Country: Jamaica

Years: 1962-1966

Leader: Bustamante

Ideology: leftist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Bustamente’s party as Jamaican Labour Party (JLP). DPI does not identify ideology. Huber and Stephens (2016: 16) identify JLP’s ideology as center-left from 1962 to 1970, centrist from 1972 to 1976, and center-right since 1980. Political Handbook of the World (2005-2006) corroborates party affiliation. However, Political Handbook describes JLP as, “The more conservative of Jamaica’s two leading parties, the JLP supports private enterprise, economic expansion, and a generally pro-Western international stance, but also identifies with Black African and other Third World nations,” yet possibly referring to the party’s later stances. Perspective monde (2019) and World Statesmen (2019) corroborate party affiliation as JLP but identify the party as center-right. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 4 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of JLP as 10.0. In V-Party (2020), 5 experts identify JLP’s ideology as “Right” (2.334) in 1972. In V-Party (2020), 4 experts identify “virtually no visible disagreement” in JLP in 1972.

Years: 1967-1971

Leader: Shearer

Ideology: leftist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Shearer’s party as Jamaican Labour Party (JLP). DPI does not identify party ideology. Huber and Stephens (2016: 16) identify JLP’s ideology as center-left from 1962 to 1970, centrist from 1972 to 1976, and center-right since 1980. Political Handbook of the World (2005-2006) corroborates party affiliation. However, Political Handbook describes JLP as, “The more conservative of Jamaica’s two leading parties, the JLP supports private enterprise, economic expansion, and a generally pro-Western international stance, but also identifies with Black African and other Third World nations,” yet possibly referring to the party’s later stances. Perspective monde (2019) and World Statesmen (2019) corroborate party affiliation as JLP but identify the party as center-right. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 4 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of JLP as 10.0. In V-Party (2020), 5 experts identify JLP’s ideology as “Right” (2.334) in 1972. In V-Party (2020), 4 experts identify “virtually no visible disagreement” in JLP in 1972.

Years: 1972-1979

Leader: Manley

Ideology: leftist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Manley’s party as People’s National Party (PNP). DPI and Huber and Stephens (2016: 16) identify PNP’s ideology as leftist. Political Handbook of the World (2015) elaborates, calling the PNP “center-left” and “committed to a program of democratic socialism.” Perspective monde (2019) and World Statesmen (2019) corroborate party affiliation as PNP and identify the party as center-left. Lentz (1994: 451) writes, “[Manley] also became active in the trade union movement, where he served as a negotiator for the National Workers’ Union.” In the Global Party Survey 2019, 4 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of PNP as 8.5. In V-Party (2020), 5 experts identify PNP’s ideology as “Center-left” (-1.114) in 1972 and “Center” (0.315) in 1976. In V-Party (2020), 4 experts identify “virtually no visible disagreement” in PNP in 1972, and 3 experts identify “virtually no visible disagreement” in PNP in 1976.

Years: 1980-1988

Leader: Seaga

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Seaga’s party as Jamaican Labour Party (JLP). DPI identifies JLP’s ideology as rightist. Huber and Stephens (2016: 16) identify JLP’s ideology as center-left from 1962 to 1970, centrist from 1972 to 1976, and center-right since 1980. Political Handbook of the World (2015) elaborates, writing, “The more conservative of Jamaica’s two leading parties, the JLP supports private enterprise, economic expansion, and a generally pro-Western international stance.” Political Handbook also mentions “the conservative leadership of Edward Seaga.” Perspective monde (2019) and World Statesmen (2019) corroborate party affiliation as JLP and identify the party as center-right. Lentz (1994: 452) writes, “Seaga accused the government of Michael Manley of attempting to transform Jamaica into a Communist state.” In the Global Party Survey 2019, 4 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of JLP as 10.0. In V-Party (2020), 5 experts identify JLP’s ideology as “Right” (1.92) in 1980 and “Center-right” (1.358) in 1983.

Years: 1989-1991

Leader: Manley

Ideology: leftist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Manley’s party as People’s National Party (PNP). DPI and Huber and Stephens (2016: 16) identify PNP’s ideology as leftist. Political Handbook of the World (2015) elaborates, calling the PNP “center-left” and “committed to a program of democratic socialism.” Perspective monde (2019) and World Statesmen (2019) corroborate party affiliation as PNP and identify the party as center-left. Lentz (1994: 451) writes, “[Manley] also became active in the trade union movement, where he served as a negotiator for the National Workers’ Union.” In the Global Party Survey 2019, 4 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of PNP as 8.5. In V-Party (2020), 5 experts identify PNP’s ideology as “Center-right” (0.551) in 1989. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify “negligible visible disagreement” in PNP in 1989.

