

My sources for "[How the US Stole Puerto Rico](#)"

[0:14](#)

U.S. territories, or possessions, are under the jurisdiction of the United States. U.S. territories can be divided into two groups:

Those that have their own governments and their own tax systems (American Samoa, Guam, The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands), and

[https://www.irs.gov/individuals/international-taxpayers/persons-employed-in-us-possessions#:~:text=U.S.%20territories%20can%20be%20divided,the%20U.S.%20Virgin%20Islands\)%2C%20and](https://www.irs.gov/individuals/international-taxpayers/persons-employed-in-us-possessions#:~:text=U.S.%20territories%20can%20be%20divided,the%20U.S.%20Virgin%20Islands)%2C%20and)

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[3:11](#)

In the late 19th century, the two islands were in the middle of a fight for independence from Spain. Cuba held a three-year-long war that ended in December 1898 after the end of the Spanish-American War, while Puerto Rico gained its autonomy from Spain a few months before the United States invaded the island.

<https://remezcla.com/culture/cuba-and-puerto-ricos-fight-for-independence-inspired-catalonias-flag/#:~:text=In%20the%20late%2019th%20century,United%20States%20invaded%20the%20island.>

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[3:25](#)

"The war officially ended four months later, when the U.S. and Spanish governments signed the Treaty of Paris on December 10, 1898. Apart from guaranteeing the independence of Cuba, the treaty also forced Spain to cede Guam and Puerto Rico to the United States."

<https://history.state.gov/milestones/1866-1898/spanish-american-war#:~:text=The%20war%20officially%20ended%20four,Rico%20to%20the%20United%20States.>

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"Of all Spanish colonial possessions in the Americas, Puerto Rico is the only territory that never gained its independence."

<https://www.loc.gov/rr/hispanic/1898/bras.html>

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The move to wrest Cuba and Puerto Rico from Spain came just as Spain had finally relented to end slavery as a concession to black rebel Cuban armies that had formed to push for independence. In a further move to placate continuing unrest on the island, in November 1897 Spain signed "Autonomic Charters for Cuba and Puerto Rico, which gave limited home-rule governments to both islands. Puerto Rico would gain full representation in the Cortés, the Spanish parliament, and could veto Spanish commercial treaties unfavorable to them while also retaining the right to set tariffs on imports and exports. In this way Puerto Ricans were granted a kind of citizenship that allowed self-government, grafted onto

what was left of their Spanish subject- hood. Yet on July 25, 1898, eight days after the first meeting of the newly formed Puerto Rican Parliament, US troops arrived in the southern port of Guánica and replaced the Spanish flag with the Stars and Stripes. This date would be remembered over fifty years later when the United States finally followed through on a project to allow Puerto Ricans to have limited autonomy and self-government, but at the time it was both the end of Teddy Roosevelt's "splendid little war" and the beginning of the current quandary over what exactly Puerto Rico's new colonial master would do with the island.

Fantasy Island: Colonialism, Exploitation, and the Betrayal of Puerto Rico Pg 21

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For the next two months, American ships maintained a mostly effective blockade aimed at preventing the Spanish from sending supplies or reinforcements to their troops in Puerto Rico. The Spanish, though, were too focused on Cuba to pay much attention to events on the smaller island. So were the Americans. Hoping to take advantage of this situation, members of Puerto Rico's new House of Representatives convened for their first session, on July 17. On that same day, the new cabinet, headed by Muñoz Rivera, began to function. It would hold power for just eight days. At 8:45 on the morning of July 25, a detachment of marines and sailors from the American gunboat Gloucester waded ashore near Guánica, on Puerto Rico's southwestern coast. After a bit of shooting in which they suffered no casualties, they secured the town and raised the American flag over its customs house. The moment that flag began to flutter in the tropical breeze, the United States effectively took control of Puerto Rico. Every institution of Spanish rule, including the autonomous government, quickly withered away.

Overthrow, 44

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[3:38](#)

On October 18, at a formal ceremony on the balcony of the governor's palace in San Juan, Spanish commanders transferred sovereignty over Puerto Rico to the United States. "It was all a quiet affair," the New York Evening Post reported. "There was no excitement, and but little enthusiasm. An hour after its close, the streets had assumed their wanted appearance. There was little to show that anything important had taken place, that by this brief ceremony Spain's power on the island of Puerto Rico had ended forever."

Overthrow, p45

[3:40](#)

At the Paris peace conference of December 1898, where the terms of final surrender were fixed, Spain tried to retain Puerto Rico, arguing that the United States had never before challenged its sovereignty there. The Spanish even offered to give the United States territory elsewhere if they could keep Puerto Rico. President McKinley rejected all such suggestions. In private instructions to American negotiators, he said he

had decided that Puerto Rico was "to become the territory of the United States." The Spanish, defeated and weak, had no choice but to accept.

Overthrow, p45

Taíno Indians inhabited the island when Christopher Columbus landed in Puerto Rico in November 19, 1493. Soon after, Puerto Rico became a Spanish colony and remained under Spanish rule for over 400 years.

<https://welcome.topuertorico.org/colony.shtml#:~:text=Ta%C3%ADno%20Indians%20inhabited%20the%20island,rule%20for%20over%20400%20years>.

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4:03

To quell tensions, in 1917, the U.S. passed the Jones-Shafroth Act, which gave most Puerto Ricans U.S. citizenship—but with limitations. Under the act, a senate and bill of rights was established; however, the U.S. president and Congress still had the power to veto Puerto Rican laws.

<https://www.history.com/news/puerto-rico-statehood>

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4:07

James Rumsey Beverley (1894-1967) was governor of Puerto Rico from January 1932 to August 1933. He also held the office of assistant attorney general of Puerto Rico from 1925-1927 and attorney general from 1927-1932. He remained on the island after his governorship ended, practicing law and serving on various committees.

Of the fifteen non-Puerto Rican governors appointed to the island between 1900 and 1952, Beverley, a native of Amarillo, was the only one who spoke Spanish.

https://txarchives.org/utcah/finding_aids/00999.xml

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4:09

synthesis of chapter 8 "It's Only Chinatown"

Just a few hours after disembarking, the assistant postmaster marched into San Juan's Municipal Theater and uncorked one of the most reviled inaugural speeches in Puerto Rican history. He announced that there was "no room on this island for any flag other than the Stars and Stripes. So long as Old Glory waves over the United States, it will continue to wave over Puerto Rico." He then pledged to fire anyone who lacked "Americanism."

