

Chapter 1 : Trump falsely claims nearly 3, Americans in Puerto Rico 'did not die' - CNNPolitics

Politics and Education in Puerto Rico: A Documentary Survey of the Language Issue. Epstein, Erwin H., Comp. This compilation, which is divided into three parts, brings together essays and documents representing a wide variety of views of the language question, especially as that issue relates to prospects for statehood and independence.

Barbosa had been the leader in the Autonomist Party that favored a republican government for Spain. For much of the 19th Century, the principal parties favored Puerto Rico becoming one of the Spanish provinces in equal footing with the rest of the provinces; such a standing was given twice, under liberal governments, but it was revoked as many times when the monarchs regained their power. In this context, Dr. Barbosa returned to the original idea of equal footing, but this time with the constituent members of the American Republic. The Incondicionales accepted whatever Spain had for Puerto Rico and the Crown duly recognized their support by giving aristocratic titles to the leaders. The leader of the Canadian model developed by the British and supported a similar development for Puerto Rico under Spain. Before Baldorioty de Castro, other leaders had mentioned the possibility of autonomy, generally as an answer to the Spanish insistence in instituting special laws to govern the colonies. Like the Republican Party it supported statehood for Puerto Rico. At about this time, the U. Autonomy was granted, not through an Act of the Cortes the Legislative branch of Spain, but through an edict of the monarch. The Republican Party won the elections in and again in The new government of Puerto Rico, organized under the Foraker Act of , was a mixture of the British and the American system, somewhat similar to that established for the territory of Orleans after the Louisiana Purchase. The House of Delegates was elected directly by the voters male, propertied and the equivalent to the Senate was the Cabinet appointed by the Governor and by the President of the United States. But two years into the new government, he realized that statehood would not be granted and the desired equality as citizens was not feasible under the United States. He was successful, they won the elections of and all subsequent elections until the s, when another defection of Republicans allowed for the creation of yet another party bringing into it persons supporting a status change. The Union Party, initially supported statehood or an autonomous government, it then later added independence. The Union Party, from the very beginning, was against the colonial government established under the Foraker Act. The Union Party quickly gained the attention of the colonial governors, all Republicans, who were willing to work closely with them because of their control of the House of Delegates. The local Republicans protested bitterly and, at one point, they took statehood out of their platform "not reinstating it until the early s. Many in the Union Party leadership were lawyers who had contracts with the sugar operations recently bought out and enlarged by the new American owners, thus establishing a close relationship between the nascent middle classes and the American corporate interests. A coalition between the pro-independence Union Party presided by Antonio R. The Unionist sector of the alliance, decided to disaffiliate themselves from the "Alliance. It strongly criticized the American colonial regime for its menace to the Spanish and Latin American roots of the Puerto Rican culture. It also advocated for complete independence. The PNP began to grow with the leadership of Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos, who was later jailed by the colonial regime under charges as a subversive leader. On March 21, , a peaceful march was organized in the southern city of Ponce by the nationalists after receiving authorization from the pertinent authorities. The permit, however, was revoked by the U. The march turned into a bloody event when the Insular Police [3] "a force somewhat resembling the National Guard of the typical U. Congressman and others reported were unarmed [5] and defenseless [6] cadets and bystanders alike [7] [8] killing 19 and badly wounding over more, [9] many in their backs while running away. The party favored independence from the United States in its initial stages but social and economic reform were priorities in their political agenda. The Puerto Rican Independence Party was formed six years later by dissidents who saw the PPD moving away from the ideal of independence. The years or " were crucial ones in the direction of the country. This led to the U. Congress to enact the Public Law which led to the Congressional approval of a local constitution drafted by a constitutional assembly elected by Puerto Rico and the renaming of the United States unincorporated territory of Puerto Rico as the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, using the same official