Years: 1992-2005

Leader: Patterson

Ideology: leftist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Patterson’s party as People’s National Party (PNP). DPI and Huber and Stephens (2016: 16) identify PNP’s ideology as leftist. Political Handbook of the World (2015) elaborates, calling the PNP “center-left” and “committed to a program of democratic socialism.” Perspective monde (2019) and World Statesmen (2019) corroborate party affiliation as PNP and identify the party as center-left. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 4 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of PNP as 8.5. In V-Party (2020), 5 experts identify PNP’s ideology as “Center-right” (0.551) in 1989, 1993, and 1997 and “Center” (0.256) in 2002. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify “negligible visible disagreement” in PNP in 1989, 1993, 1997, and 2002.

Years: 2006

Leader: Simpson-Miller

Ideology: leftist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Miller’s party as People’s National Party (PNP). DPI and Huber and Stephens (2016: 16) identify PNP’s ideology as leftist. Political Handbook of the World (2015) elaborates, calling the PNP “center-left” and “committed to a program of democratic socialism.” Perspective monde (2019) and World Statesmen (2019) corroborate party affiliation as PNP and identify the party as center-left. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 4 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of PNP as 8.5. In V-Party (2020), 5 experts identify PNP’s ideology as “Center” (0.256) in 2002. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify “negligible visible disagreement” in PNP in 2002.

Years: 2007-2010

Leader: Golding

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Golding’s party as Jamaican Labour Party (JLP). DPI identifies JLP’s ideology as rightist. Huber and Stephens (2016: 16) identify JLP’s ideology as center-left from 1962 to 1970, centrist from 1972 to 1976, and center-right since 1980. Political Handbook of the World (2015) elaborates, writing, “The more conservative of Jamaica’s two leading parties, the JLP supports private enterprise, economic expansion, and a generally pro-Western international stance.” Perspective monde (2019) and World Statesmen (2019) corroborate party affiliation as JLP and identify the party as center-right. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 4 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of JLP as 10.0. In V-Party (2020), 5 experts identify JLP’s ideology as “Center-right” (0.997) in 2007.

Years: 2011

Head of Government: Holness

Ideology: rightist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS does not identify head of

government. World Statesmen (2019) identifies Holness’s party as Jamaican

Labour Party (JLP). DPI identifies JLP’s ideology as rightist. Huber and Stephens (2016: 16) identify JLP’s ideology as center-left from 1962 to 1970, centrist from 1972 to 1976, and center-right since 1980. Political Handbook of the World (2015) elaborates, writing, “The more conservative of Jamaica’s two leading parties, the JLP supports private enterprise, economic expansion, and a generally pro-Western international stance.” Perspective monde (2019) and World Statesmen (2019) corroborate party affiliation as JLP and identify the party as center-right. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 4 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of JLP as 10.0. In V-Party (2020), 5 experts identify JLP’s ideology as “Center-right” (0.997) in 2007.

Years: 2012-2015

Leader: Simpson-Miller

Ideology: leftist

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. CHISOLS identifies Miller’s party as People’s National Party (PNP). DPI and Huber and Stephens (2016: 16) identify PNP’s ideology as leftist. Political Handbook of the World (2015) elaborates, calling the PNP “center-left” and “committed to a program of democratic socialism.” Perspective monde (2019) and World Statesmen (2019) corroborate party affiliation as PNP and identify the party as center-left. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 4 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of PNP as 8.5. In V-Party (2020), 5 experts identify PNP’s ideology as “Center” (0.419) in 2011. In V-Party (2020), 3 experts identify “negligible visible disagreement” in PNP in 2011. Encyclopedia Britannica (2021) states, “The main two political parties are the Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) and the People’s National Party (PNP), and between them they have dominated legislative elections since the country’s independence, to the virtual exclusion of any third party… The PNP, founded in 1938 as a democratic socialist party, leans more to the left than the more centrist and conservative JLP.”

Years: 2016-2020

Leader: Holness

Ideology: right

Description: HoG does not identify ideology. Encyclopedia Britannica identifies Holness’ party as Jamaican Labour Party (JLP). DPI identifies JLP’s ideology as rightist. Huber and Stephens (2016: 16) identify JLP’s ideology as center-left from 1962 to 1970, centrist from 1972 to 1976, and center-right since 1980. Political Handbook of the World (2015) elaborates, writing, “The more conservative of Jamaica’s two leading parties, the JLP supports private enterprise, economic expansion, and a generally pro-Western international stance.” Perspective monde (2021) and World Statesmen (2021) corroborate party affiliation as JLP and identify the party as center-right. In the Global Party Survey 2019, 4 experts identify the average left-right (0-10) score of JLP as 10.0. In V-Party (2020), 4 experts identify JLP’s ideology as “Center-right” (0.997) in 2016.

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