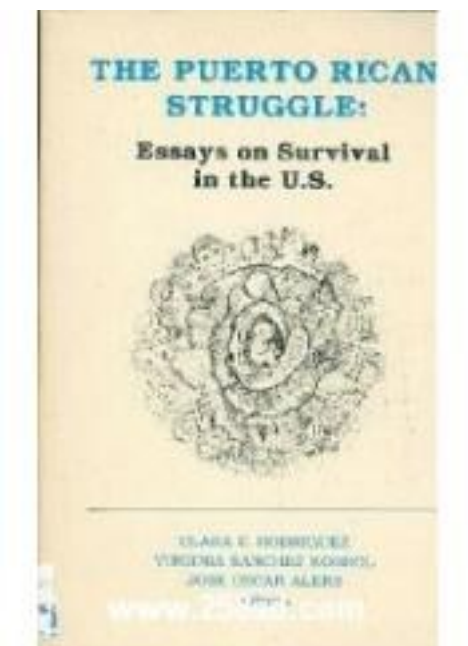


Puerto Rican Struggle Essays on Survival in the U.S.



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PREFACE
Readers seeking to educate themselves about Puerto Ricans have only a partial set of written materials from which to choose. What has been available up to now is limited in both English and Spanish. Specifically in need of expansion are materials in which Puerto Ricans born on the continent write about themselves or their compatriots on the island. The present collection begins to fill part of this void. It is historically significant because it constitutes the first published compendium of any appreciable scale containing social commentary and analysis by second-generation Puerto Ricans on their situation in the U.S. All the contributors to the volume are personally and/or professionally involved with

the Puerto Rican communities in the U.S. It is no accident that these first essays are devoted to the themes of struggle and survival for these are our primary concerns. The focus of the collection is on the survival of Puerto Rican culture-- our language history arts preferences practices symbols spirit and style without which we would have no unifying identity as a people. This identity is under persistent attack by the forces of assimilation not only in the U.S. but in Puerto Rico itself. The principal aim of the monograph is to highlight the process of assimilation and the means that Puerto Ricans have used in their struggle to survive as Puerto Ricans in the U.S. It also provides a forum for second-generation Puerto Rican perspectives that do not often find their way into print. We hope the volume will heighten the awareness of Puerto Ricans about their present condition and future prospects in the U.S. Although the core of the collection falls generally within the realm of the social sciences a deliberate effort has been made to give voice to the concerns of the humanities. This means that some of the papers included are written from historical philosophical or political perspectives. We consider the resulting variety to be a strength rather than a weakness because of the kind of audience we are interested in reaching. We expect that our readers will not be just Puerto Ricans or students or academics or activists or interested laymen but all of these--and more. We thus anticipate that the variety of

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