.... Lincoln and Harding, the primary one in Puerto Rican schools" (it already was).²⁶ And he repeatedly referred to Puerto Rico as "these islands."²⁷

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 70)

Born dirt poor in the backwoods of Kentucky, Robert Hayes Gore Sr.'s early fortune was built on a gimmick....Then he entered politics. He gave \$10,000 to Democratic Party leader James Farley and supported Franklin Delano Roosevelt's presidential bid

through his newspapers.⁵⁸ In exchange, in August 1933, he received a convenient appointment. As governor of Puerto Rico he could shuttle back and forth to his Florida properties and develop further business around the Caribbean basin. It was a crude but workable political fix. There was only one problem: Gore was a brilliant businessman but one of the most inept governors in the history of Puerto Rico.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 74).

FDR appointed Gore on April 29, 1933. .. He proposed an international cockfighting carnival in order to boost tourism.⁶³ He wanted all “disloyal” teachers removed from the school system on grounds of treason.⁶⁴ He wanted less Spanish in classrooms and preferably none.⁶⁵ He wanted Education Commissioner José Padín removed immediately because he was too “pro-Puerto Rican.”⁶⁶ He wanted political appointees to provide him with an undated letter of resignation so that he could fire them at will.⁶⁷ He wanted Puerto Rican workers to relocate to Florida..

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[4:25](#)

Within a matter of weeks, and with little consultation or oversight, Allen created a budget for the entire island.⁷ He raided the island treasury by raising property taxes, withholding municipal and agricultural loans, and freezing all building-repair and school-construction funds. He redirected the insular budget to subsidize US-owned farm syndicates. He issued no-bid contracts for US businessmen and subsidized roads built by agents from his father’s Massachusetts lumber business (at double the cost).⁸ Through his “dark room budget,” Allen created new agencies, offices, and salary lines—all staffed by US bureaucrats. By the time he left in 1901, nearly all eleven members of the governor’s Executive Council were US expatriates, and half the appointed offices in the government of Puerto Rico had gone to visiting Americans—626 of them at top salaries.⁹ But Allen had a larger plan.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 67).

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[4:33](#)

He then headed straight to Wall Street, where he joined the House of Morgan as vice president of both the Morgan Trust Company and the Guaranty Trust Company of New York. He built the largest sugar syndicate in the world, and his hundreds of political appointees in Puerto Rico provided him with land grants, tax subsidies, water rights, railroad easements, foreclosure sales, and favorable tariffs.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 69).

The very first civilian governor of Puerto Rico, Charles Herbert Allen, used his brief tenure to become the King of Sugar. When he returned to the United States in 1901, he quickly installed himself as treasurer and then president of the largest sugar-refining company in the world, the American Sugar Refining Company,* later known as Domino Sugar. In effect, Allen leveraged his governorship into a controlling interest in the entire island economy.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (pp. 39-40). PublicAffairs. Kindle Edition.

As the first civilian governor of Puerto Rico, Charles Herbert Allen used his governorship to acquire an international sugar empire and a controlling interest in the entire Puerto Rican economy. No one stopped him. Why should they? It's only Chinatown.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 69)

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[4:52](#)

American hurricane relief was strange. The United States sent no money. Instead, the following year, it outlawed all Puerto Rican currency and declared the island's peso, with a global value equal to the US dollar, to be worth only sixty American cents.⁷ Every Puerto Rican lost 40 percent of his or her savings overnight.⁸ Then, in 1901, a colonial land tax known as the Hollander Bill forced many small farmers to mortgage their lands with US banks.⁹ But with no laws restricting usury, interest rates were so high that within a decade, the farmers defaulted on their loans, and the banks foreclosed. These banks then turned a diversified island harvest—coffee, tobacco, sugar, pineapple, and other fruits—into a one-crop cash cow. That crop was sugar.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 39). PublicAffairs. Kindle Edition.

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[4:59](#)

In the period between 1898 and 1920 only four US firms owned more than half of all Puerto Rican sugar production.

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Yet today, even with a tropical climate that allows farmers to grow food year-round, Puerto Rico imports over 80 percent of its food.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/01/opinion/puerto-rico-jones-act.html>

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[5:10](#)

Meet the Jones Act, an obscure 1920 regulation that requires that goods shipped from one American port to another be transported on a ship that is American-built, American-owned, and crewed by US citizens or permanent residents.

<https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2017/9/27/16373484/jones-act-puerto-rico>

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The first analysis, prepared by Puerto Rico-based Advantage Business Consulting, focused on the food and beverages sector where it found a Jones Act cost of \$367 million. The methodology used is transparent. After surveying food industry companies

in the territory about their transportation costs, the report's authors found Jones Act vessels to have shipping prices 2.5 greater than non-Jones Act shipping from foreign ports (\$3,027 versus \$1,206) after adjusting for container size and distance. Total maritime transportation costs, meanwhile, were found to be 12 percent of the value of imports. By multiplying 60 percent (the percentage differential between \$3,027 and \$1,206) by the 12 percent figure, the report's authors were able to derive a de facto Jones Act tax of 7.2 percent ($.60 * .12$).

<https://www.cato.org/blog/new-reports-detail-jones-acts-cost-puerto-rico>

The law dates back to 1920 and requires all goods ferried between U.S. ports to be carried on ships built, owned and operated by Americans. And those ships are far more expensive to buy and operate than ships flying foreign flags. As a result, it makes just about everything in Puerto Rico more expensive.

<https://money.cnn.com/2017/09/28/news/economy/jones-act-puerto-rico/index.html>

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"With the 1920 law back in effect, the island is now required to pay much higher costs to import supplies. The Jones Act requires that all goods shipped between U.S. ports be carried by U.S.-owned and operated ships, which are more expensive vessels than others in the global marketplace. That's meant that Puerto Rico pays double the costs to import goods from the U.S. mainland compared with neighboring islands – and that U.S. vessels are making bank."

2017

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/puerto-rico-hurricane-maria-jones-act_n_59dba977e4b0b34afa5b36e6?ih5=

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[5:16](#)

"had" is important bc Jones Act is 1920, PR peso outlawed is 1899

Don Tomás was not far off. Shortly after the US invasion, Hurricane San Ciriaco, one of the largest in Caribbean history, destroyed thousands of Puerto Rican farms and nearly the entire 1898 coffee bean crop. Of 50 million pounds, only 5 million (10 percent) were saved.⁶ American hurricane relief was strange. The United States sent no money. Instead, the following year, it outlawed all Puerto Rican currency and declared the island's peso, with a global value equal to the US dollar, to be worth only sixty American cents.⁷

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 39). PublicAffairs. Kindle Edition.

