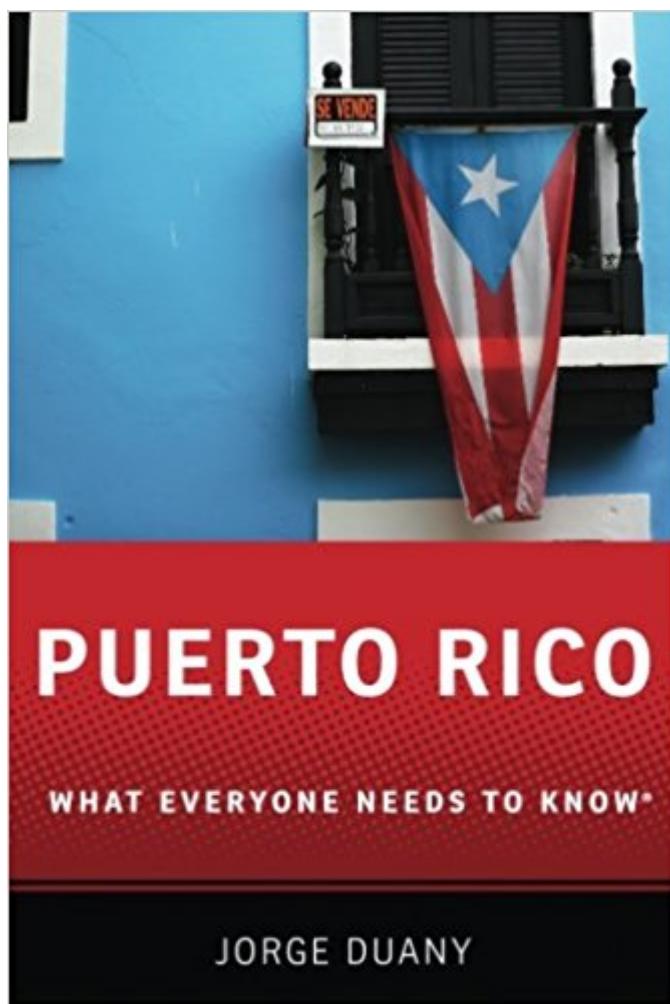


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# Puerto Rico: What Everyone Needs To Know®



## Synopsis

Acquired by the United States from Spain in 1898, Puerto Rico has a peculiar status among Latin American and Caribbean countries. As a Commonwealth, the island enjoys limited autonomy over local matters, but the U.S. has dominated it militarily, politically, and economically for much of its recent history. Though they are U.S. citizens, Puerto Ricans do not have their own voting representatives in Congress and cannot vote in presidential elections (although they are able to participate in the primaries). The island's status is a topic of perennial debate, both within and beyond its shores. In recent months its colossal public debt has sparked an economic crisis that has catapulted it onto the national stage and intensified the exodus to the U.S., bringing to the fore many of the unresolved remnants of its colonial history. *Puerto Rico: What Everyone Needs to Know*® provides a succinct, authoritative introduction to the Island's rich history, culture, politics, and economy. The book begins with a historical overview of Puerto Rico during the Spanish colonial period (1493-1898). It then focuses on the first five decades of the U.S. colonial regime, particularly its efforts to control local, political, and economic institutions as well as to "Americanize" the Island's culture and language. Jorge Duany delves into the demographic, economic, political, and cultural features of contemporary Puerto Rico—the inner workings of the Commonwealth government and the island's relationship to the United States. Lastly, the book explores the massive population displacement that has characterized Puerto Rico since the mid-20th century. Despite their ongoing colonial dilemma, Jorge Duany argues that Puerto Ricans display a strong national identity as a Spanish-speaking, Afro-Hispanic-Caribbean nation. While a popular tourist destination, few beyond its shores are familiar with its complex history and diverse culture. Duany takes on the task of educating readers on the most important facets of the unique, troubled, but much beloved *isla del encanto*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Jorge Duany is the Director of the Cuban Research Institute and Professor of Anthropology at Florida International University. He has published extensively on migration, ethnicity, race, nationalism, and transnationalism in the Hispanic Caribbean and the United States. He is the author, coauthor, or editor of 20 books, including several works about Puerto Rico.

I think that the book is quite adequate for those that don't know nothing of Puerto Rico. Given Mr. Duany background he has a lot of terrain to cover so the topics are quite skim over. You'll need to investigate further some of the topics covered. I am disappointed that the author did not put notes behind his many statements or attempt to cross referenced to the sources used. He does include a large variety of books to read and learn more but I got the feeling that there is a lot of opinions stated here and no references. He does include many statistics and that's good. I was also a bit disappointed that he omitted to mentioned the contributions of music of La Nueva Trova granted it only lasted perhaps a decade in the 70's but their music was superb. Roy Brown gave life to many poems from Juan Antonio Corretjer.

Really good book, I learned a lot. And it really cleared up a lot of questions that I had.

Very informative! Learned a lot of information that I never knew!

Must read good book if your interested PR culture.

This book is a very good introduction to Puerto Rico on the political, social & economic levels. It is clear that effort was made not to tilt in favor of one political status over another. It is necessary to use other sources to deal with the colonial situation, but it is a good primer.

Excellent!

very comfortable and very fine . very recommend . a present , fast shipping. It is a great product.

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