INTRODUCTION

As the New York Puerto Rican ethnic barrio began to grow in the 1970s and 1980s, issues of educational and citizenship rights, equal treatment, and electoral participation, incorporation, and representation in the U.S. political system gradually gained more visibility in later decades. Like some other U.S. ethnic groups, identity politics and community mobilization are common strategies in making inroads into the political sphere, and in overcoming existing political barriers and negotiating with the power structure.

The passage of the Civil Rights Act by the U.S. Congress in 1957 forbids segregation and discrimination based on race, color, gender, and religion. The Act represents an important legal and symbolic milestone for the struggles carried out by the great generations of African Americans, Latinos, Native Americans, and others, who had experienced the injustices of U.S. society.

Within the Puerto Rican community the period of action during the late 1960s and 70s is known as the Puerto Rican Movement. A myriad of social, cultural, and political outbursts stemming from this movement paved the way to opened new possibilities for younger generations of Puerto Ricans to continue struggling for equal treatment, creating organizations and institutions to serve their communities, and contributing individually and collectively to their advancement. The movement also gave birth to a long history of community activism and social-political struggles that had engaged the prior generations of pioneros.

An important part of the Puerto Rican Movement was the crusades to improve the quality of schools in poor neighborhoods, establish community control of local schools, increase access to higher education, and develop inclusive curricula that reflected the rich history of their communities and the multicultural/multiracial nature of U.S. society. A major challenge was to rectify prevalent stereotypes, problem-oriented perspectives, and distorted views or omissions about the presence and contributions of Puerto Ricans and other ethnic minorities to U.S. American history.

STRIVING FOR EQUALITY AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Puerto Ricans join African-Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans in calling for an end to all kinds of practices that perpetuate institutional racism throughout the country of origin, of people of color.

Puerto Rican community leaders urge the U.S. Congress to extend Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by eliminating the English literacy test required for voting. Among the leaders were future Congressman Hector P. Garcia and Puerto Rico's USD (Uniteddom) leader, Oscar López Rivera.

Back then, the year before, Gemini Valentin and Vitali Santolalla had been involved in the founding of the National Association for Puerto Rican Civil Rights (NAPRC).

A Chicago Puerto Rican group named the Young Lords transforms into the Young Lords Organization. This political organization engaged Puerto Ricans and other sectors of the community, demanding civil rights, housing, and police reforms, and pressuring city governments to respond to the needs of poor communities. Chapter of the Young Lords also were established in New York City, in other cities in the Northeast, and Puerto Rico.

Urban renewal efforts in Boston's South End, a tenement district with a heavy concentration of Puerto Ricans, were meeting with resistance; the issue of removal of thousands of residents from their community. As a result, Puerto Rican reformers formed the National Network of Puerto Rican in Action (NNPRA), and pressure city officials to participate in development plans and the hiring of affordable housing projects. The Villa Victoria housing and community complex was built in the early 1980s.

U期待 renewal projects forced the removal of Puerto Ricans and other minorities from their neighborhoods. By the late 1960s, many Puerto Ricans in U.S. cities were demanding actions from their local government.

Since the early 1960s, political clubs, register to vote campaigns, participation in the political campaigns for New York City mayor, state governor, the U.S. Congress, and other positions in local boards and state races had been a steady component of Puerto Rican efforts for participation and representation in the U.S. political process.

Herman Badillo becomes the first Puerto Rican elected to the U.S. Congress. He was a natural representative of the 21st District of the South Bronx and was the first Puerto Rican to be elected Boro President in 1969.

Maureen Farrell is elected Mayor of Miami, becoming the first Puerto Rican mayor of a major U.S. city to get elected to the post before.

Puerto Rican independence supporters displayed a Puerto Rican flag across the frontload of Liberty and demanded the release of Puerto Rican nationalist political prisoners. Several political prisoners were released a year later by President Jimmy Carter.

A series of incidents forced the Puerto Rican police to deliver the image of the Latin-Black with the Puerto Rican flag.

Irina Vital Santolalla becomes the first Puerto Rican woman to occupy a seat in the New York Supreme Court. In the mid-1970s, she had been a founding member of the National Association for Puerto Rican Civil Rights and a member of the New York City Commission on the Status of Women.

The Puerto Rican Political Action Committee of Connecticut (PRPAC) in Hartford CT begins to play a major role in the political mobilization of the community and its struggles for participation and representation in the city's electoral processes. Hartford's local African-American and Puerto Rican residents, who constituted almost one of the city's population. Since 2005, it has elected Puerto Rican mayors in two separate occasions.

Antonieta Fuentes becomes the first Puerto Rican woman to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Puerto Rican federal judge Sonia Sotomayor becomes the first Latina to be appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court by President Barack Obama.

Poster Design by Emma Altavilla
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The Puerto Rican Movement and its Outcomes (1960s - 2010s)

Outhread of the first major Puerto Rican riot in the United States in the Division Street neighborhood of Chicago. The disturbances began during the holding of the first Puerto Rican Parade and in reaction to the police shooting of a young Puerto Rican teenager. These conflicts were a manifestation of the urban unrest that affected many U.S. cities in the late 1960s, due to a pervading racism and discrimination, the neglect by city governments of determining conditions in poor neighborhoods, and the urban renewal efforts that displaced them and forced them to relocate. In the following years rising racial and to other Puerto Rican communities in New York, New Jersey, and Philadelphia.

Under the leadership of Gilberto Valentín and others, Puerto Ricans are mobilized to support the Poor People's Campaign. The Campaign was conceived by Martin Luther King to bring together crossing boundaries. It asked rich and poor. Four days before the scheduled June 1968 Solidarity Day in the nation's capital, about four thousand Puerto Ricans expressed their solidarity with the Campaign by holding a one-day strike.

A group of women leaders establishes the National Conference of Puerto Rican Women (NACRPW) to advocate for equal rights and improve the status of Puerto Rican women. Chapters were established in Washington, D.C., New York, Philadelphia, and a few other cities.

Puerto Rico's political movements began to focus on the rights and citizenship status that enabled many Puerto Ricans to claim their status as citizens of the United States.

New York City has its Puerto Rican political independent groups calling for the release of Puerto Rican political prisoners. Peeling the political prisoners, especially Nationalists who were incarcerated in federal prisons since the 1950s, was an important component of the agendas of many Puerto Rican political organizations.

The National Puerto Rican Coalition, Inc. (NPRC) is founded in Washington, D.C. as an advocacy organization representing the needs of U.S. Puerto Ricans. The organization was created through the collective efforts of Puerto Rican community leaders.

The National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights (NCRP) is created in the Bronx to advocate for the human rights of Puerto Rican people, and fight against racism and discrimination.

A small security guard at the U.S. Navy base in the vicinity of Vieques, Puerto Rico, inspired by the aesthetics of a nationalist films, and became a beneficiary of a strategy by Forte during the 1980s. This incident spurred an international movement to get the U.S. Navy out of Vieques. Many leaders of the U.S. Puerto Rican community participated in the pacific solidarity movement that ended in 2003 with the withdrawal of the U.S. Navy from Vieques.

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