name as the commonwealths of the U. The alternative pro-independence Tydings bill had languished in Congress. Twenty-three people were killed and more than 50 were injured. Holidays in Puerto Rico. The party saw the ideology of annexation as a U. The creation of the New Progressive Party polarized the political arena to a great degree as radical independence groups were formed in the s and the Puerto Rican Socialist Party PSP , a Marxist and Cuba -friendly party, was created. Two of the radical groups were labeled as terrorist groups by the U. These groups were viewed by many pro-independence followers as freedom fighters. He was, as the fourth elected governor , in favor of adding more powers to the commonwealth status. One of his projects was the Puerto Rican owned marine transportation. In order to control the costs of marine transport in Puerto Rico, the marine company Sea Land was bought to form Navieras of Puerto Rico in Under his administration, Section of the U. Internal Revenue Tax Code 26 U. This allowed American companies to profit in the island without paying taxes. His administration was shadowed by the Cerro Maravilla Maravilla Hill affair, where two independence activists were killed by police agents. This created a Watergate -like scandal that was later investigated by the Senate. In , Romero Barcelo was reelected Governor by a controversial 0. He pushed the political status dilemma in Washington, D. While he was elected to a second term, his last four years were met with mounting allegations of corruption. Most of the corruption allegations were based on extortion and appropriation of public funds. This led his party to lose the election and the Governorship when he ran again in During the " term, former Gov. He was sworn in on January 2, Political status of Puerto Rico In , the U. Congress gave Puerto Ricans the right to organize a constitutional convention, contingent on the results of a referendum, where the electorate would determine if they wished to organize their own government pursuant to a constitution of their own choosing. A second referendum was held to ratify the constitution, which was adopted in Before approving the new constitution, the Constitutional Convention specified the name by which the body politic would be known. On February 4, , the convention approved Resolution 22 which chose in English the word " Commonwealth ", meaning a "politically organized community"[citation needed] or "state"[citation needed], which is simultaneously connected by a compact or treaty to another political system[citation needed]. This constituted the first plebiscite by the Legislature for a choice on three political status options. Puerto Rican leaders had lobbied for such an opportunity repeatedly, in , , , , , , , , , and [citation needed]. The Commonwealth option, represented by the PDP, won with an overwhelming majority of After the plebiscite, efforts in the s to enact legislation to address the status issue died in Congressional committees. In the plebiscite, in which Congress played a more substantial role, Commonwealth status was again upheld. But the General Assembly did not apply its full list of criteria to Puerto Rico to determine if it has achieved self-governing status. As a result of his statement, many other statehooders and commonwealth supporters went to the United Nations requesting the end of the colonial status. Puerto Ricans "were collectively made U. Federal law 8 U. Truman on June 27, declared all persons born in Puerto Rico on or after January 13, to be citizens of the U. The clause also embraces a right to travel, so that a citizen of one state can go and enjoy privileges and immunities in any other state; this constitutional clause was expressly extended to Puerto Rico by the U. Congress through the federal law 48 U. In a brief concurrence in the judgment of *Torres v. Puerto Rico* , U. Supreme Court Justice Brennan , argued that any implicit limits from the Insular Cases on the basic rights granted by the Constitution including especially the Bill of Rights were anachronistic in the s. Bush issued a memorandum on November 30, to heads of executive departments and agencies establishing the current administrative relationship between the federal government and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. This memorandum directs all federal departments, agencies, and officials to treat Puerto Rico administratively as if it were a state, insofar as doing so would not disrupt federal programs or operations. Puerto Ricans may enlist in the U. Since , Puerto Ricans have been included in the compulsory draft whenever it has been in effect and more than , Puerto Ricans have served in the United States Armed Forces. Puerto Ricans have participated in all U. Several Puerto Ricans became notable commanders, five have been awarded the Medal of Honor , the highest military decoration in the United States, also several Puerto Ricans have attained the rank of General or Admiral , which requires a Presidential nomination and Senate confirmation. Congresses to any particular arrangement for Puerto Rico as a Commonwealth". Prominent leaders in the pro-statehood and pro-independence political movements agree