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[5:19](#)

The United States sent no money. Instead, the following year, it outlawed all Puerto Rican currency and declared the island's peso, with a global value equal to the US dollar, to be worth only sixty American cents.⁷ Every Puerto Rican lost 40 percent of his or her savings overnight.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 39)

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5:26

In 1902, the Official Language Act (a component of the US Foraker Act) declared that all insular governmental departments, courts, and public offices would use English as a “coequal language.” Then the US-appointed commissioner of public instruction ordered that all school children must start the school day saluting the American flag, declaiming the Pledge of Allegiance, and singing the national anthem (in English).⁷ Finally, in 1909, the commissioner decreed that speaking Spanish was “forbidden” in all public schools and that everyone—both teachers and students—could be disciplined for violating this rule.⁸

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (pp. 33-34)

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5:51

As citizens, Puerto Ricans could now join the U.S. Army, but few chose to do so. After Wilson signed a compulsory military service act two months later, however, 20,000 Puerto Ricans were eventually drafted to serve during World War I. Puerto Rican soldiers were sent to guard the Panama Canal, the important waterway, in operation since 1914, which joined the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean across the Isthmus of Panama in Central America. Puerto Rican infantry regiments were also sent to the Western Front

<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/puerto-ricans-become-u-s-citizens-are-recruited-for-war-effort>

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Western-Front-World-War-I>

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On March 2, 1917, the US Congress passed the Jones-Shafroth Act, which authorized a Puerto Rican bill of rights and bicameral legislature, an elected resident commissioner to the US Congress, and immediate US citizenship for Puerto Ricans.⁶ Critics of the bill—including the Puerto Rican House of Representatives, insular historians, and Albizu Campos himself—pointed out the profound flaws in the Jones-Shafroth Act: (1) the US Congress could ignore any Puerto Rican bill of rights, (2) it could override any “laws” passed by the Puerto Rican legislature, (3) the resident commissioner had no vote in the US Congress, and (4) US “citizenship” was a vehicle for drafting Puerto Rican men into the US military.⁷

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (pp. 158-159).

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Puerto Ricans have participated in every major United States military engagement from World War I onward, with the soldiers of Puerto Rico's 65th Infantry Regiment distinguishing themselves in combat during the Korean War.

<https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/974518/puerto-ricans-represented-throughout-us-military-history/#:~:text=As%20citizens%20of%20the%20United,combat%20during%20the%20Korean%20War.>

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6:04

Downes v. Bidwell in 1901 was the codification of McKinley-Roosevelt mindset. The case, which centered on a question of whether shipments from Puerto Rico to New York were interstate or international, established a new hierarchy of territories: They were now either “incorporated” with the United States or “unincorporated,” with only the former having the full protections of the Constitution.

<https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2017/10/the-insular-cases-the-racist-supreme-court-decisions-that-cemented-puerto-ricos-second-class-status.html>

Before the 20th century, the U.S. government granted statehood to lands it acquired as it expanded mostly westward and southward on the American continent. However, Puerto Rico was designated an “unincorporated territory.”

<https://www.history.com/news/puerto-rico-statehood>

After acquiring Puerto Rico, Congress established a civil government and a taxation system through the Foraker Act. In Downes v. Bidwell (1901), the most important Insular Case, justices ruled on whether the Foraker Act was constitutional under the Uniformity Act. As detailed in Justice Edward Douglass White’s Bidwell opinion, “incorporated” territories that were promised constitutional rights by the treaty of acquisition would receive constitutional protection, while “unincorporated” territories would not.

<https://www.law.virginia.edu/news/200704/insular-cases-made-puerto-rican-status-unclear-panel-says>

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In 1922, the US Supreme Court declared Puerto Rico a territory, not a state, and as such the US Constitution did not apply there. This laid the groundwork for denying any rights to work, or a minimum wage or collective bargaining granted to US citizens.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 40)

Balzac v. Porto Rico in 1922 added yet more complexity, finding that the Constitution didn’t apply in full to the territories—only “fundamental” rights were automatically in effect. What “fundamental” means, though, is unclear: Legal matters resolved long ago in the states are still in question in the territories.

<https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2017/10/the-insular-cases-the-racist-supreme-court-decisions-that-cemented-puerto-ricos-second-class-status.html>

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6:12

1,560 miles - technically not 2,000 so i think we stick with hundreds?

<https://www.google.com/search?q=how+many+miles+is+puerto+rico+from+dc&aq=chrome..69i57j0i512j0i22i30l7j0i390i650.6666j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>

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[6:31](#)

"By 1931, Puerto Rico bore a strong American footprint. All of the island's sugar farms belonged to forty-one syndicates.⁴² The banks owned 60 percent of the sugar plantations, 80 percent of the tobacco farms, and 100 percent of the coastal railroads, shipping facilities, and maritime vessels.⁴³ AFL-CIO president Samuel Gompers reported, "I have never seen so many human beings showing so clearly the signs of malnutrition, nor . . . such an accumulation of misery in one people."

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 110). PublicAffairs. Kindle Edition.

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[6:41](#)

\$.04 in 1933 = \$0.90 in 2023

<https://www.retirementsimulation.com/calc/inflation/4/1933>

Sugar cane workers who had gotten seventy-five cents for a twelve-hour day in 1929 were down to forty-five cents in 1933.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 133).

.45/12 hours = .0375 = > 3 cents

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As if blown by this hurricane, a wave of jíbaros descended from the hills, begging for jobs, starving in the streets, and settling in the San Juan slums of La Perla and El Fanguito. In the evenings, fathers and children walked the streets calling, "Leftovers for our pigs!" but everyone knew the scraps were for their families to eat that night.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 111). PublicAffairs. Kindle Edition.

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[6:55](#)

IN PUERTO RICO, 450 MILES EAST OF CUBA, AMERICAN OCCUPATION TROOPS declared the second anniversary of their takeover to be a national holiday. On that day, July 25, 1900, there would be banquets, speeches, band concerts, and a military parade. For the Americans, still caught up in the excitement of their country's sudden rise to world power, it seemed a wonderful moment to celebrate. They had, after all, acquired at almost no cost a lovely little island ideally situated to guard vital Caribbean trade routes

Overthrow pg 90

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[6:57](#)

Blaine had already been considering the island's value as a navy coaling station, provision center, and stepping stone to the Latin American market.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 27)

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[7:02](#)

And the US military was everywhere. The navy had occupied Vieques and was using it for artillery practice, exploding 5 million pounds of ordnance per year. Camp Santiago occupied 12,789 acres in the town of Salinas. Ramey Air Force Base covered 3,796 acres in Aguadilla. Fort Buchanan had 4,500 acres in metropolitan San Juan, with its own pier facilities, ammunition storage areas, and massive railroad network into San Juan Bay. Every July 4 the US flexed its muscles with a military brass band, three infantry battalions, a tank company, a bombardment squadron, three aerial fighter squadrons, the 504th Field Artillery Battalion, the 18th Mechanized Cavalry Squadron, and 4,000 soldiers—the entire 65th Infantry Regiment—marching down Calle Fortaleza (just three blocks from Albizu's house) to remind everyone who was boss.⁵⁴ And then there was Roosevelt Roads—the largest naval station in the world. Spread out over Vieques Island and the Puerto Rican mainland, it encompassed 32,000 acres, 3 harbors, 9 piers, 1,340 buildings, 110 miles of road, 42 miles of oceanfront, and an 11,000-foot runway. It housed 17,000 people and serviced up to 1,000 ships annually.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 146). PublicAffairs. Kindle Edition.

