

Doc 2 : Why Puerto Rico is NOT a US state

Vox — approx. 3 min 35 sec

BEFORE WATCHING

What do you already know? (Brainstorm — 2 min)

1. Jot down anything you know about Puerto Rico — geography, history, politics, culture.

VIEWING — PAUSE 1 [00:00 → 00:25]

2. The video opens with 3 politicians' statements. Who are they ? What do they claim to support?

NAMES	DATES	STATEMENTS

3. According to the narrator, what is the gap between politicians' words and their actions?

VIEWING — PAUSE 2 [00:25 → ~01:00]

4. When Hurricane Maria hit, what percentage of Americans didn't know Puerto Ricans are US citizens?

- A. 26%
- B. 36%
- C. 46%
- D. 56%

5. Complete the table with facts from this segment:

Puerto Ricans CAN...	Puerto Ricans CANNOT...
Serve in the US military and be subject to drafts	
	Vote on issues affecting the island

VIEWING — PAUSE 3 [01:00 → 02:00]

6. How did Puerto Rico become a US territory? Name the event and the consequence.

7. Puerto Ricans can send one politician to Congress — but what is their limitation?

8. What does the quoted Puerto Rican mean by 'living in the middle'?

VIEWING — PAUSE 4 [02:00 → 02:40]

9. Why are referendum results non-binding?

- A. Because the turnout is always too low
- B. Because Puerto Rico needs Congressional approval to become a state
- C. Because the UN doesn't recognise them
- D. Because Puerto Ricans are split on the issue

10. What happened to Puerto Rico's economy after Congress phased out tax incentives?

VIEWING — PAUSE 5 [02:40 → end]

12. What two consequences of the austerity measures are mentioned?

Consequence 1	Consequence 2

13. Fill in the positions of the two groups mentioned:

Statehood advocates want...	Commonwealth supporters want...

14. What is the narrator's conclusion in the final line?

AFTER WATCHING — Key Concepts

15. Match each term with its definition by writing the correct letter in the box.

A	Commonwealth	☐	A legally binding public vote on a political question
B	Territory	☐	Status giving some self-government but not full statehood
C	Statehood	☐	A region under the authority of a country but not a full state
D	Referendum	☐	Full membership in a federal union with voting rights
E	Austerity	☐	Cuts to public spending to reduce debt

SYNTHESIS — One sentence per question

16. In your own words: what is the main contradiction at the heart of Puerto Rico's status?

17. What phrase from the video best sums up Puerto Rico's political situation? Why did you choose it?