with this assessment. In and , two reports were issued by the U. It also rejects[citation needed] any "colonial or territorial status" as a status option, and vows to keep working for the enhanced Commonwealth status that was approved by the PPD in which included sovereignty, an association based on "respect and dignity between both nations", and common citizenship. It concluded that Puerto Rico is still an unincorporated territory of the U. Congress, and that U. Congress can also withdraw the U. Congress, [37] [38] a position shared by the remaining two-major parties: If the latter option were to win, a separate referendum would be held where Puerto Ricans would have been given the option of being admitted as a US State "on equal footing with the other states", or becoming a "sovereign nation, either fully independent from or in free association with the United States. The measure was passed by the House on April 29, On December 11th, , the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico has enacted a concurrent resolution to request the President and the Congress of the United States to respond diligently and effectively, and to act on the demand of the people of Puerto Rico, as freely and democratically expressed in the plebiscite held on November 6, , to end, once and for all, its current form of territorial status and to begin the process to admit Puerto Rico to the Union as a State. The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands , located in the western Pacific Ocean, has a similar delegation of self-government powers by the United States. Puerto Rico has more latitude over its internal affairs than the U. Virgin Islands , or American Samoa. However, it does not have the sovereignty that a state of the Union has, given that Puerto Rico is a possession of the United States and it is, thus, not protected by the US Constitution as states are. As in the case of a state, the United States Supreme Court also has the final say over the constitutionality of Puerto Rican laws.

Chapter 2 : Puerto Rico Education | Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico's students and teachers are still grappling with fallout from Hurricane Maria more than a year after the storm struck the island. So what do we know about the extent of trauma in the U.

Transcript Audio More than 50, students are expected to leave Puerto Rico for the mainland to continue their education. With hundreds of schools expected to close, the mass exodus has major consequences for the education system, and some see the storm as pretext to replace the public system with charter schools and introduce private investment. Special correspondent Monica Villamizar reports. Read the Full Transcript John Yang: Many of those who have left the island for the mainland since Hurricane Maria last September are young students. Officials say that, over the next four years, they expect more than 50, students to leave. Special correspondent Monica Villamizar has our report, as part of our weekly look at education, Making the Grade. Baseball for me is everything, because, when I play baseball, I forget all of this, the school, the problems, everything. I just play baseball and have fun. I want to be a big baseball player, and the kids look at me like, I want to be like them. He do a great job. He always tries to do his best and never give up. When you saw Maria, what did you think? Did you think? Rocco Marquez: They changed my plans. When Maria arrived, it is my birthday, September Now his success depends on his own efforts. Baseball practice is a daily routine in schools across America, but for Rocco, this sport is his life, and he has made many sacrifices to get here from Puerto Rico. How does their short-term future look like? Do you think some of them are just going to try to settle here? These students that have come were not planning on leaving the island. They were going to finish their education on the island. In their mind, they never intended to live here. They never intended to go to universities here. The consequences of this mass exodus of Puerto Ricans are being felt on the island. More than half-a-million people have moved to the U. At one point, we had , kids. Last year, we closed schools to try and right-size. About 20 schools damaged in the storm are not expected to reopen, but the policy to close or combine schools started before Hurricane Maria. It was part of an austerity package imposed on the island to counter its debt. Edwin Morales, head of the teachers union, was arrested with other teachers as they broke into the Education Department in December to try to speak with Secretary Keleher. He says the storm is being used as a pretext to replace the public system with charter schools and introduce private investment to education. We are talking about vouchers. We are talking about charter schools. And recovery will be long. In the Caguas slum of Morales, damaged furniture and debris sits in corners. In this public school, teachers have not received any help. The community got it up and running again. They have relaxed the rules. Eight-year-old Ashley dreams of life in the U. Ashley Rivera Campos through interpreter: There are a lot of gunshots and robberies here. I want to leave. Her neighborhood is notorious for drug trafficking gangs. Principal Amalia Ramirez says the school needs to stay open to offer kids opportunities and tools to stay away from crime. I asked my dad if we could leave Puerto Rico. He agreed and said we have to go to Michigan, because we have relatives there. My aunt is there. When her house flooded, Ashley lost her clothes and outfits that she wore in beauty pageants. She now walks around clutching a miniature rabbit she found, hoping it brings her good luck. She stayed to continue her work as headmaster of an alternative school she founded. After Maria, we sat with the students, and they were very affected too. The private school has managed to stay afloat through donations. But now its future is also unclear. One-fifth of the students left after the hurricane, including Rocco. It was really difficult because Rocco is so helpful at home. So "so, it was" it is still hard, because we talk a lot. Everyone here remembers what they were doing the day Maria came. It was a birthday Rocco will certainly not forget. The family relocated to a small apartment in the capital and are trying to sell their home. The father, Stephan Marquez, a chef, says Rocco may be far from home, but he knows how to cook Puerto Rican food. He has taught all of his boys well. Rocco is staying with family friends in Orlando, but is otherwise independent. What I really miss is my family, sharing with them, seeing them every day. It is really tough to wake up and not see your mother in the kitchen. They say they all miss Rocco too, but have high hopes for his new life on the mainland. Across from the balcony, a giant banner with the Puerto Rican flag says "Fuerza," or strength. Our frequent partners at the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting recently traveled to

