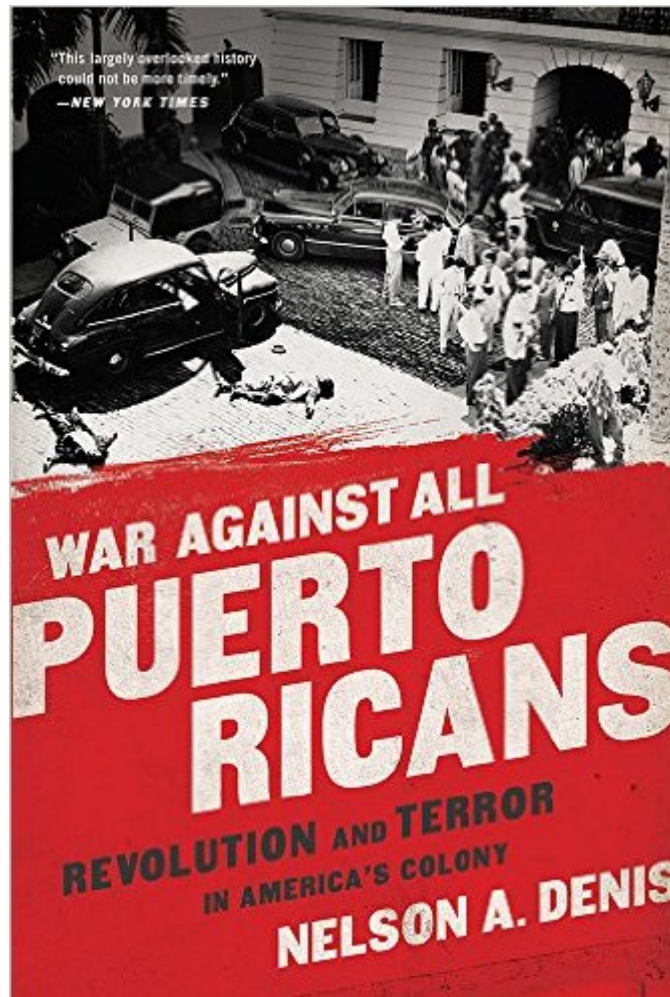


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# War Against All Puerto Ricans: Revolution And Terror In America's Colony



## Synopsis

In 1950, after over fifty years of military occupation and colonial rule, the Nationalist Party of Puerto Rico staged an unsuccessful armed insurrection against the United States. Violence swept through the island: assassins were sent to kill President Harry Truman, gunfights roared in eight towns, police stations and post offices were burned down. In order to suppress this uprising, the US Army deployed thousands of troops and bombarded two towns, marking the first time in history that the US government bombed its own citizens. Nelson A. Denis tells this powerful story through the controversial life of Pedro Albizu Campos, who served as the president of the Nationalist Party. A lawyer, chemical engineer, and the first Puerto Rican to graduate from Harvard Law School, Albizu Campos was imprisoned for twenty-five years and died under mysterious circumstances. By tracing his life and death, Denis shows how the journey of Albizu Campos is part of a larger story of Puerto Rico and US colonialism. Through oral histories, personal interviews, eyewitness accounts, congressional testimony, and recently declassified FBI files, *War Against All Puerto Ricans* tells the story of a forgotten revolution and its context in Puerto Rico's history, from the US invasion in 1898 to the modern-day struggle for self-determination. Denis provides an unflinching account of the gunfights, prison riots, political intrigue, FBI and CIA covert activity, and mass hysteria that accompanied this tumultuous period in Puerto Rican history.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I was stunned and astounded by Nelson Denis's enthralling book, *War Against All*

