



The Puerto Rican Diaspora of the 20th Century and Her People's Response in Song

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LIBERTY
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Puerto Rico

- La Isla del Encanto
- Puerto Ricans: Spanish, Africans, and Taínos
- Music
 - Daily life
 - Shaped Cultural Identity



El Jibaro

- Can be identified as a common person, peasant, mountain person
- Agricultural worker
- Generally had little to no education



20th Century Challenges

- Becoming a US territory
- World situation
- Poverty
- Emigration



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The Diaspora

- Due to the current economic situation many Puerto Ricans emigrated from the island
 - Pioneer migration (1900-1945)
 - The Great Migration (1946-1964)

Puerto Ricans Migrants Living in New York City

Year	Number
1910	554
1920	7,364
1930	44,908
1940	61,463
1950	187,420
1960	429,710
1970	969,700



Early 1900s

- There was great poverty throughout the land
- Unemployment
- Various laws were passed which restricted Puerto Ricans
- Challenges of the United States were impacting the Puerto Rican Economy
- Songs focus on the poverty and commentary on the challenges the people were facing





Mid to Late 1900s

- Emigrations continued
- Rise of a revolutionary movement
- Songs focused on the desire to return to the Island and for its independence



The Response in Song

- Music has been a central part of Puerto Rico and her people
- Puerto Rican troubadours wrote songs in response to the current situation to provide commentary and comfort
- These songs have become national icons which encapsulate Puerto Ricans national identity



El Lamento Borincano

By Rafael
Hernandez Marín



016748. PUERTO RICAN COUNTRY SCENE.

016748. PUERTO RICAN COUNTRY SCENE.

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En Mi Viejo San Juan

By Noel Estrada

Verde Luz

By Antonio
“El Topo”
Cabán Vale





Preciosa

By Rafael
Hernandez Marín

Conclusion

- The 20th Century was a challenging time for Puerto Ricans
- Songs were used as a way to communicate a people's thoughts and provide comfort during the diaspora
- These songs now serve as national icon and identity



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