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Barbuda, where a communal way of life faces the hard task of rebuilding. You can watch and read about that on our Web site, PBS. Listen to this Segment.

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Newsreel scenes in English of the assassination attempt on U. By , disagreements between Jose Coll y Cuchi and Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos as to how the party should be run, led the former and his followers to abandon the party. However after disappointing electoral results and strong repression by the territorial police authorities, by the mids Albizu opted against electoral participation, and advocated violent revolution. On May 21, , a bill, which would be passed and signed into law on June 10, was introduced before the Puerto Rican Senate , which would restrain the rights of the independence and Nationalist movements in the island. The bill was signed into law on June 10, , by the U. Ramos and wounding six police officers. Fellow officers suggested they arrest them. Officer Miranda was shot dead in a gunfight between the Nationalists and the police. Raul de Jesus was accused of violation of the Insular Firearms Law. It was divided into several units, each assigned to attack different targets. This unit joined the others in Barrio La Quinta. After local police arrived, the men escaped into the mountains and avoided further casualties by using guerrilla tactics. Utuado Uprising[edit] The Utuado Uprising was a revolt that occurred in Utuado as part of a series of uprising. Nationalists, led by the captain of the Utuado branch of the Cadets of the Republic, attacked the police station. They were marched to the town plaza and required to remove their shoes, belts and personal belongings. Taken behind the police station, the men were machine gunned by the national guardsmen. Over the next two days, the Puerto Rican military commander used U. Four Nationalists died during the attempt: The gunfight was broadcast live over the radio to the Puerto Rican public. Afterward, they retreated to the nearby mountains and formed a guerrilla group. They continued to raid several locations until November 6, when the National Guard arrived and attacked the house where the group was staying. President Harry Truman , on November 1, In the firefight between the Nationalists and police and Secret Service officers, Torresola mortally wounded a White House Police officer, who killed him in return shooting. Collazo was wounded and stood trial; convicted, he was sentenced to death, but Truman commuted his sentence to life. Capitol shooting incident[edit] The Nationalists also attacked the House of Representatives. On March 1, , four Puerto Rican Nationalists: The representatives were on the floor during a debate over an immigration bill. In and , President Jimmy Carter commuted their sentences to time served, and the four returned to Puerto Rico. Plaque in honor of the male participants of the Jayuya Puerto Rico Uprising. Plaque honoring the women of the Puerto Rican Nationalist Party The revolt of October failed because of the overwhelming force used by the U. Critics have said that there was not sufficient coverage of the suppression of the uprisings. According to an anonymous and undated article in the New York Latino Journal in the early s, it was described at the time in the mainland press as an "incident between Puerto Ricans. Edgar Hoover , aimed at surveying, infiltrating, discrediting, and disrupting certain domestic political organizations. Approximately 75, persons were listed as under political police surveillance. Thus many independence supporters moved to the Popular Democratic Party as a means to an end to stop statehood. Blanca Canales - Jayuya Uprising leader. Rafael Cancel Miranda - Participant in the attack against the U. Capitol in Irvin Flores - Participant in the attack against the U.

