

**2006**

Puerto Rico's economy entered a recession. A key factor was the United States federal government phased out a provision of the Puerto Rican tax code that gave U.S. corporations in Puerto Rico tax exemptions. The move prompted companies to move out of Puerto Rico and cost thousands of Puerto Ricans their jobs.

**2009**

Then-Governor Luis Fortuño passed Public Law 7, which declared a State of Fiscal Emergency. Thousands of government workers lost their jobs and public pension and retirement systems were privatized.

**2010**

A little more than a year after Public Law 7, University of Puerto Rico students protested tuition hikes and other measures as the government severely defunded public education.

**2015**

Puerto Rico's economy officially collapsed. Then-Governor Alejandro García Padilla declared in a television address that its more than \$70 billion in debt was unpayable. He then created a Working Group for the Economic Recovery of Puerto Rico through an executive order that sought to restructure Puerto Rico's debt.

**2016**

The U.S. Congress responded to Puerto Rico's economic collapse by passing a bipartisan federal law: the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA). The law established an oversight board, a process for restructuring debt, and expedited procedures for approving critical infrastructure projects.

**2017**

In September, category four hurricanes Irma and Maria hit the island. Hurricane Irma itself caused an estimated \$1 billion in damage and three deaths. Two weeks later, Hurricane Maria and its 175 mph winds left almost the entire island without electricity and wireless communication; about half of the homes were without water. Thousands of homes and other buildings were destroyed. The estimated damages exceeded \$100 billion. The death toll is estimated at over 4,500. Puerto Rico is still recovering to this day.

In October, Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio and Cardinal Timothy Dolan visited the island (right) with \$815,000 to help the recovery efforts. This was in addition to over 32,000 pounds of goods collected and previously sent by Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens.

**2019**

On Dec. 28, the first of a series of related earthquakes (which have stretched into 2021) begins after a magnitude 4.7 struck the island, followed by a 4.8 magnitude quake the following day.

# 15 YEARS OF TURMOIL IN PUERTO RICO

**2021**

The COVID-19 pandemic has had significant effects on Puerto Rico over the past year, forcing people out of jobs, children out of classrooms, and stalling disaster recovery efforts.

**2020**

On January 7, a magnitude 6.5 earthquake struck Puerto Rico that further destroyed buildings and devastated the island.