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[7:09](#)

So far, crews have removed munition including 32,000 bombs, 12,000 grenades and 1,300 rockets from Vieques, where the U.S. government relocated residents when the Navy began using the island as a training range in the 1940s.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/puerto-rico-cleanup-us-military-will-take-decade-rcna529>

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As of 1941, the United States had occupied Vieques Island—an eighty-four-square-mile island eight miles east of the Puerto Rican mainland—for military exercises, as a firing range, and as ground for testing new bombs and missiles. Every year the army detonated an average of 5 million pounds of ordnance on the island, particularly on its beaches.

On March 8, 1950, the United States “attacked” Vieques with all of its armed forces—army, navy, air force, marines. The 80,000 men involved included infantry, airborne paratroopers, frogmen, undercover agents, and guerillas. The three-day assault required two months of planning. It was the largest war game in US history, a dress rehearsal for the Korean War, known as Operation Portrex.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 176).

The land, which makes up one half of the island, is now one of the most hazardous waste sites in the US

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ulu0aP697NA&t=94s> //

<https://www.aljazeera.com/features/2019/7/1/puerto-ricos-vieques-still-reels-from-decades-of-us-navy-bombing>

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For over 60 years, the U.S. Navy used the small island of Vieques, Puerto Rico, as a bombing range and site for military-training exercises. ... The Navy eventually conceded to using heavy metals and toxic chemicals like depleted uranium and Agent Orange on the island, but denied any link between their presence and the health conditions of the people who live there. To this day, it is unclear what exactly caused the current conditions in Vieques. It's a health crisis with a cause that's almost impossible to prove: The government requires a particular standard of causal evidence before it will administer relief. Yet independent groups cannot necessarily provide that proof because the federal government still owns the land previously occupied by the military and controls access to it.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2016/09/vieques-invisible-health-crisis/498428/>

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[7:56](#)

He was the first Puerto Rican to graduate from Harvard College and Harvard Law School and spoke six languages. He had served as a first lieutenant in World War I and led a company of two hundred men. He had served as president of the Cosmopolitan Club at Harvard and helped Éamon de Valera draft the constitution of the Free State of Ireland.⁵

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 21)

In 1921, Albizu graduated from law school as class valedictorian and received multiple job offers:

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 131). PublicAffairs. Kindle Edition.

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When the United States entered World War I, Albizu volunteered and served as a first lieutenant in the US Army. He helped organize and train the Third Battalion Infantry of Puerto Rico and was the only "colored" officer at Camp Las Casas, the army training base on the island. Both in the army and during a military tour through the American South, Albizu encountered widespread racism: he saw it on buses and trains, at lunch counters, and in restrooms, stores, post offices, and even churches. He heard it when soldiers joked behind his back, not realizing that he understood every word.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (pp. 129-130).

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[8:03](#)

In 1921, Albizu graduated from law school as class valedictorian and received multiple job offers: a clerkship with the US Supreme Court, a diplomatic post at the US embassy to Mexico, a judgeship in Yauco, Puerto Rico, and an executive position

with a US corporation paying \$15,000 per year. Albizu refused them all and returned to his hometown of Ponce to pursue his growing obsession: the independence of Puerto Rico.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 131).

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[8:08](#)

He would spend twenty-five years in prison—many of them in this dungeon, in the belly of La Princesa. He walked back and forth for decades, with wet towels wrapped around his head. The guards all laughed, declared him insane, and called him El Rey de las Toallas. The King of the Towels. His name was Pedro Albizu Campos.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 21).

Albizu was jailed in La Princesa prison in San Juan. A Palm Sunday march in support of Albizu resulted in the Ponce Massacre. Finally, after an unsuccessful appeal, Albizu was flown to the US penitentiary in Atlanta on June 7, 1937.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 141). PublicAffairs. Kindle Edition.

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[8:48](#)

The Nationalists needed

about 24,000 signatures to get on the ballots in 1932. The signatures, ironically, were secured by the Union Republican party, a political group that had little in common with the Nationalist party. The Union Republican party helped because it desired to split the votes of the Liberal party. As it turned out, the Nationalist party polled in 1932 a mere 5,257 votes . (the vote for Albizu Campos personally was 11,634), which was less than 2 percent of the total votes polled.¹⁶

Their weak showing at the polls did not discourage many Nationalists from continuing with the politics of agitation.

https://muse.jhu.edu/pub/266/oa_monograph/chapter/2765881

Albizu Campos initiated a massive political organizing and education campaign for Puerto Rican self-determination. In 1932 the nationalist campaign, unable to make headway in the formal political system of the island or to contend with increasing police repression, began to advocate violent revolution.

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Pedro-Albizu-Campos>

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Then, in January 1934, the Nationalist Party led an agricultural strike that paralyzed the island's sugar economy for a full month and doubled workers' wages to an average of twelve cents per hour. From that moment forward, the party was under a severe microscope.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 53)

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9:05

When he returned to his lab that night, in a foul mood and still drunk, he scrawled a note to a friend named Fred Stewart, who was a medical researcher in Boston: I can get a damn fine job here and I am tempted to take it. It would be ideal except for the Porto Ricans—they are beyond doubt the dirtiest, laziest, most degenerate and thievish race of men ever to inhabit this sphere. It makes you sick to inhabit the same island with them. They are even lower than the Italians. What the island needs is not public health work, but a tidal wave or something to totally exterminate the entire population. It might then be livable. I have done my best to further the process of their extermination by killing off eight and transplanting cancer into several more. . . . All physicians take delight in the abuse and torture of the unfortunate subjects.¹¹ The letter was discovered and created an uproar throughout the hospital. An investigation by San Juan district attorney José Ramón Quiñones confirmed that of the thirteen recently deceased cancer patients at San Juan Presbyterian, eight had indeed been in Rhoads's care.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (pp. 45-46). PublicAffairs. Kindle Edition.