Chapter 4 : Los Angeles Times - We are currently unavailable in your region

That's the picture of life in schools in hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands painted by witnesses at a forum organized by House Education and the Workforce Committee Democrats. Rep.

Despite all available sources of entertainment Puerto Ricans amuse themselves with one predominant activity--Politics. Puerto Ricans seem to breathe Politics in their daily lives--and seem to enjoy immensely the activities of politicians. The greater source of controversy has always been the political status of the island since the time when the island was a colony of Spain. Things began to happen in the 19th century as they happened everywhere else in the Spanish Empire. Just as Latin Americans were asserting for the first time a national identity distinct from Spain, the Puerto Rican people were saying that they were not "overseas Spaniards", but Puerto Ricans. As the Spanish government became more liberal at home, its policies in the New world also became more liberal. Power was an outstanding speaker, and he achieved important improvements in internal government and trade regulations for Puerto Rico. But when politics in Spain went back to absolutism, some of the old repressive policies were again imposed on the Spanish colonies. These restrictions merely served to increase the passion of the Latin Americans for freedom from Spain. There was a desire for freedom in Puerto Rico, too, but with two distinguishing characteristics. Puerto Ricans wanted change but rejected violence. There was never a revolution on the island; the only attempted uprising, in in the small mountain town of Lares , collapsed almost immediately because of lack of support from the people. The second difference was that Puerto Ricans wanted freedom but not independence. The Puerto Rican goal was to achieve personal freedom, the abolition of slavery, and full self-government, but without breaking the bonds with Spain. But there was to occur, within a year, an abrupt and unexpected change in the entire course of Puerto Rican history. Strangely enough the Americans were welcomed warmly by the Puerto Rican people who saw in the United States flag a symbol of freedom and prosperity. Under the new sovereignty, however, Puerto Rico reverted back to a purely colonial government. The Puerto Rican political leadership was dazed by the events of Their immediate reaction upon seeing how the people welcomed the Americans was to ask for statehood. But soon after, the leadership divided itself into the familiar three camps--those wanting complete independence, those wanting assimilation into the United States, and those wanting something in between, autonomy. Congress, continued as a leader of the autonomist movement. Puerto Ricans were granted U. The local political leadership continued to be obsessed with the status issue and had little inclination to deal with the more pressing issues and problems of economic and social improvement. The Constitution, somewhat modeled after the US Constitution, provided for three branches of Government--the Executive, the Legislative with a bicameral Legislature consisting of a Senate and a House of Representatives and the Judicial System. Puerto Ricans cannot vote for the President of the U. However, Puerto Ricans living in the continental US may register there and vote. The Union Party won decisive elections from In the Nationalist Party was founded and was to be militant for the independence of Puerto Rico even by violent means. Its leader, Don Pedro Albizu Campos is considered by many as the most revered patriot. In he founded a new Party, the Popular Democratic Party based on a main platform of boosting the poor economic situation of the country. The Popular Democratic Party controlled Puerto Rican Politics until but in the last 30 years there has been an increasing number of people who desire Puerto Rico to be a new state in the Union. The Government has been in control of both major parties in almost an alternating fashion since then. There have been various plebiscites trying to solve the status problem--these have been won by the proponents of the Commonwealth status. However the Statehood proponents, mainly the Partido Nuevo Progresista New Progressive Party ,who at the present controls the government, insist on a new plebiscite and are actively working in the US Congress to that effect. As you can see there is some room for entertainment in watching politicians do what they must do getting involved in this and other interesting points of Puerto Rican politics. Puerto Ricans with their sense of humor usually give a tone of comedy to some of those differences keeping however well aware of the serious significance of these in their lives and in the future of the island. Last elections took place on November, This is the third time Puerto Ricans have rejected Statehood. However, the Status problem will

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not go away The last elections of November went well; the Partido Nuevo Progresista, pro-statehood, won the elections, now controlling th Governor ship and also won the Legislature. But you can rest assured the excitement will not go away So hold to the seat of your pants for endless fun in the world of Puerto Rican politics!!! Follow my links to the world of fun of Puerto Rican Politics and Government

Chapter 5 : 6 Months After Maria, Puerto Ricans Face a New Threatâ€”Education Reform | The Nation

"Hurricane Maria killed about 3, American citizens, had a crippling impact on health and education systems in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, had an impact all around the country.

