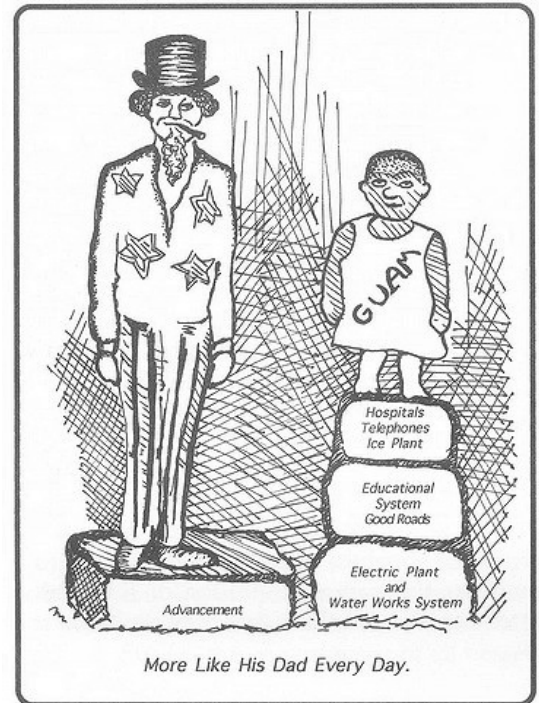


Hita La'mon: Hasso Independence

What does it mean to be an unincorporated territory?

- "The civil rights and political status of the native inhabitants of the territories hereby ceded to the United States shall be determined by the Congress."
- Article IX, Treaty of Paris 1898
- "[t]he Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States . . ."
- U.S. Const. art. IV, § 3, cl. 2.
- "the United States could acquire territory without incorporating it into the Nation, and that unincorporated territory was not subject to the provisions of the Constitution."
-Torres v. Puerto Rico, 442 U.S. 465, 469 (1979).
- An unincorporated territory, simply "belongs to the United States, and is subject to the disposition of Congress."
-DeLima v. Bidwell, 182 U.S. 1, 197 (1901).
- Residents of Guam are denied the right to vote in U.S. presidential elections.
-Att'y Gen. of Guam v. United States, 738 F.2d 1017, 1019 (9th Cir. 1984)
- Residents of Guam are denied effective voting representation in the U.S. Congress.
-48 U.S.C. § 1711.
- All laws made in Guam can be invalidated by Congress.



How has being an unincorporated territory a.k.a. "status quo" impacted our quality of life?

- Almost half of the federal funds Guam receives goes to food stamps and Medicaid. Chamorus make up the largest percentage of people receiving public assistance for housing, food and health care.
-Pacific Daily News
- In Guam's 2015 homeless count, Chamorus were the highest percentage of people living without homes – 536 Chamorus made up 42 percent of the total 1,280 homeless people that were counted.
-Guam's 2015 Homeless Count
- Guam's suicide rates are 50 percent higher than in the United States. People under 30 made up 60 percent of suicide deaths.
-KUAM News, March 2015
- Of the 9th-12th-grade "Native Pacific Islander" students surveyed in GDOE: 41.4 percent felt sad or hopeless; 19.3 percent attempted suicide, 31.3 percent considered attempting suicide; 39.3 percent had been in a physical fight; 11.4 percent had been physically forced to have sex; 14.5 percent had experienced physical dating violence; 16.5 percent had experienced sexual dating violence.
-2013 Guam Youth Risk Behavior Survey
- Guam's per capita rate of reported forcible rape is more than twice the national average. In the majority of these rape cases, the perpetrator is identified as a family member or acquaintance. The largest percentage of victims have been Chamoru minors.
-Pacific Daily News & Healing Hearts Rape Crisis Center
- Less than 17% of Chamoru households report using their native language at home
-2010 Census