Fred Stewart a medical researcher in Boston

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9:50

The next day a lab assistant found the document, passed copies to colleagues, and later gave a copy to Pedro Albizu Campos, leader of the Puerto Rican Nationalist Party.

https://go.gale.com/ps/i.do?id=GALE%7CA101941626&sid=googleScholar&v=2.1&it=r&linkaccess=abs&issn=00368075&p=AONE&sw=w&userGroupName=nysl_oweb&isGeoAuthType=true

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9:57

La Democracia and El Mundo published a photograph of Rhoads's letter. Copies were sent to the governor of Puerto Rico, the League of Nations, the Pan-American Union, the American Civil Liberties Union, newspapers, foreign embassies, and the Vatican. They were offered as evidence of systemic and lethal US racism toward Puerto Ricans. Rhoads called his letter "a fantastic and playful composition, written entirely for my own diversion." His peers laughed along with him. Rhoads was never indicted and suffered no professional consequences for his actions.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 46)

- - -

"Cornelius Rhoads never faced a hearing, not only that he didn't even get fired"

- Daniel Immerwahr

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=296932700980151>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rv1UGYvLg0s>

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10:05

The letter was discovered and created an uproar throughout the hospital. An investigation by San Juan district attorney José Ramón Quiñones confirmed that of the thirteen recently deceased cancer patients at San Juan Presbyterian, eight had indeed been in Rhoads's care. La Democracia and El Mundo published a photograph of Rhoads's letter. Copies were sent to the governor of Puerto Rico, the League of Nations, the Pan-American Union, the American Civil Liberties Union, newspapers, foreign embassies, and the Vatican. They were offered as evidence of systemic and lethal US racism toward Puerto Ricans. Rhoads called his letter "a fantastic and playful composition, written entirely for my own diversion." His peers laughed along with him. Rhoads was never indicted and suffered no professional consequences for his actions.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 46)

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mag cover

<https://content.time.com/time/covers/0,16641,19490627,00.html>

— — —

time cover is 1949

<https://content.time.com/time/covers/0,16641,19490627,00.html>

15 years after letter

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10:38

From the moment he arrived, General Winship proceeded to militarize the entire island. He urged the building of a \$4 million naval air base,⁷⁸ the cost of which ultimately ballooned to over \$112.5 million.⁷⁹ He created new, vigorous police-training camps and spent his weekends touring them, along with every US military installation.⁸⁰ He also added hundreds of men to the insular police force, equipping every unit with machine guns, tear gas, and riot gear, and painted their cars a suggestive new color: blood red.⁸¹ Winship also conveyed power and authority through the adroit use of police uniforms, which resembled those of World War II military officers.⁸²

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 77)

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When two Nationalist Party members assassinated insular police chief Elisha Francis Riggs in 1936, the leadership of the party was arrested and charged with seditious conspiracy. Despite court appeals, Albizu Campos and other party leaders were sent to the federal penitentiary in Atlanta in 1937. Albizu Campos's health suffered in prison, and he was released in 1947.

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Pedro-Albizu-Campos>

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10:44

On October 24, 1935, police shot and killed four Nationalists (including the party's treasurer, Ramón Pagán) in what became known as the Río Piedras Massacre. The incident occurred one block away from police headquarters, in broad daylight, before several witnesses. A stray police bullet also killed an old man named Juan Muñoz Jimenez, who was out buying a lottery ticket.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (pp. 53-54).

//On October 24, 1935, University of Puerto Rico students held a meeting to discuss their relationship with Pedro Albizu Campos and the Nationalist Party. To ensure a "peaceful" gathering, General Winship's police surrounded the campus in Río Piedras and stationed themselves on every street corner with carbines, tear gas, and machine guns. At 10:30 a.m., before the meeting started, several police cars intercepted a Willis-77 sedan, license plate 6268, with four Nationalists inside. Two policemen jumped onto the running boards and ordered the driver to proceed slowly to a nearby police station. One block from the station, on Calle Arzuaga, several more police cars pulled up, a squad of officers surrounded the car, and all of them started shooting. A Cadet of the Republic named José Santiago Barea ran toward the car and was killed instantly. Three Nationalists, Ramón S. Pagán, Pedro Quiñones, and Eduardo Rodríguez, were gunned down inside the vehicle. An old man named Juan Muñoz Jiménez was also shot and killed. Jiménez wasn't a Nationalist; he was out buying a lottery ticket.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 78).

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10:55

Four days after the massacre, Police Chief Riggs stated in several major newspapers that he was ready to wage "war to the death against all Puerto Ricans." ... he was ripe for retaliation. As he returned home to the El Escambrón luxury resort, two young men approached. Hiram Rosado shot and missed; Elías Beauchamp killed him instantly.⁸⁸ The police arrested Rosado and Beauchamp, took them to the San Juan District Station, and summarily executed them within an hour.⁸⁹

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 79).

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The massacre was barely mentioned in the American press. Police Chief Riggs told La Democracia that if Albizu continued agitating for independence, there would be "war to the death against all Puerto Ricans."³⁶ Three months later, on February 23, 1936, Police Chief Riggs was assassinated on his way to El Escambrón. The two Nationalists who shot him, Hiram Rosado and Elías Beauchamp, were arrested, beaten for an hour, then executed in a San Juan police station. Governor Blanton Winship moved quickly, prohibiting all public demonstrations throughout the island and ordering an

investigation. The Insular Police raided several dozen offices and homes, seized documents and recordings of Albizu's speeches, and eleven days later arrested Albizu and eight other Nationalists. Lacking any evidence of murder or incitement to murder, the prosecution charged Albizu with conspiracy to overthrow the US government.³⁷

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 139).

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[11:02](#)

The first jury of seven Puerto Ricans and five Americans failed to reach a verdict. Just before the retrial, at a cocktail party in the governor's mansion, US Attorney Cecil Snyder showed a list of handpicked jurors to a well-known artist named Rockwell Kent. According to Kent, the people on Snyder's list were precisely the ones later empanelled during voir dire, who then sat in judgment on Albizu. Kent went public with this information, but it had no effect on the case. He spoke directly to the press, stating, "Albizu Campos was denied the right to a fair and impartial trial by jury." He even submitted a letter to Senator Henry F. Ashurst, chairman of the US Senate Judiciary Committee—but no inquiry was ever made.³⁸ At the retrial, the clerk of the court declared fourteen potential jurors "unavailable" or "excused for cause," removed five others,³⁹ and controlled the entire voir dire selection process. When the smoke cleared, the new jury consisted of ten Americans and two Puerto Ricans.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (pp. 139-140).

