

“Today, Guam has the highest per capita rates of soldiers going and dying in U.S. wars. Many sons and daughters of Guam have paid the ultimate sacrifice for protecting liberties we are not afforded.”

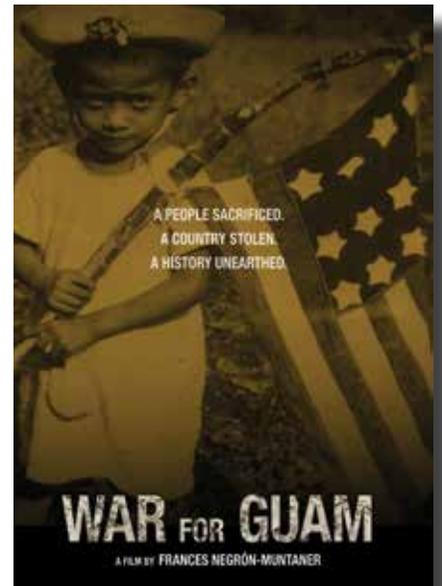
Frank Blas, Jr., Guam Senator

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WAR FOR GUAM

A FILM BY FRANCES NEGRÓN-MUNTANER

War for Guam is a 57-minute film that tells the extraordinary story of how the Native people of Guam, the Chamorros, remained loyal to the U.S. under a brutal Japanese occupation to later be stripped of much of their ancestral lands by the U.S. military. Through rarely seen archival footage, contemporary verité, creative use of graphics and sound as well as testimonies of survivors and their descendants, the program is told from various points of view. These include war survivors like Antonio Artero, Jr., whose father was awarded one of the first Medals of Freedom for his heroic deeds protecting American lives but lost most of his land after the war; and two key historical figures, Radioman George Tweed, the only American to live through the occupation; and Father Jesus Baza Duenas, Guam's spiritual and resistance leader. By 1944, the Chamorros, who had been interned in a concentration camp with some having witnessed a series of massacres, welcome the US soldiers as saviors from death. Yet, immediately after Guam's liberation on July 21, the US proceeded to confiscate three quarters of Guam's land mass for military and recreational purposes. Initially, many Chamorros initially found it difficult to seek justice. But as Chamorros increasingly felt like squatters on their own land, the memory of the war started to change from that of being rescued to that of being reoccupied. A new struggle began. (2015, 57 min, US, English, Mini DV, 35mm film, & 16mm mastered to HD)



Father Jesus Baza Duenas



Radioman George Tweed

Frances Negrón-Muntaner is an award-winning filmmaker, writer, curator, scholar and professor at Columbia University, where she is the director of Columbia's Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race as well as the University's recently created Media and Idea Lab. Among her books and publications are: *Boricua Pop: Puerto Ricans and the Latinization of American Culture* (CHOICE Award, 2004), and *The Latino Media Gap* (2014). Her films include *Brincando el charco: Portrait of a Puerto Rican* (Whitney Biennial, 1995), *Small City, Big Change* (2013), and *War for Guam*.

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WAR FOR GUAM

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Tone Dropper

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“Mohammad” and “Solemn Strings” by
Sarah Plant

“Chanting Agnus Dei” By
Val Goldsack

“Jimi’s Jam” by
Dan Foster

“Uncle Sam” by
Pedro. T. Rosario

“Guam, USA” by
K.C. Deleon Guerrero

“Guam” (A.K.A. My Dearest Uncle Sam)
Performed by The Beverly Sisters

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The family of the late Carlos P. and Marian J. Taitano
War for Guam is a production of Polymorphous Pictures
in association with Independent Television Service
(ITVS), Pacific Islanders in Communications and Center
for Asian American Media with funding provided by the
Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

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Executive Producer for ITVS
Sally Jo Fifer

WAR FOR GUAM

A FILM BY FRANCES NEGRÓN-MUNTANER



Artero St. Receives Medal of Freedom, 1946



Chamorro Children with US flag



Native School, Pre-war



Antonio Artero at MacDonald's

National Educational Telecommunications Association
(NETA) presents *War for Guam* for Asian American and
Pacific Islander Heritage Month
**The first public television documentary about the experience and
impact of WWII on Guam, a US territory since 1898**

NEW YORK, April 2, 2015 – In May, to commemorate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and Memorial Day, public television stations throughout the country will begin broadcasting *War for Guam*, the latest production by award-winning filmmaker, writer, and scholar, Frances Negrón-Muntaner.