Puerto Ricans: Revolution and Terror in America's Colony. This book documents a "secret history" of Puerto Rico that is not taught in our schools - not in the US, and definitely not in Puerto Rico. Yet these events did happen, and they are presented in this meticulously researched book with nearly 100 pages of footnotes as well as many intriguing photos of that epoch. Remarkably, even some of the footnotes are shocking. The author is a lawyer and the extensive research confirms that. The United States is on trial here. The evidence is clear, convincing, and deeply organized. Hundreds of FBI documents provide the most shameful proof of all. By the end of the book, the entire US government has been placed on the witness stand, cross-examined, and found guilty of stealing an entire island. But the deepest impression from this book is the way Denis told an electrifying story. The attempted assassination of Pres. Harry Truman, the Ponce Massacre, the Revolution of 1950, the Gunfight at Salon Boricua, the prison torture of Albizu Campos... all of these tableaux unfolded like a series of dramatic, high-action movie scenes. I could see these scenes playing, right in front of my eyes. My mind reeling as if I were in a time machine being transported to colonial Puerto Rico. This book would make one hell of a movie. It is based on a history that has never been told. There are 8 million Puerto Ricans and over 55 million Latinos that would eat it up. I could see Benicio Del Toro or Marc Anthony in the leading role of Don Pedro Albizu Campos. Consider this an open letter to any smart and successful movie producer out there: The next great historical and socio-politically relevant moneymaking story has been tailor-made for you. And what an amazing movie it would make!

This is sharply written, well-documented, and UNKNOWN history. I wasn't aware that all this happened in Puerto Rico! The book reminds me of *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*, and *Gulag Archipelago*...it reads like a police blotter, with the entire island as a crime scene. A lot of people are going to re-set their moral compass, and re-think their views about "Puerto Rican history" when they read this book. Bombing two towns in broad daylight...arresting 3,000 Puerto Ricans...jailing and torturing hundreds of them...killing and maiming over 200 of them on Palm Sunday...keeping secret FBI files on over ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND Puerto Ricans...arresting anyone who owned a Puerto Rican flag, or sang the national anthem...This stuff is incredible! Yet it all happened, right under our noses, in broad daylight. What a strange thing for the USA, the "leader of the free world," to do this to an entire island - with millions of people on it. I have to salute WAR AGAINST ALL PUERTO RICANS, for bringing it out into the open.

What a fascinating read. Prepare to be outraged as the author takes you on a journey telling you the

hidden secrets of our nation's history that you were denied in most high school history classes. Filled with comprehensive research of firsthand accounts, and pictures I found this book easy to breeze through. Timely, as we are now seeing the changing of the tide in regards to US relations with Cuba. While Puerto Rico isn't featured in the mainstream media as much, its destiny is still an unanswered question. As Puerto Ricans will attempt to answer this question, we as a nation have to understand its past. Many times this book will shock you, but so is the nature of truth. As we learn from our past mistakes, we can look towards our future successes.

I did not know that history could be so exciting. It is also sad and very eye-opening. I am Puerto Rican and heard many stories from my grandparents, but I didn't know that THIS MUCH happened to my people. I really appreciated the footnotes -- there are over 700 of them! And some of those footnotes are little chapters in themselves. Also, this book reads like an action movie. I could see the scenes in front of my eyes. I think Marc Anthony should play Pedro Albizu Campos. He would be perfect! He could make such a great sound track for the movie, too...Preciosa...Lamento Borincano...wow.

I am a high school student. I saw this book at Barnes & Noble, and the book cover made me curious. I saw these dead people in a fancy courtyard, with everyone ignoring them. It looked like a mystery movie, and the photo was itself a mystery. Then the title WAR AGAINST ALL PUERTO RICANS made me say "what's this all about?" Because I am Puerto Rican and I never heard about this revolution. I flipped through the book. The photos inside were exciting, especially the Ponce Massacre and the revolution photos. To be honest, I wish there were more photos because this was very exciting history. I bought the book and read it pretty quick, in less than three days. Man, this is some history! I had heard about Albizu Campos, but I didn't know all the violence and FBI drama that surrounded him! The radiation in his cell was mind-blowing, but after reading the book, I'm convinced that it happened. This book should be in all schools. It is the type of history lesson that we are never taught. It showed me a lot about my parents, my island, my history. It left me sad and proud at the same time. Puerto Rico should never have been treated like this. I found it all well-written, fast-paced, and full of new information. I also feel that this should be a MOVIE! A big, action-packed, exciting movie, with all this history behind it. People don't read books all the time, but they love to see movies. I know that all the kids in my school, and DEFINITELY all the Latino kids, would run to see this movie. We see so many dumb, useless movies. But the world should know about Pedro Albizu Campos and his incredible, dramatic struggle. This is the movie that we MUST

see!

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