

Shine Brighter Première

ShortFile 22 Puerto Rico: the 51st state?

Doc 1. Video p. 190 – Here's Why Puerto Rico Is Part of the U.S.,
History, 2019

Presenter: The Caribbean island of Puerto Rico is an unincorporated territory, or commonwealth, of the United States. This basically means its status is somewhere between being a state and being an independent nation. Puerto Ricans are citizens of the United States but if they live on the island of Puerto Rico, they can't vote in U.S. federal elections. To better understand the current status of Puerto Rico, we need to look back through centuries of history. Puerto Rico's native population is called Taíno, and their hunter-gatherer ancestors settled the island, calling it Boriquén, 1,000 years before the Spanish arrived. Native people called themselves Boricua, which is a phrase still used today. In 1493, Christopher Columbus's second voyage led him to the island and he claimed it for Spain. Then in 1508, Ponce de Leon founded the first European settlement, Caparra, on the island's northern shore. In 1521, Caparra was renamed Puerto Rico, meaning "rich coast", which then became the name for the whole island. In 1898, the U.S.A. was victorious in the four-month Spanish-American war. Spain ceded Puerto Rico, Cuba, the Philippines and Guam, which all became U.S. territories. Puerto Rico officially became a commonwealth in 1948, and ever since, the future of Puerto Rico's status has been up for debate. Should it stay a commonwealth, become an American state, or become an independent nation? Three separate votes to answer that question have happened on the island in 1967, 1993 and 1998 and they all reaffirmed Puerto Rico's commonwealth status.

Here's Why Puerto Rico Is Part of the U.S., *History*, 2019

Doc 3. Video p. 190 – Martin’s Story #VoicesforStatehood, *PR51st*, 2024

My name is Martin Enrique Rivera. I’m originally from Juncos, Puerto Rico, but I was also raised in Orlando, Florida. Growing up in Florida, you always used to hear, “Oh you’re from Puerto Rico! So did you migrate here? Did you have a green card?” and it’s just something that always struck me, that, not just as a disrespect, but how we were not perceived as Americans. We’ve been a U.S. territory for 125 years. My great-uncles were drafted in World War II to fight for this country and they bravely fought for this country and they proudly served, but when they go back home they don’t have the same rights, they don’t have the same benefits. When Puerto Rico becomes a state, it would just mean an actual acknowledgement by this nation of the sacrifices of my people. I remember after Hurricane Maria, how the aid that was supposed to be given to Puerto Rico was delayed, how we were disregarded, or like, our needs were not taken as important as other U.S. citizens, how we were thrown paper towels in our hour of need. There was no way to hold those elected officials that disregard the needs of our fellow U.S. citizens and hold them accountable at the ballot box. That’s what statehood would mean for me. It’s a method of accountability for elected representatives that impacts every facet of the lives of U.S. citizens in Puerto Rico. I am Martin Enrique Rivera, and I’m a voice for statehood.

Martin’s Story [#VoicesforStatehood](#), *PR51st*, 2024

Doc 3. Video p. 195 – Bad Bunny is bringing the world to Puerto Rico, *Hypebeast*.

Voice-over 1: Bad Bunny is bringing the world to Puerto Rico with the help of his upcoming residency concert series featuring his latest album *Debí Tirar Más Fotos*.

Bad Bunny (in Spanish): Music will always be positive among things that are not positive, I believe music will always unite the world.

Voice-over 2: From his various podcast interviews to being on the local PR news channel, his short film spotlighting Puerto Rico's gentrification and his "Tonight Show" performance, not to mention his surprise appearances in PR and New York City, Benito seems to be starting a new chapter and entering his Spanglish era, providing Boriquen melodies and culture that fans have been feening for since his fourth studio album, 2022's *Un verano sin ti*. Fans and first-time listeners alike have loved the album, which helped Bad Bunny become the first Latin artist to log 100 total entries on the Billboard Hot 100. The song "DtMF" even became a TikTok video trend, causing the Puerto Rican star to cry tears of joy on camera for how much support the album has garnered.

Voice-over 1: No matter how fast Bad Bunny stardom continues to rise, he always puts Puerto Rico first, evidenced by his upcoming residency in San Juan, the island's capital, beginning in July. The artist is opening the first set of dates to PR residents only, following a general audience set of dates starting in August. As Benito continues to promote his album, he has brought Boriquen energy from track to track, working with bands and artists from all over the island, featuring Carolina's Chuwi, the Caribbean styles of Los Pleneros de la Cresta to Omar Courtz, RaiNao and more. Bad Bunny continues to utilize his personality to create a platform highlighting Puerto Rican excellence through his music to the world. Is this the most impactful era of Bad Bunny we've ever seen?

Bad Bunny is bringing the world to Puerto Rico, *Hypebeast*.