Ten of the jurors were American residents in Puerto Rico and even the two Puerto Ricans were closely associated with American business interests. It was evident from the composition of the jury that the Nationalists did not and could not get a fair trial."⁴² The letter was ineffectual; Albizu was jailed in La Princesa prison in San Juan.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (pp. 140-141).

US military commanders from Camp Santiago and the new chief of police, Colonel Enrique de Orbeta, sat in the courtroom as the jury delivered its verdict: ten years' imprisonment for Albizu, six years for the other Nationalists.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 140). PublicAffairs. Kindle Edition.

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in the courtroom as the jury delivered its verdict: ten years' imprisonment for Albizu, six years for the other Nationalists.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 140).

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[11:06](#)

convicted July 31, 1936, massacre is March 21, 1937,

<http://web.archive.org/web/20110718041218/http://www.pr-secretfiles.net/timeline.html?cat=8>

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[11:19](#)

He rushed to his lab and developed the three four-hundred-foot rolls he'd shot and viewed the footage through his movieola. The advance of the police, the relentless shooting, the terror in every face, the bodies, the blood . . . all the images evoked scenes from Battleship Potemkin....Maria Hernández del Rosario, the fifty-three-year-old woman with her brains spilled into the street, had been Juan's babysitter.... Juan studied every frame. In those thirteen minutes he learned a lifetime's worth of history, philosophy, psychology, political science, sociology, anthropology, and economics. They told him everything he needed to know about what men were capable of and what men in "America" thought of him and his people. Those thirteen minutes made clear that, to those from the north, Puerto Ricans were not equals, or citizens, or even fully human. They were animals. And so they could be shot on Palm Sunday like rabid dogs in the street.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 165). PublicAffairs. Kindle Edition.

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Then on March 21, 1937, Palm Sunday, the entire island witnessed the bloodiest event in its history... By 3 p.m. the street was full with nearly three hundred men, women, and children in their Sunday best, the men in straw hats and white linen suits, the ladies in flowery print dresses, and children playing all around. It looked like a festive afternoon in the park.... Then a shot rang out. Iván Rodríguez Figueras crumpled like a rag doll, blood spurting from his throat with each dying heartbeat. It sprayed a little girl next to him who started screaming. A second shot cracked, and Juan Torres Gregory, an eighteen-year-old looking out a window, fell down dead. A third shot dropped Obdulio Rosario, who was carrying a palm-leaf crucifix. Obdulio's eyes widened, his mouth flew open, and blood rolled down his chin onto his shirt. His gaze ranged wildly over the crowd for a moment; then he fell on his face and clawed outward with his fingers. Everyone stared unbelievably at the squirming figure on the ground, as Obdulio lifted himself up with his arms, like a lizard, and then dropped for the last time. A thick stream of blood ran down the crushed rock of the roadbed. Panicked screams and curses erupted as people ran in all directions, but they couldn't escape because Captains Guillermo Soldevilla, Pérez Segarra, and Antonio Bernardi, along with two hundred men with rifles and Tommy guns, were stationed all around them. They blocked every route and created a killing zone. Then they started firing. A boy was shot on a bicycle. A father tried to shield his dying son and was shot in the back. An orange vendor hid behind a statue of Jesus until a cop ran over and shot him in the head.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 54). PublicAffairs. Kindle Edition.

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"María. This refusal to compromise led to a series of violent confrontations that resulted in Riggs's death at the hands of nationalists, Albizu Campos's imprisonment, and the infamous Ponce Massacre of 1937, during which seventeen civilians and two police officers were killed." - Fantasy Island: Colonialism, Exploitation, and the Betrayal of Puerto Rico, pg 38

"The police kept shooting and clubbing for thirteen minutes. By the time they finished, nineteen men, one woman, and a seven-year-old girl lay dead; [21] over two hundred more were gravely wounded—moaning, crawling, bleeding, and begging for mercy in the street."

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 57). PublicAffairs. Kindle Edition.

On March 21, 1937, Nationalists planning to demonstrate in Ponce as part of Palm Sunday festivities had their parade license revoked. After they demonstrated anyway, armed police officers fired into the crowd, killing 21 people and wounding more than 100.

<https://history.house.gov/Exhibitions-and-Publications/HAIC/Historical-Essays/Foreign-Domestic/Legislative-Interests/>

In Puerto Rico, Wednesday marked the 70th anniversary of the Ponce massacre. On March 21, 1937, 19 people were killed and more than 100 wounded when police opened fire on a demonstration calling for independence from the United States. The day is considered a defining event in Puerto Rico's history of struggle against U.S. domination.

https://www.democracynow.org/2007/3/22/remembering_puerto_ricos_ponce_massacre

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[12:03](#)

The United States sent General Blanton Winship to “modernize” the Insular Police with machine guns, grenades, tear gas, and riot gear. According to *El Imparcial* and other newspapers, hundreds of FBI agents armed with Thompson submachine guns had deployed to Puerto Rico and fanned out across the island.² Within one year of its opening in 1935, the FBI National Academy began to train hundreds of high-ranking police personnel from Puerto Rico.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (pp. 86-87). PublicAffairs. Kindle Edition.

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[12:36](#)

The information in carpetas included school transcripts, employment history, religious practices, political affiliations, club memberships, bank accounts, property holdings, taxes paid, family and marital records, travel history, auto registrations and license plates, meetings attended, and publications written or received. They also included personal information: friends, business partners, sexual partners, mistresses, gigolos, debtors and creditors, personal letters (intercepted at the post office), recorded phone calls, photos, wedding lists, laundry tickets, and “miscellaneous items.”

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (pp. 88-89)

With regard to Nationalists, FBI director J. Edgar Hoover was typically blunt. In memo after memo, he instructed his agents to uncover anything “concerning their weaknesses, morals, criminal records, spouses, children, family life, educational

qualifications and personal activities other than independence activities.”¹³
According to one memo, Hoover argued this would enhance “our efforts to disrupt their activities and compromise their effectiveness.”

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 89). PublicAffairs. Kindle Edition.

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[12:52](#)

Lawyers for carpetas victims seeking redress in court say the order excludes most of the thousands of Puerto Ricans, largely pro-independence supporters, who were spied upon by a commonwealth police intelligence unit. Over half a century the police unit built up a vast network of informers--everyday people like the victims themselves. Other governmental and private institutions also provided information for the files.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/WPcap/1999-12/28/021r-122899-idx.html>

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[12:59](#)

"He would become an informant and feed the cops harmless information to see if they could get valuable information in return. He would become a double agent. Typically informants like him were either coerced or paid."

