone who doesn't know the struggle and the challenge of being a Barbadian under the Crown. It's not about disrespecting the past but giving Barbadians an opportunity to shape their future. They want change. Now they are independent but still in the Commonwealth.

However, the project was not unanimous and some people see it as a way to divert attention from the real problems of the country. Moreover, a part of the population would have liked to wait for the end of the pandemic as this sentence says : « it was not the right time ». Being a small island, there are many questions about their ability to manage their country alone, which lives mainly from tourism, and this can become complicated. Indeed, the existence of more urgent problems was the economic crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, which only underlined the country's dependence on tourism, especially from the UK. But the most influential people were able to tip the balance like Rihanna or Winston Farrell, as a Barbadian poet said at the ceremony.

“Some have grown up stupid under the Union Jack, lost in the castle of their skin.”

“It is about us, rising out of the cane fields, reclaiming our history,” he said. “End all that she means, put a Bajan there instead.”



So, that is why Barbadians decided to become an independent country, a republic on its way to emancipation and a new future.

Bacon Pierre
Gilmas Clara
Chauvel Ilana
Labatut Tristan

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