



THE LAST COLONY: GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO, 1949

After years of military government, Puerto Rico made leaps toward a more representative government with the passing of the Foraker Act in 1900 and later in 1917 with the passing of the Jones Act. The Jones Act was recently amended such that the governor will henceforth be democratically elected. Luis Muñoz Marín of the People’s Democratic Party is the first to win the election for governor, and he envisions major changes to Puerto Rico’s relationship with the United States. However, there are those that believe annexation by the US is the answer. Meanwhile, the Independence Party and the violent Nationalist Party both vehemently oppose the formation of closer ties with the United States and seek the creation of an independent republic. As members of his cabinet, legislators, and distinguished political figures, the future of Puerto Rico is now in your hands. You will have to battle the historical mistreatment of Puerto Rico by the United States, the rising political tensions and rumblings of uprising, and the economic and social struggles of a new government as you determine the fate of the last colony.

BACKGROUND GUIDE

EDUARDO GONZALEZ CHAIR

Eduardo is a third year majoring in Biology, Biological Chemistry, and Chemistry because he likes working all day in a lab almost as much as he does not like reading anything that doesn't have pictures in it. He is from Toa Alta, Puerto Rico and misses the Puerto Rican food more and more each day he spends in Chicago. At ChoMUN XXII, he was an assistant chair for Of Moose and Men: New France, 1660 and was set to be a chair for Angel(s) of the Battlefield: American Red Cross, 1881 at ChoMUN XXIII. Now he sets out to teach others a little bit of his home's history by teaming up with Ivan and Joseph. Outside of the MUNiverse as some have begun calling it, Eduardo is an Emergency Medical Responder for the university's EMS unit and dabbles in research in a microbiology lab. He is an active participant in UChicago's famous house culture where he pretends to be a star athlete in intramural sports and spends hours upon hours playing Smash with his housemates. During his free time, he watches basketball and people argue about basketball, takes naps, feels ashamed for liking anime, and scours the internet for cute animal videos. Eduardo is extremely excited for ChoMUN this year. If you want to chat about literally anything, you can contact him at eggonzalez@uchicago.edu.

IVAN SCHMIDT CRISIS DIRECTOR

A third year from Los Angeles, CA, Ivan knows Katy Perry's California Gurls by heart. Majoring in both Biology and Business Econ, to his extreme pleasure his majors have zero class overlap. The only thing saving him is he is not pre-med. Having been to Puerto Rico once on vacation, he is now an expert in all things Puertorriqueño. At ChoMUN XXII, he was an assistant chair for Of Moose and Men: New France, 1660 and was set to be an EAC for Angel(s) of the Battlefield: American Red Cross, 1881 at ChoMUN XXIII. When not working or in committee you can find him eating ramen and boba, playing Smash or Guitar Hero, getting and giving injuries in intramural sports, staffing as a responder on the university's EMS unit, learning how to read, or shower singing to basic 2012 pop. He is always excited to chat, so reach out to him at ivanschmidt@uchicago.edu.

JOSEPH PINTO CRISIS DIRECTOR

Joseph is a second year in the College from (sadly) Delaware, a state so small that he need not even specify which city. He knows not what major his heart desires, but due to his love of eating at fancy (expensive) restaurants, anticipates something in the realm of Math, Econ, and Chemistry. At ChoMUN XXIII he was supposed to serve as an assistant chair in “Screw It, Let's Do It: Virgin Group 2020,” but was sadly unable to do so on account of the conference's cancellation. It was a shame, as Joseph had practiced for weeks to act as an exploding Virgin Group space rocket. At MUNUC XXXII, Joseph also served as an assistant chair in the “Obama 2008” crisis committee, where he played a manic economic advisor to Obama and wrote ridiculous note responses in handwriting that would make a doctor squint. Joseph is excited to set his sights on a new challenge by serving as a crisis director for Puerto Rico 1949 alongside Ivan and Eduardo, where he will be able to implement his wildest, battiest, and nuttiest dreams as crises for delegates to deal with. Though Joseph does spend much time with Model UN, he does have a life outside of it. He serves as a math tutor for the Neighborhood Schools Program and remembers by heart most every episode of the Office, Parks and Rec, and Friends. His role models are Otto von Bismarck and Calvin (from the duo including Hobbes) because together they represent efficient, ruthless pragmatism and carefree, playful fun. Joseph is excited to meet all of you at ChoMUN XXIV! Feel free to reach out to him with questions by email at jbpinto@uchicago.edu.

SECRETARIAT OVERSIGHT:

SHAYNA COHEN, UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL