

**“QUIEN LUCHA POR SU
LIBERTAD, SE LA MERECE.”**

-FILIBERTO OJEDA RIOS

STATEHOOD =

Lack of political and economic power to serve the needs of our people; continued transfer of public goods, lands, and services into private hands; greater inclusion into the domestic and international agenda of the United States, including ICE attacks on immigrant communities, genocide in Palestine, and war on China.

INDEPENDENCE =

Self-determination; food sovereignty and security; dignified and affordable housing, medical care, and public education; preservation of native lands and waters; building climate resiliency for the protection of our islands and people; an end to forced displacement and emigration; regional unity with other nations and peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Diaspora Pa'lante!

Through community organizing, public education, and international campaigns, DPC is organizing Puerto Ricans and allies across the diaspora toward the achievement of a free and independent Puerto Rico, and the liberation of all peoples and nations from imperialism, colonialism, capitalism, and patriarchy.



**OUR 13-POINT PROGRAM:
[BIT.LY/13POINTPROGRAM](https://bit.ly/13POINTPROGRAM)**

OUR WEBSITE:



PUERTO RICO 101: WHY INDEPENDENCE?

An introduction to the history and contemporary conditions of the colonization of Puerto Rico, and the difference between what statehood and independence would mean for us.

**¡DESPIERTA, BORICUA!
¡DEFIENDE LO TUYO!**



COMMONWEALTH TIMELINE: A COLONIAL REALITY

1898: TREATY OF PARIS

Following the Spanish-American War, Spain cedes Puerto Rico (along with Cuba, the Philippines, and Guam) to the United States.

1917: THE JONES ACT

Imposes U.S. citizenship on Puerto Ricans, who are now eligible to be drafted to serve in the U.S. military during WWI.

1947: OPERATION BOOTSTRAP

Puerto Rico's mid-century development program to industrialize the archipelago by attracting the investment and operations of U.S. companies. Following the loss of its traditional agricultural economy, more than one million Puerto Ricans emigrate to the United States in search of jobs, permanently relocated to alleviate the archipelago's "surplus population."

1952: COMMONWEALTH STATUS

As a symbolic gesture providing limited autonomy to the Puerto Rican government, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is established. The archipelago remains a U.S. colony under the authority of the U.S. Congress. The United Nations continues to urge the facilitation of an authentic process of decolonization.

PUERTO RICO TODAY

FOOD INSECURITY

Following decades of prioritizing urban growth and commercial development, Puerto Rico's agricultural base has been severely weakened, leaving the archipelago to import more than 85% of its food.

SCHOOL CLOSURES AND PRIVATIZATION

Since 2007, more than 670 public schools (44%) have been closed due to the debt crisis, Hurricane María, and the continued displacement of Puerto Ricans from the archipelago. Recent legislation has paved the way for their replacement by private and charter school companies.

FAILING ENERGY GRID

Puerto Ricans rely on one of the most unstable electrical grids in the Americas. As of 2021, electricity services are privately managed by LUMA Energy and Genera PR, subsidiaries of North American corporations unaccountable to the Puerto Rican people.

RESISTANCE!

In all corners of the archipelago, Puerto Ricans are resisting displacement, private development of public lands, the austerity agenda of La Junta, and an unaccountable political system governed by a colonial power and its allies.



ONGOING REPRESSION

TRADE RESTRICTIONS AND THE ECONOMY

The Jones Act (1920) drives up the cost of goods for Puerto Ricans by requiring that imports are transported on U.S.-owned, U.S.-built, U.S.-crewed ships, at an annual cost of \$1.5B to the Puerto Rican economy. This limits economic growth, diversification, and self-sufficiency.

COLONIAL CONTROL

Puerto Ricans possess no options for waiving or overturning the Jones Act, which benefits the U.S. shipping industry at the expense of the health, wellbeing, and economic sovereignty of the archipelago.

BARRIERS TO EMERGENCY AID

Following natural disasters and other emergencies, the delivery of aid is hindered by the discretion and decision-making power of the United States, preventing the timely provision of support to our people in need.