The program tells the story of how the native people of Guam, the Chamorros, endured a three-year Japanese occupation only to be stripped of much of their ancestral lands by the U.S. after the military liberated the island. “It’s vitally important to bring this story to the American audience, not only as a witness to history but to deepen our understanding of war’s effects on native people and their lands, not only then, but now,” said Gayle Loeber, Director of Programming and Information for NETA, a distributor for public television. “NETA’s program service is proud to include *War for Guam* in our catalog of diverse, well-told stories.”

Filmmaker Negrón-Muntaner adds, “The program aims to amplify the voices of the people of Guam and contribute to an urgent dialogue regarding the long-term effects of U.S. military policy on the island.”

Guam became a U.S. territory as a result of the Spanish-American War. From 1899 to 1941, naval captains appointed by the president of the United States governed the island. Under American military rule, the Chamorros did not enjoy U.S. citizenship or basic civil rights. In 1941, Japan’s Imperial Army invaded Guam and harshly ruled the island until 1944. The Chamorro people remained loyal to the U.S., risking their lives to protect American soldiers who had avoided deportation. Despite the fact that Guam was the only occupied Pacific island that was a U.S. territory, it was the last to be liberated by the American military. In part due to this delay, Japanese forces massacred nearly 10% of Guam’s population before the landing of U.S. marines.

“This was a painful time for the Chamorros of Guam,” expressed Baltazar Aguon, the film’s co-producer. “All families were touched, including my own. The deep scars of that period and its aftermath still shape the lives of everyone on Guam.”

The Chamorros, who had been interned in several concentration camps for weeks, welcomed the U.S. soldiers as saviors from death. Yet, immediately after Guam’s liberation on July 21, 1944, the U.S. proceeded to confiscate three quarters of Guam’s landmass for military and recreational purposes. Chamorros responded with a drive for

the people of Guam to become U.S. citizens, believing that such status would protect them from the seizure of land. After years of organizing, in 1950, Chamorros became U.S. citizens. But basic citizenship rights such as the ability to vote for president and having a voting delegation in Congress were not extended; there was also no significant devolution of land. Instead, Guam was quickly ushered into a market economy where most activity revolved around military contracts and military service. Presently, nearly a third of Guam's land remains under military control.

"The sacrifice of the Chamorro people continues to this day," said Guam Senator Frank Blas, Jr. "Today, Guam has the highest per capita rates of soldiers going and dying in U.S. wars. Most Chamorros are proud of their service. Yet the United States has a difficult time properly recognizing us as part of the American family. Many sons and daughters of Guam have paid the ultimate sacrifice for protecting liberties we are not afforded."

Marginally employed or working for the military, Chamorros initially found it difficult to seek justice. But as Chamorros increasingly felt like squatters on their own land, the memory of the war started to change from that of being rescued to that of being occupied. "The war," as survivor Jose Garrido concludes in the program, "is not over yet for us. We are still fighting"

####

About the director

Frances Negrón-Muntaner is the president of Polymorphous Pictures and an award-winning filmmaker, writer, curator, and scholar. At Columbia University, she is the director of both the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race, and the Media and Idea Lab, as well as curator of the Latino Arts and Activism archive. Among her books and publications are *Boricua Pop: Puerto Ricans and the Latinization of American Culture* (CHOICE Award, 2004), and *The Latino Media Gap* (2014), a comprehensive report on the persistent marginalization of Latinos in English-language mainstream media. Her films include *Brincando el charco: Portrait of a Puerto Rican* (Whitney Biennial, 1995), *Small City, Big Change* (2014), and the upcoming *Regarding Vieques* (2016).

For her work as a scholar and filmmaker, Negrón-Muntaner has received Ford, Truman, Scripps Howard, Rockefeller, Pew, and Chang-Chavkin fellowships. Major funders such as Social Science Research Council, Andy Warhol Foundation, and Independent Television Service have also supported her work. In 2008, the United Nations' Rapid Response Media Mechanism recognized her as a global expert in the areas of mass media and Latin/o American studies; in 2012, she received the Lenfest Award, one of Columbia University's most prestigious recognitions.

For more information, please see francesnegronegronmuntaner.com and warforguam.com.

About the Production

War for Guam is a production of Polymorphous Pictures, produced in association with ITVS, PIC and CAAM with funding provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB).

Additional funding was provided by Guam Preservation Trust, Pennsylvania Humanities Council, Jerome Foundation, Paul Robeson Fund for Independent Media, Philadelphia Foundation, Guam Historical Society, Centennial Task Force, Puerto Rico Humanities Council and others.

About the National Educational Telecommunications Association

The National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA) is a professional association that serves public television licensees and educational entities in all 50 states, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. Since 1967, our reason for existing is to connect public television people and ideas, by providing quality programming, educational resources, professional development, management support, and national representation. For more information, please visit <http://www.netaonline.org/whatis.htm>.

About ITVS

Independent Television Service (ITVS) funds, presents, and promotes award-winning documentaries on public television, innovative new media projects on the Web, and the Emmy® Award-winning weekly series *Independent Lens* on Monday nights at 10 p.m. on PBS. Mandated by Congress in 1988 and funded by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, ITVS has brought thousands of independently produced programs to American audiences. For more visit itvs.org.

August 19, 2015

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and Race

End the War in Guam

Posted: 06/05/2015 8:44 am EDT | Updated: 06/05/2015 8:59 am EDT

President Obama's efforts to normalize U.S.-Cuba relations and end the Cold War in our hemisphere have captured scores of headlines worldwide--and for good reason. It was an ineffective policy that was even losing power as a partisan tactic. But the success in Cuba begs the question of why the U.S. government still refuses to end World War II on the island of Guam, a U.S. territory for over a century.

The little known story of Guam's experience before and after World War II illuminates what is wrong with American policy toward the U.S. territories. This is a policy that bluntly states that unincorporated territories like Guam legally "belong to, but are not part" of the United States and its citizens cannot vote for the president despite their high rates of military service. Guam's story also highlights the harm that the U.S. government can inflict on territorial citizens, in part because most Americans are not aware of them and the media is rarely interested in their fate.

Guam was pulled into World War II four hours after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Located 6,000 miles west of California in the Northern Pacific, Japan's Imperial Army started bombing the island on December 8, 1941. A few days later, the military occupied Guam for two and a half long years.

Due to its strategic location between Asia and the Americas, foreign occupation was not new to Guam. For three centuries, the island was a Spanish possession. In 1898, a U.S. naval captain claimed the island on his way to the Philippines during the Spanish-American War. Subsequently, from 1899 to 1941, the president of the United States appointed Navy officers to serve as governors and oversee the construction of naval facilities.

Although clearly undemocratic, the Navy justified military government by asserting that while the native people of Guam, the Chamorros, were "becoming more like Dad (Uncle Sam) every day," they were not mature enough to become American citizens and were therefore safest under U.S. martial rule. In the words of former Navy secretary Claude A. Swanson: "these simple people have not yet reached a state of development commensurate with the personal independence, obligations and responsibilities of United States citizenship." To become citizens, concluded Swanson, "would be most harmful to the native people."

Ironically, when the time came to defend Guam from imminent Japanese attack, the U.S. evacuated the wives and children of their (white) military dependents but left Chamorro families to fend off for themselves. Not lost on Chamorros, Guam--the only occupied U.S. territory in the Pacific--was the first island to be invaded by the Japanese and the last to be liberated by the United States. If the American forces had arrived only a few days later, the Japanese claim that "they would find only flies," may have come to pass. By the time that the U.S. military landed on July 21, 1944, the Imperial Army had killed nearly 10% of Guam's population via sword or starvation.

Under Japanese rule, however, Chamorros lost few opportunities to express their support for the U.S. and its larger democratic ideals. They would keep their hopes up by improvising on a wartime song, "Uncle Sam, won't you please come back to Guam." The popular tune was sung village to village throughout the island although this was considered a subversive act and those found guilty faced severe punishment.

Even more dangerously, over thirty families banded together to protect George R. Tweed, a Navy Radioman who hid in the jungle during the entire occupation. Some Chamorros were continuously beaten and tortured for sheltering or feeding him. Others like Father Jesus Baza Duenas, Guam's most vocal leader against Japanese authority, were beheaded for their refusal to disclose Tweed's whereabouts. Mourned to this day, Father Duenas was killed hours before a U.S. ship rescued Tweed.

Chamorro sacrifice did not end after liberation. The U.S. expropriated nearly three quarters of the island to build military facilities and evicted hundreds of families from their ancestral homes paying them little or no compensation. In this process, not even war heroes were spared: Antonio Artero, who received a Presidential Medal of Freedom for his role in protecting Tweed at the risk of his own life and those of his family, was stripped of much of his land. In addition, many Chamorros like Ignacio "Buck" Cruz, whose father and a brother died in a massacre during the Japanese occupation, later volunteered to serve in Vietnam three times to express gratitude for liberation.

The tradition of military service now runs deep in Guam. The majority of Chamorros have war memories and ancestors to honor. The U.S. military is also one of few sources of employment and other opportunities on the island. The end result is that Guam has the highest per capita rate of veterans in the U.S. More people from Guam die on foreign soil fighting for America than any other jurisdiction.

The United States, however, continuously disregards Guam's sacrifices. In 1950, President Truman signed the Organic Act of Guam ending military government and granting American citizenship to the Chamorros. But not only did the act fail to provide meaningful citizenship rights, it explicitly stated that the president could still dispose of Guam's land for military purposes at will.

While the military has returned some property taken in the 1940s, it has not sufficiently compensated most families. Guam's veterans receive inadequate medical services and communities adjacent to military bases generally obtain the least investment of any community under the U.S. flag. Now, a proposed military buildup is opening old wounds as it aims to bring 35,000 additional military personnel to Guam and take up 2,500 more acres of land.

Chamorros have always campaigned against military power in the territory. Yet, the potential buildup is rallying old and young in protest like never before. Most people still want to be U.S. citizens and have the option to serve in the military--but not at any price. After nearly 120 years of providing for American military needs, it's time for the people of Guam to have a say over their lives. It's time for the U.S. government to publicly acknowledge Chamorro contributions to American well-being and return land.

It's time for World War II to end in Guam.

Follow Frances Negrón-Muntaner on Twitter: www.twitter.com/fnmuntaner

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Conversations

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Bud Smith · Works at Retired

Guam is treated no differently than any other U. S. Territory. There is no "war" going on there.

Like · Reply · 5 · Jun 5, 2015 9:30pm



Paul Young · Managing Broker Retired Nov 1 2014 at Electronic Real Estate Services

Guam was the only U.S. Territory attacked and occupied by the Japanese armed forces , with the exception of the Aleution Islnds being occupied for a short while. There was no population on the Aleution Island. Also Dutch Harbor was attacked in an air strike. And of course, Pearl Harbor. All U.S. Citizens living in our U.S. Territories should be allowed to vote for the U.S. President, and their Representatives to Congress should have a vote the same as other Representatives of the various states have. Time to change the law.

Like · Reply · 5 · Jun 6, 2015 5:26pm



Eric Anderson

They continue to be occupied by their most recent occupiers and land can be appropriated at will by the U.S.

Like · Reply · Jun 24, 2015 11:22pm



Kimiko Thomas Parker

Residents of Guam are U.S. citizens but can't vote for president. Guam isn't permitted to have its own immigration laws or tax code. Any law which Guam passes can be summarily repealed by Congress. Smacks of

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When the Moon Waxes: War for Guam

21 May 2015

By Michael Lujan Bevaqua, Ph. D







HAGÁTÑA — I have been fortunate over the years to help in the production of various documentaries related to Guam. I've been an interview subject in some films; other times I've worked as a consultant or advisor.