Sign up for Take Action Now and get three actions in your inbox every week. You can read our Privacy Policy here. Thank you for signing up. For more from The Nation, check out our latest issue. Support Progressive Journalism The Nation is reader supported: Travel With The Nation Be the first to hear about Nation Travels destinations, and explore the world with kindred spirits. Sign up for our Wine Club today. Did you know you can support The Nation by drinking wine? Then came the tear gas. The crowd, numbering tens of thousands, came to hear a mix of speeches and musical acts on a stage set up in front of the World Plaza building, which once housed the failed Westernbank and which in April had acquired a new tenant: Policeâ€”including regular forces and the riot squadâ€”reacted slowly, moving into the area and marching en masse toward the main stage down the block. They launched tear-gas canisters and pushed into the crowd as stage announcer Millie Gil, a local media personality, was desperately calling for calm. Images of vandals, tear gas, and students running under late-day thunderstorms dominated the evening news. It was a tailor-made media op for the rightist statehood party PNP government. His tone of moral opprobrium was underscored the next morning in another staged media tableau that showed him helping workers sweep up shattered glass in front of the Banco Popular tower. She pointed out that a previous suit against demonstrators engaging in another protest in late April was dismissed because of lack of evidence. While the continued population exodus from the island has pushed down the number of enrolled students, the closures will still heavily affect poor and working-class areas and place on many families an increased burden of extra commuting time to more distant schools. Some schools and parents are already announcing plans to protest. Yet most observers seemed unsure of what to expectâ€”for the moment, the 22 known litigation proceedings against the government to collect debt, which had been frozen, will be absorbed into the framework of Title III. Swain, who spent most of the session establishing rules for argumentsâ€”and quirkily banning the use of all colognes and fragrances among those in the courtroom because of her allergiesâ€”is faced with a process that has no legal precedent. The governor has practically ceded control of the immense majority of the issues that have to do with the development of public policy. The whole democratic process breaks down. More Austerity Cuts, More Protests Despite the appearance of an orderly debt-restructuring process, the situation in Puerto Rico remains dire. The problem is that making sustainable payments on the debt requires austerity measures that will undercut any stability that the Title III process promises. The plebiscite remains mired in controversy, with commonwealth and independence parties urging a boycott, and zero buzz coming from Washington, where Congress would consider the results. And that same uncertainty about how it will happen, how fast it will happen, the fear that can be reflected, is a little overwhelming, oppressive. He co-directed a documentary, Whose Barrio? To submit a correction for our consideration, click here. For Reprints and Permissions, click here.

4 The Politics of English in Puerto Rico's Public Schools every change in regime, either by revolution, coup d'État or elections, there is a restructuring of the educational system.

