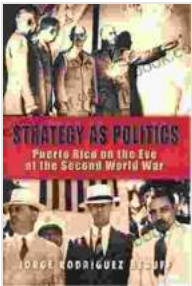


Puerto Rico on the Eve of the Second World War: A Historical Overview



Strategy as politics: Puerto Rico on the eve of the Second World War by Jorge Rodríguez Beruff

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

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In the years leading up to the Second World War, Puerto Rico was a colony of the United States. The island had been ceded to the U.S. by Spain in 1898, after the Spanish-American War. Puerto Rico was a strategically important location for the U.S., as it is located near the Panama Canal and the Caribbean Sea.

The U.S. had a significant presence in Puerto Rico in the years leading up to the war. The U.S. Navy established a base at Guantanamo Bay in 1898, and the U.S. Army established a base at Camp Tortuguero in 1904. The U.S. also controlled the island's economy, and many Puerto Ricans worked in the sugar industry or in the U.S. military.

Puerto Rico's economy was heavily dependent on the sugar industry. In the early 1900s, sugar accounted for over 90% of Puerto Rico's exports. However, the sugar industry was in decline in the years leading up to the war, due to competition from other sugar-producing countries and the Great Depression.

The Great Depression had a devastating impact on Puerto Rico. The island's economy collapsed, and unemployment rose to over 50%. Many Puerto Ricans were forced to leave the island in search of work.

In the years leading up to the war, Puerto Rico was also experiencing a period of social and political unrest. The island's population was growing rapidly, and there was a growing demand for independence from the United States. In 1936, the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico was founded, and it quickly became a major force in Puerto Rican politics.

The outbreak of World War II in 1939 had a significant impact on Puerto Rico. The U.S. increased its military presence on the island, and the island's economy began to recover.

Many Puerto Ricans served in the U.S. military during World War II. Over 100,000 Puerto Ricans served in the U.S. Army, Navy, and Marine Corps. Puerto Ricans also served in the U.S. Coast Guard and the Women's Army Corps.

The war had a lasting impact on Puerto Rico. The island's economy grew, and the island's population continued to increase. Puerto Rico also gained a greater degree of autonomy from the United States after the war.

Puerto Rico was a colony of the United States in the years leading up to the Second World War. The island had a strategic location near the Panama Canal and the Caribbean Sea, and the U.S. had a significant presence on the island.

Puerto Rico's economy was heavily dependent on the sugar industry, but the industry was in decline in the years leading up to the war. The Great Depression had a devastating impact on Puerto Rico, and the island's economy collapsed.

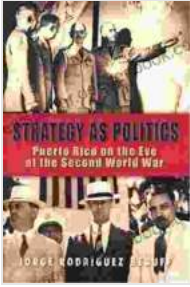
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