<https://www.wnycstudios.org/podcasts/la-brega/articles/encyclopedia-betrayal>

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[15:38](#)

Employment

Information in the carpetas allegedly was used to deny employment or take other punitive actions such as unlawful arrests against Puerto Ricans from every walk of life, from students and teachers to farmers and cab drivers, lawyers and artists.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/WPcap/1999-12/28/021r-122899-idx.html>

College Admission

One client of Hey Maestre, a 16-year-old high school student, had books and other materials confiscated in Puerto Rico after attending an international socialist youth activity in Finland. He claims authorities then expelled him from school and blocked his admission to college.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/WPcap/1999-12/28/021r-122899-idx.html>

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The Bureau was more than happy to simply invent scurrilous stories to defame its targets.

In 1962, it planted five disinformational news stories about the SCLC's communist connections, and had news articles and editorials involving gossip about Puerto Rican Independence Movement leaders' sex lives and finances printed.

<https://jacobin.com/2016/08/fbi-cointelpro-new-left-panthers-muslim-surveillance>

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But in the 1930's, 1940's and early 1950's, the independence movement was much more widespread than it is today, and ranged from legal political parties to violent militant groups.

http://web.archive.org/web/20110527143322/http://www.pr-secretfiles.net/news_details.html?article=72

"In the 1940's, independence was the second-largest political movement in the island, (after support for commonwealth status), and a real alternative. But it was criminalized."

http://web.archive.org/web/20110527143322/http://www.pr-secretfiles.net/news_details.html?article=72

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Some more sources on Individual Carpetas Victims

"In order to create dissension between Juan Mari Bras and [redacted] the San Juan Office proposed to prepare an anonymous letter to the [redacted]. The letter [redacted] states further that if [redacted] is too much of a fool to resent the romance between his wife and Mari, the writer as his friend will not allow the romance to go further. The letter states that if [redacted] does not stop the romance the writer will expose it publicly, including giving it to [redacted]... (new memo) Mailing of counterintelligence measure referred to in reference letter carried out 6/18/69 in accordance with the instructions therein."

<https://vault.fbi.gov/cointel-pro/puerto-rican-groups/cointel-pro-puerto-rican-groups-part-08-of-11/view> pg 7-10

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Intimidation Ride in Police Helicopter

The carpetas also were used in child custody hearings and employment interviews. And in some cases, entire families were drawn into the web of state spying because one member was considered "subversive." That's the case with Ramonita Velez, 44, whose 7-year-old son in 1979 was taken for a ride in a police helicopter to be questioned about his relatives.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/WPcap/1999-12/28/021r-122899-idx.html>

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[16:02](#)

On October 30, 1950, a violent revolution swept through Puerto Rico: Nationalist assassins were sent to kill President Harry S. Truman; gunfights roared in eight towns; revolutionaries burned police stations, post offices, and selective service centers, representative of the US presence, to the ground.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 12). PublicAffairs. Kindle Edition.

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[16:11](#)

And on October 30, 1950, just days before voter registration is set to open...

In seven cities, Nationalists stage a revolt. They declare the independence of Puerto Rico.

<https://www.npr.org/transcripts/891442022>

- - -

They take government buildings....They cut phone lines, waste flags, destroy records and set the police station and post office on fire... They also go to San Juan and seek to assassinate Munoz Marin.

<https://www.npr.org/transcripts/891442022>

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[16:23](#)

Utuado was thus crucial to the revolution. The Nationalists did not need to win a war against America, which was impossible. They only needed to get the world's attention so that the United Nations and other international organizations would pressure the United States to give up its colony.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 222)

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[16:31](#)

On November 1, after particularly serious revolts in Jayuya and Utuado, the governor called in the Puerto Rican National Guard and the U.S. Air Force. American military aircraft flew over the two municipalities, dropping bombs over the pueblos, flattening homes. According to police estimates, 28 people were killed and 50 were wounded.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2022/11/puerto-rico-independence-not-statehood/671482/>

The planes dropped 500-pound (227-kilogram) bombs and strafed the town with .50-caliber armor-piercing machine guns, each Thunderbolt releasing up to 1,200 rounds per minute. It was the only time in history that the United States bombed its own citizens.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 220).

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The planes dropped 500-pound (227-kilogram) bombs and strafed the town with .50-caliber armor-piercing machine guns, each Thunderbolt releasing up to 1,200 rounds per minute. It was the only time in history that the United States bombed its own citizens.¹⁹ After bombing Jayuya, the planes machine-gunned the farms, sugar cane fields, and mountains surrounding the town. Anyone who staggered out, wounded or not, was arrested immediately.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 220). PublicAffairs. Kindle Edition.

Later that day, the Guardsmen retreated temporarily from Utuado, while four P-47 Thunderbolt planes bombed the town more thoroughly than they had Jayuya.... Each plane carried a payload capacity of 2,500 pounds. By the time they were finished, the town lay in ruins.³³ El Imparcial ran a huge, full-page headline that said "Air Force Bombs Utuado":

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 225). PublicAffairs. Kindle Edition.

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[16:45](#)

article published December 27, 2017 - so 5.5 years

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/the-dream-of-puerto-rican-independence-and-the-story-of-heriberto-marin>

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When I asked him about the 1950 uprising, Marín gave a polite smile. "It was the era of decolonization, the spirit of the times," he began. "It was David against Goliath. Dr. Albizu Campos told us we might die, but that we might also succeed." Their plan had not merely been to fight the police in Jayuya, he explained, but to seize the police's guns and then make their way to nearby Utuado, where they were to meet up with other rebel units and make a final stand. Albizu Campo had expected the U.S. military to become directly involved, and once they did, "we would have let the world know about Puerto Rico."

<https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/the-dream-of-puerto-rican-independence-and-the-story-of-heriberto-marin>

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[16:53](#)

Two men rode in front, three in back, all of them lost in their own thoughts—saying good-bye to their families, friends, and loved ones, praying. They had all worn their Sunday best—best suit, best shirt, best tie. They were all prepared to die.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 228)

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[16:56](#)

Again there are really inconsistent numbers here, I am going w "more than 2 dozen" after that my reflex is to use the # from the Colombia prof which is 28

27 people killed <https://www.britannica.com/place/Puerto-Rico/The-commonwealth>

28 people killed

https://scholarsarchive.library.albany.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1021&context=1acs_fac_scholar

28 people killed

Fantasy Island: Colonialism, Exploitation, and the Betrayal of Puerto Rico (page 44"

33 people killed

<https://history.house.gov/Exhibitions-and-Publications/HAIC/Historical-Essays/Separate-Interests/Puerto-Rico/>

also there are not good sources on the # wounded so leaving that out

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[17:06](#)

On November 1, 1950, Griselio Torresola and Oscar Collazo attempt to assassinate President Harry S. Truman at the Blair House in Washington, D.C.

<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/an-assassination-attempt-threatens-president-harry-s-truman>

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Once they penetrated the house and killed the president, they knew they would never escape. It was a suicide mission, just like the attack on La Fortaleza in San Juan. But they had the element of surprise. And whether they succeeded or not, the world would know that the revolution was real. It was not a Caribbean clown show or a mere “incident between Puerto Ricans.”

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 233)

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The would-be assassin who survives is put on trial. And when asked what motivates him, he talks about wanting to draw attention to Puerto Rico's plight, and he invokes Cornelius Rhoads saying, quote, "he tried to bring about a campaign of killing the Puerto Rican people."

<https://www.npr.org/transcripts/761921368>

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[17:13](#)

After the October 30 revolts, mass arrests filled all the prisons with 3,000 prisoners for the next few months.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 18).

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Some received 400-year sentences; the sentences handed down across the island totaled over 16,000 years.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 277).

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[17:18](#)

On March 1, 1954, while Members gathered on the House Floor for an upcoming vote, three men and one woman entered the visitor's gallery above the chamber and quietly took their seats. All four belonged to the Puerto Rican Nationalist Party and only hours earlier had traveled from New York City to Washington, DC.

.... The Capitol had few security protocols at the time, and the four Puerto Rican nationalists entered the gallery armed with handguns. Around 2:30 p.m. they indiscriminately opened fire onto the House Floor and unfurled a Puerto Rican flag in

a violent act of protest meant to draw attention to their demand for Puerto Rico's immediate independence.

Five Congressmen were wounded in the shooting.

Members, House Pages, and police officers quickly helped detain three of the assailants outside the gallery, while the fourth escaped the Capitol and was apprehended later that afternoon.

<https://history.house.gov/Oral-History/Events/1954-Shooting/>

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[17:22](#)

Albizu Campos, along with 3,000 independence supporters, were arrested in 1950 after leading islandwide attacks, including one on the Puerto Rican governor's mansion, and an attack on Blair House in Washington, D.C., where U.S. Pres. Harry S. Truman was staying during renovations of the White House. Albizu Campos was promptly arrested and sentenced the following year to an 80-year term in prison.

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Pedro-Albizu-Campos>

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[17:32](#)

Over and over, he stated that the radiation was intended to induce either a stroke or a heart attack.³⁶ In December 1952, he reported to the Organization of American States that he expected to suffer "heart failure or cerebral hemorrhage." And that is precisely what happened. In a stunning admission, an internal FBI report states that Albizu suffered a cerebral thrombosis in prison on March 27, 1956, and was moved to Presbyterian Hospital on March 29. In other words, after suffering a major stroke, Albizu did not receive proper medical attention for two full days.³⁸ The result was predictable: for the rest of his life, the right side of Albizu's body was paralyzed. He was never able to speak again.³⁹ Albizu Campos had been silenced forever.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 268)

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[17:45](#)

Revolution was 1950 and the program was discovered 1987 = 37 years

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[17:52](#)

The discovery in 1987 that the Puerto Rican police had maintained thousands of secret files on alleged subversives opened up a dark part of the history of the island. After a brief review of the political status of Puerto Rico under rule by the United States, this article discusses the secret surveillance files, their creation and maintenance, and what happened to the files after they were discovered. It also considers some of the archival issues involved in the proper management of these very sensitive and political records.

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/290335275_The_Forbidden_Files_Creation_and_Use_of_Surveillance_Files_Against_the_Independence_Movement_in_Puerto_Rico

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(when they found out about the Carpetas and the PR police dept)

"The discovery in 1987 that the Puerto Rican police had maintained thousands of secret files on alleged subversives opened up a dark part of the history of the island."

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/290335275_The_Forbidden_Files_Creation_and_Use_of_Surveillance_Files_Against_the_Independence_Movement_in_Puerto_Rico

also <https://www.jstor.org/stable/40294293>

The existence of so-called subversives dossiers was discovered during Puerto Rican Senate hearings into the deaths of two "subversive" pro-independence youths atop the Cerro Maravilla mountain in 1978. The hearings, which were televised live across the island in the early 1980s, revealed that an undercover agent led the two young men to a police ambush, where both were gunned down while on their knees.

http://web.archive.org/web/20110527143342/http://www.pr-secretfiles.net/news_details.html?article=78

(when they found out about FBI involvement)

The existence of the F.B.I. papers came to light during a House Appropriations subcommittee hearing in 2000, when Representative Jose E. Serrano of New York questioned Louis J. Freeh, then F.B.I. director, on the issue. Mr. Freeh gave the first public acknowledgment of the federal government's Puerto Rican surveillance and offered a mea culpa.

http://web.archive.org/web/20110527143322/http://www.pr-secretfiles.net/news_details.html?article=72

"The F.B.I. papers arriving at Hunter so far span six decades, from 1936 to 1995. They track everything from the Puerto Rican Independence Party (still active and known as PIP) to student demonstrations and workers' strikes to bomb explosions and assassination attempts as part of an armed struggle."

<https://www.nytimes.com/2003/11/28/nyregion/new-light-on-old-fbi-fight-decades-of-surveillance-of-puerto-rican-groups.html>

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17:55

In a radio interview in 1987, a former intelligence officer who had pleaded guilty to perjury and conspiracy for covering up the murders provided the first detailed account of the existence of a list of alleged subversives maintained by the police. The ensuing investigations revealed that law enforcement held active files on 75,000 people.

<https://theintercept.com/2020/01/19/puerto-rico-university-protests-facebook-surveillance/>

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18:16

15,589 dossiers of individuals (this is the 16,000)

there was also 1,204 dossiers of organizations and activities

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/290335275_The_Forbidden_Files_Creation_and_Use_of_Surveillance_Files_Against_the_Independence_Movement_in_Puerto_Rico

151,541 index cards

- 74,412 of individuals
- 60,776 of vehicles and crafts
- 5,000 reference cards from the Office of Special Investigations

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/40294293>

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Over time, the carpetas eventually totaled 1.8 million pages. The average file contained roughly 20 pages, but others were more extensive: the file on Albizu Campos filled two boxes with 4,700 pages.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 88).

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19:28

U.S. federal agencies today control Puerto Rico's foreign relations, customs, immigration, postal system, communications, radio, television, commerce, transportation, social security, military service, maritime laws, banks. currency and defense – all of this without the people of Puerto Rico having a vote in U.S. elections.

Denis, Nelson. War Against All Puerto Ricans (p. 304).

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