Sign up for Take Action Now and get three actions in your inbox every week. You can read our Privacy Policy here. Thank you for signing up. For more from The Nation, check out our latest issue. Support Progressive Journalism The Nation is reader supported: Travel With The Nation Be the first to hear about Nation Travels destinations, and explore the world with kindred spirits. Sign up for our Wine Club today. Did you know you can support The Nation by drinking wine? Six months after Hurricane Maria, Puerto Ricans are understandably frustrated with their government officials. One might expect discontent to center around the head of the power company who oversaw months of blackouts or the governor who awarded hundreds of millions of dollars in private contracts with little or no oversight. In the past few weeks, Puerto Ricans have been calling for her resignation, making her the object of a viral hashtag campaign, JuliaGoHome. On Monday, the school system was paralyzed by a strike as thousands of teachers protested the education-reform bill her office has spearheaded. Indeed, it is the first time a non-Puerto Rican has held the job since the colonial appointees in the period after the US took possession of the island in 1898. Some hoped that a non-Puerto Rican would be able to rise above local politics, end corruption, and lead the agency with professionalism and expertise. As secretary, her salary is capped by law, so in order for Keleher to receive this level of compensation, she was given additional contracts that established her as an adviser to her own agency. She was hailed as a gifted technocrat and an expert in the use of data-driven, evidence-based practices and performance metrics. She was also described as someone who, precisely by virtue of not being from the island, would be immune to the kind of partisan politics that corrupted the work of previous secretaries and the performance of the government as a whole. One of her very first moves, for example, was to shutter more than 100 schools. Both this decision and its timing offer cause for concern. Puerto Rico, for starters, lacks an efficient public-transportation system, and the department of education operates very few school buses. Critics question the need to consolidate schools and are weary of the impact this will have on children still dealing with the trauma of the storm. Not to mention the imminent loss of teaching jobs that closing schools implies. He has since been removed from his post. A final version of the bill is expected to be approved by the governor in the coming days. It is hard not to read this combination—the elimination of public schools and the creation of charters and voucher systems—as anything other than a large-scale privatization of the education system. For her part, Keleher denies that this is the main goal, and the final bill is vague around these issues: Charters may or may not be for-profit, vouchers may or may not be used at sectarian schools, and charters and private schools may or may not accept special-education students. This last point, about students with special needs, is particularly crucial. Unlike in the 50 states, where about 13 percent of the student body qualifies for special-education services, in Puerto Rico 40 percent of the student population requires them. But research suggests that charter schools are less likely than traditional public schools to enroll and retain students with disabilities. Keleher has been confronted with these and other questions pertaining to the changes she proposes at teacher forums and press conferences. Her responses have been inadequate and often rude: She tends to answer with curt, unsubstantiated, or sarcastic statements. But to many Puerto Ricans—when there is no funding for teaching materials, computers, and other educational necessities—the five-month contract seems like an extraordinary sum. When reporters asked her if Puerto Rican social workers employed by the school system were not already doing the job of imparting values, she replied that they, like most individuals in the department of education, lacked the necessary leadership and managerial skills. The Puerto Rican chapter of the National Association of Social Workers has suggested this indicates her lack of knowledge about the unique role and presence of social workers in the local system. This, however, is debatable: The institute has never carried out a program of this size, and the only evaluation that we could find, which was self-funded, suggested modest results at best. Her defenders stress that she is trying her best, and that it is as discriminatory to suggest that a person from Philadelphia could not run the department of education as it would be to suggest

that someone from Puerto Rico could not do the same in one the 50 states. These claims gloss over the power differentials between Puerto Rico and the United States: Any appointment of a person from the mainland to a position of power on the island sends a message that Puerto Ricans suffer from native incompetence, a lack of preparedness, and faulty ethics, and that the solution to these deficiencies is having someone else—preferably someone from the United States—come in to fix the mess that Puerto Ricans have supposedly created for themselves. The creation of this agency speaks to the broad transfer of responsibilities and resources from the public to the private sector that is taking place following the storm. Even before Maria, the emphasis of the local government and the federally appointed fiscal board was on downsizing government agencies, luring foreign investors through tax incentives, privatizing public services—including essential ones like education, energy, and health care—and securing profits for bondholders and private investors. Julia Keleher is neither an exception nor an anomaly. Rima Brusi Twitter Rima Brusi is an advocate, educator, researcher, and essayist. To submit a correction for our consideration, [click here](#). For Reprints and Permissions, [click here](#).

Chapter 7 : Puerto Rico's struggling education system embraces choice - Washington Times

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Chapter 8 : Puerto Rico's Political and Economic Crisis Deepens | The Nation

The politics of Puerto Rico take place in the framework of a republican democratic form of government that is under the jurisdiction and sovereignty of the United.

Chapter 9 : Military assessment cited 'high' potential for government failure in Puerto Rico - CNNPolitics

Thousands of Puerto Rican teachers marched in protest of proposed changes to the island's education system on Monday, March 19, , in San Juan, Puerto Rico.