

SUMMARY OF POLITICAL CHANGES IN PORTO RICAN HISTORY

November 19, 1493 - Discovery by Columbus

1510 - Juan Ponce

By order of King Ferdinand, Juan Ponce was appointed first governor of Porto Rico in 1510. Until American occupation, the island was administered for Spain by 142 governors, most of whom were army officers of inferior rank. The governor was supreme in military affairs and practically so in civil affairs.

1870 - Representation in Spanish Cortes

Under a liberal government Porto Rico was made a province of Spain and was given representation in the Spanish Cortes by deputies elected by the people.

1874 - Provincial deputation abolished

1877 - Provincial deputation reestablished

1897 - Autonomy

In 1897 Porto Rico was given an autonomous form of government but due to the Spanish-American War this law was never operative.

October 18, 1898 - May 1, 1900 - Military Government under the United States of America

April 12, 1900 - Foraker Act and Organic Act

Civil government instituted under Charles H. Allen, first governor of Porto Rico for the United States

March 2, 1917 - New Organic Act

United States citizenship conferred on Porto Ricans.

Inauguration of more complete self-government.