The first documentary I ever assisted with has been more than a decade in the making and is premiering this month across the U.S. and its territories. Titled "War for Guam," it premiered locally on May 18 on KGTF. The film is directed by Puerto Rican scholar and filmmaker France Negron-Muntaner, who is currently based in New York. Over the years I worked on this film as a local producer, helping organize their shoots on island, arranging for locations and for interviews.

It is commonsensical on Guam to say that the war is the most important event in recent history. Although only lasting 32 months, it changed so much about Guam and its indigenous people. Even more than 70 years later, it still continues to have its impacts. It is the event that provides the basis for Chamorro identity in an American context today. It redrew the boundaries not just for Chamorro identity, but their island, destroying some villages and creating new ones, displacing more than 10,000. Guam prior to the war was a sleepy American colony; today it is one of its infamous "unsinkable aircraft carriers."

However, this consensus over the war's incredible impact does not mean that Guam has a comprehensive understanding of the effects of the war as a community. In fact, given the way our history has been written and the way the war continues to be represented in media such as newspapers, commemorative events and other documentary films, things appear to be tragic, but simplistic. The war is routinely highlighted as the origin of the Chamorro "emotional" bond to the U.S. due to the island's "liberation." But this is only part of the war's impact. What many fail to grasp is the role the war continues to play in being the source of so much Chamorro disaffection and discontentment. World War II isn't only the origin story of contemporary Chamorro patriotism; it also holds the origins of Chamorro contemporary activism and discontent.

The film "War for Guam" takes this complicated nature of the war seriously, especially in the film's conclusion. The war story of Chamorros is told primarily through what I call in my lectures "Duenas Avec Tweed," or the divergent but connected experiences of two great symbols from I Tiempon Chapones – Pale' Jesus Baza Duenas and Navy Radioman George R. Tweed. Duenas was killed by the Japanese in the closing days of the war, for reasons that are still debated up until today. He was, as I have written about elsewhere, an important local, religious symbol of strength at the time. Tweed, the only American holdout of the war, survived through the assistance of numerous Chamorro families, most notably that of Antonio Artero. Many other documentaries and histories of this period focus primarily on the war and the heroism and sacrifice involved. But "War for Guam" goes beyond this to also discuss how despite the heroism and courage of Artero in sheltering Tweed, they lost most of their land

to the U.S. military in order to create the bases we now have in northern Guam.

The documentary delves into not only the nascent patriotism of Chamorros, but also the way many Chamorro lost their land to the U.S. military and how this wound within their families has not healed and still remains raw, a vivid part of their lore. The film does well what so many histories have trouble juxtaposing. The warm and tender liberations that occur in 1944 in places such as Mannengon are soon followed by years of displacement and land alienation, most of which occurred after the war with Japan was already over. Many writers and filmmakers in the past have felt compelled to make one of the liberations larger and more significant than the other. Even coming to the point where Chamorro poet Cecelia Perez once claimed that it almost seems like history ends with those liberations, as if legions of scholars and writers were telling us, “enaoh ha’ – that’s it, nothing else to see here.” As a result, the land-takings become marginalized in a way, not becoming something that affected all Chamorros or the very landscape of the island, but something that only certain families care about or take issue with.

It was good to see the director not diminish either of these moments in the film. It adds to the emotional and political power of the story, to see these long-cherished moments between Chamorros and American troops who had come to end the Japanese occupation, but also the feelings of confusion and fear when the land takings begin, which appear to be the opposite of what Chamorros had just felt a few years before. This contradiction is the truth of the war, and it is good to see a film tackle it. If you missed “War for Guam” earlier this week when it premiered, a second showing will take place on May 24 at 7 p.m. I am also working on organizing a screening at the University of Guam on June 15.

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Documentary shows war's effect on Guam

Lacey A.C. Martinez, Pacific Daily News 12:53 a.m. ChST June 12, 2015



(Photo: Courtesy of Baltazar Aguon)

Several major cities in the mainland viewed a new documentary on public television that sheds light on Guam's World War II plight.

"War for Guam," directed by Columbia University professor Frances Negron-Muntaner, also has aired on PBS Guam.

