

Pre-Columbian Era



Before 1493

- c. 3000 BCE Ortoiroid peoples settle Borinquen
- c. 200 BCE Saladoid peoples arrive; agriculture and ceramics deepen
- c. 600–900 CE Ostionoid culture: batey ceremonial plaza tradition emerges
- c. 900–1492 Taíno civilization: governance, spiritual life, social structure
- **c. 900–1400 CE Taíno agricultural systems: conuco farming and fiber cultivation***
- **c. 900–1492 Furcraea tuberosa (maguey/cabuya) hammock weaving**
- c. 1200–1490s Taíno artistic and spiritual traditions at full expression

Spanish Colonial Era



1493–1898

- **Nov 19, 1493** Spanish arrival: colonization of Borinquen begins
- 1508–1511 Spanish settlement established; encomienda imposed
- **1511** Taíno uprising led by Agüeybaná II (El Bravo)
- **1513** Enslaved Africans forcibly brought to Borinquen
- **1600s–1800s Mundillo bobbin lace tradition takes root ***
- **1700s–1800s Bordado blanco, deshilado, and needlework traditions formalize***
- **Sep 23, 1868** Grito de Lares: revolt for independence
- **1840s–1880s Industria de la Aguja: women's needlework economy formalizes***
- **1873** Slavery abolished in Puerto Rico
- **1897** Autonomous Charter (Carta Autonómica) granted

US Territory



1898–1952

- **Jul 25–Dec 10, 1898** US invasion; Treaty of Paris transfers Puerto Rico
- **1900** Foraker Act: US civil government imposed
- **1901** Insular Cases: Supreme Court codifies colonial legal framework
- 1900s–1940s Industria de la Aguja under US occupation: gendered extraction
- 1917 Jones-Shafroth Act: US citizenship imposed
- 1930 Pedro Albizu Campos leads Nationalist Party
- **Mar 21, 1937** Ponce Massacre
- **1948** La Ley de la Mordaza (Gag Law): Law 53
- **Oct–Nov 1950** Jayuya Uprising: Blanca Canales leads Nationalist revolt
- Jul 25, 1952 Puerto Rico becomes a Commonwealth (Estado Libre Asociado)

Commonwealth



1952–Present

- **Mar 1, 1954** Nationalists open fire in US House of Representatives
- **1960s** Operation Bootstrap (Operación Manos a la Obra)
- 1950s–1980s Great Migration: Borinquen diaspora, including NY garment district
- 1970s–1990s Mundillo revival and cultural preservation movement
- Dec 31, 1972 Roberto Clemente killed on humanitarian mission
- **Jun 30, 2016** PROMESA Act: Federal Oversight Board (La Junta) imposed
- **Sep 20, 2017 Hurricane Maria: catastrophic direct hit**
- **Jul 2019** Mass uprising: 'Ricky Renuncia', Rosselló resigns
- **Jan 7, 2020** Earthquake swarm devastates southern Puerto Rico
- 2020–2021 COVID-19 pandemic compounds ongoing crises
- Nov 8, 2022 Fifth status plebiscite: statehood wins; Congress has not acted
- 2023–Present PROMESA Oversight Board extended; austerity continues
- **Ongoing** Taíno identity: living peoples, not a historical footnote

BORINQUEN HISTORICAL TIMELINE

Key
Rupture An event that broke the existing order through external violence, colonial imposition, or natural disaster. Done to Puerto Rican peoples.
Rising A moment of collective Puerto Rican assertion, resistance, cultural reclamation, or people's power. Done by Puerto Rican peoples.
Both Events that were simultaneously a breaking and a response: catastrophe that became the ground for collective action.