

*Bulletin Board*  
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## PUERTO RICO'S CONSTITUTION

The overwhelming Puerto Rican vote for the new Constitution is a cause for quiet satisfaction by all Americans. This is in the good tradition of United States "colonialism," which has resulted in the independence of Cuba and the Philippines. Puerto Rico has done what the Puerto Ricans wanted to do. A large majority of them did not desire independence; they wanted what they now have, and they proved it first by voting in June, 1951, to have a Constitution and now by endorsing that Constitution.

The new document gives Puerto Rico greater autonomy but does not affect its status as a United States possession. Instead of having a charter created by an act of Congress in Washington the island will now have this Constitution. Our Congress will relinquish its right to repeal insular laws and our President will no longer appoint auditors and Supreme Court justices.

The Constitution still has to be approved by the United States Congress,

and despite some Senatorial attacks on Puerto Rico's first elected Governor, Luis Muñoz Marín, there is every reason to expect passage of the measure. These attacks on the Governor as being a dictator are not well founded. Dr. Muñoz Marín is far and away the most popular Governor Puerto Rico ever had. His administration has been efficient and—by Latin-American standards—liberal. In a sense, the victory for the Constitution is his victory, and it was a democratic one.

From our point of view this result ought to have good effects throughout Latin America. We are disproving the Communist and nationalist charges of "Yankee imperialism." The United States has always been accused by these elements of exploiting Puerto Rico as a colony. It will be hard to sustain that propaganda effectively after what has happened.