

Puerto Rican Ethnogenesis

- 1493** Christopher Columbus circumnavigates Borinquen and assesses its resources
- 1508** Ponce De Leon arrives on Borinquen, installs himself as the Island's first Governor, and enslaves the Tainos Indian people
- 1508-1898** Spanish Colonization of Puerto Rico produces a new racial blend---the Puertoriqueno (part Taino, part African, and part Spanish); Spanish becomes the official language; Roman Catholicism becomes the official religion
- 1897** Autonomy Granted Puerto Rico by Spain
- 1898** US troops invade and successfully occupy Puerto Rico; Spain cedes ownership of the island to the United States at the conclusion of the Spanish American War
- 1900** Congress passes the Organic Act (Foraker Act) and designates Puerto Rico as Porto Rico and makes English the official language
- 1917** Porto Ricans become "limited citizens" of the United States under the Jones Act but Porto Rico remains a US Colony
- 1947** Congress amended the Jones Act to permit Puerto Ricans to elect their own governor for the first time in their history
- 1949** Luis Munoz Marin is inaugurated as the first elected Governor of Puerto Rico, initiates Operation Bootstrap, and serves as governor until 1965
- 1952** Puerto Rico adopts its first Constitution and becomes a US Commonwealth; Spanish becomes the official language and English becomes the required elective language in the schools
- 1967** Islanders vote to retain Commonwealth status
- 1993** Islanders again vote to retain Commonwealth status
- 1998** US Congress grants Puerto Rico the right to vote on their desire for US statehood status [50% vote for commonwealth; 47% vote for statehood; 3% vote for national independence]