

PUERTO RICAN VOICES: STUDY GUIDE

Privatized Resilience

DIRECTED BY JUAN C. DÁVILA



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CENTER for Puerto Rican Studies

**CEN
TRO** CENTER FOR
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STUDIES
HUNTER 

Privatized Resilience

Directed by Juan C. Dávila

After the government of Puerto Rico the island's electrical distribution service to a company called LUMA, the existing energy crisis in Puerto Rico worsened. Analyzing the LUMA contract, and the displacement of electrical workers, this episode delves into how Puerto Ricans are looking for alternative sources of energy, while the solar energy industry becomes a major player.

KEY TERMS

- Energy crisis
- Public ownership
- Privatization
- “Leonino” Contract
- UTIER workers
- Disaster Politics
- Renewable Energy
- Energy Monopoly

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What alternatives has the government of Puerto Rico developed to address Puerto Rico's energy crisis?
2. Which are the two main reasons that classify LUMA's contract “leonino” according to Rolando Emanuelli's legal argument?
3. What happened to the UTIER workers after LUMA began operations to distribute energy?
4. According to the collective “Mujeres Contra LUMA,” how does the privatization of the energy system affect women?
5. What is the critique and concern that Puerto Rican environmentalists have about the development of solar farms?



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RECOMMENDED READINGS

- [**“Why Must Puerto Ricans Always be Resilient”**](#) by Yarimar Bonilla (October 10, 2022)
- [**“Five Years after hurricane María progress is being made by people – not institutions”**](#) by Tom Sanzillo (September 13, 2022)
- [**“New Lithium Mining Technology Could Give Argentina a Sustainable Gold Rush”**](#) by Ciara Nugent (July 29, 2022)
- [**“Lithium, Niobium, Coltan: Technological Metals Destroy Latin American Ecosystems for a Cleaner World”**](#) by Julie Klinger (February 27, 2018)
- [**“Tossed Aside in the “White Gold” Rush”**](#) by Todd C. Frankel and Peter Whoriskey (December 19, 2016)
- [**“Renewable Energy Under Capitalism: Why it Won't Happen”**](#) by Thomas Sullivan
- [**Ciencia para la insurgencia**](#), Arturo Massol (2020)
- [**The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism**](#), Naomi Klein (2007)

RESEARCH MATERIALS

- CENTRO research about Puerto Rico's energy crisis (publications from Data Hub)
- [**“Delays, Damages and Poor Service: LUMA Energy's First Two Months Highlight Privatization Flaws”**](#) by Cathy Kunkel Tom Sanzillo (August 16, 2021)
- [**Queremos Sol proposal**](#)
- [**“The Peril of Privatizing PREPA”**](#) by Vann R. Newkirk II (January, 28, 2018)
- [**“Puerto Rico's Power Authority Effectively Files for Bankruptcy”**](#) by Mary Williams Walsh (July 2, 2017)

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