If you missed it, a public viewing of the documentary and panel discussion will be held on June 15 at the University of Guam.

"The really nice thing about this is that it tells the story from the local perspective," the film's co-producer Baltazar Aguon says. "There's issues that were never really brought to light. This film tries to capture the local perspective, the Chamorro perspective on issues that have not been resolved from World War II."

The documentary follows the story of how Chamorros endured a three-year Japanese occupation only to be stripped of much of their ancestral lands by the U.S after the military liberated the island, according to a description from the National Educational Telecommunications Association.

"The program aims to amplify the voices of the people of Guam and contribute to an urgent dialogue regarding the long-term effects of U.S. military policy on the island," its director says.

The documentary has had wide distribution with 176 stations across the nation picking up the documentary with some 670 air dates, Aguon says.

"We've been getting some very good comments from Chamorros in the states that tuned in and watched it and never knew the history," he says. "It's a great awareness tool for people who have never been to Guam or who have never heard the stories of Guam. They now actually have something they can look at, see and experience."

Since its filming, three Guamanians in the documentary have already died, including Antonio Palomo, Antonio Artero and Sister Mary Elaine Camacho. Aguon urges the community to see the film to understand the issues that continue to follow Guamanians years after the war.

"It's going to be 71 years since Liberation and most of the elders who lived through it are passing on," Aguon says. "It's important that our generation and the generation below us know what happened."

IF YOU GO

• What:

"War For Guam" documentary screening and panel discussion

• Where:

University of Guam CLASS Lecture Hall

• When:

6 p.m. June 15

• Cost:

Free



WAR FOR GUAM Documentary Screens for Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

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This month to commemorate Asian-American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and Memorial Day, over 600 public television stations throughout the country will begin broadcasting War for Guam, the latest production by Columbia University faculty member, award-winning filmmaker, writer, and scholar, Frances Negrón-Muntaner.

The program tells the story of how the native people of Guam, the Chamorros, endured a three-year Japanese occupation only to be stripped of much of their ancestral lands by the U.S. after the military liberated the island. Professor and filmmaker Negrón-Muntaner says, "The program aims to amplify THE VOICES of the people of Guam and contribute to an urgent

dialogue regarding the long-term effects of U.S. military policy on the island."

"It's vitally important to bring this story to the American audience, not only as a witness to history but to deepen our understanding of war's effects on native people and their lands, not only then, but now," said Gayle Loeber, Director of Programming and Information for NETA, a distributor for public television. "NETA's program service is proud to include War for Guam in our catalog of diverse, well-told stories."

Guam became a U.S. territory as a result of the Spanish-American War. From 1899 to 1941, naval captains appointed by the president of the United States governed the island. Under American military rule, the Chamorros did not enjoy U.S. citizenship or basic civil rights. In 1941, Japan's Imperial Army invaded Guam and harshly ruled the island until 1944. The Chamorro people remained loyal to the U.S., risking their lives to protect American soldiers who had avoided deportation. Despite the fact that Guam was the only occupied Pacific island that was a U.S. territory, it was the last to be liberated by the American military. In part due to this delay, Japanese forces massacred nearly 10% of Guam's population before the landing of U.S. marines.

"This was a painful time for the Chamorros of Guam," expressed Baltazar Aguon, the film's co-producer. "All families were touched, including my own. The deep scars of that period and its AFTERMATH still shape the lives of everyone on Guam."

The Chamorros, who had been interned in several concentration camps for weeks, welcomed the U.S. soldiers as saviors from death. Yet, immediately after Guam's liberation on July 21, 1944, the U.S. proceeded to confiscate three quarters of Guam's landmass for military and recreational purposes. Chamorros responded with a drive for the people of Guam to become U.S. citizens, believing that such status would protect them from the seizure of land. After years of organizing, in 1950, Chamorros became U.S. citizens. But basic citizenship rights such as the ability to vote for president and a having a voting delegation in Congress were not extended; there

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was also no significant devolution of land. Instead, Guam was quickly ushered into a market economy where most activity revolved around military contracts and military service. Presently, nearly a third of Guam's land remains under military control.

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