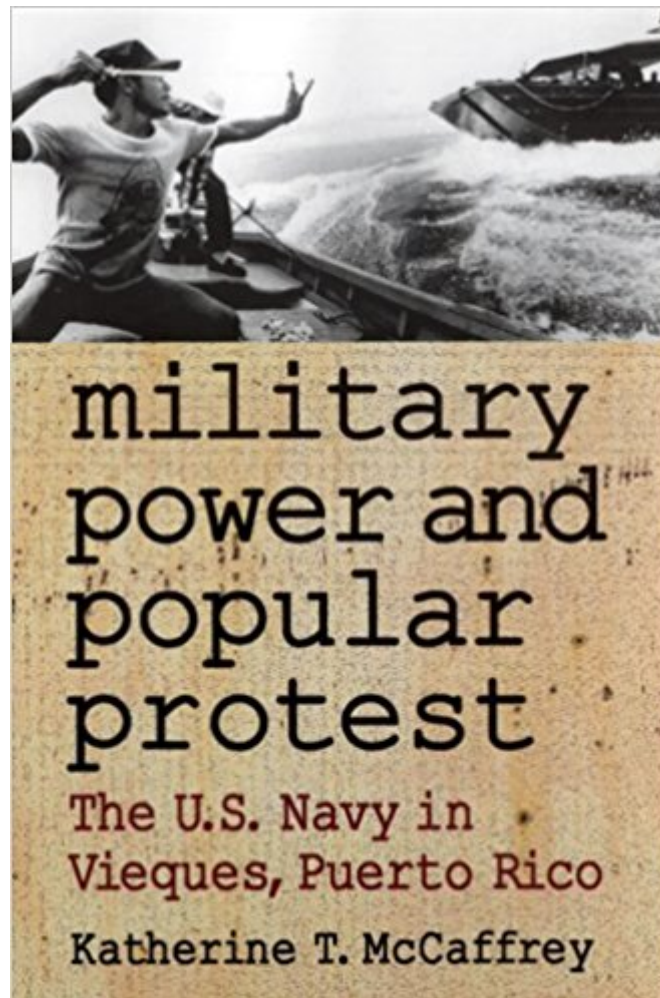


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# Military Power And Popular Protest: The U.S. Navy In Vieques, Puerto Rico



## Synopsis

Residents of Vieques, a small island just off the east coast of Puerto Rico, live wedged between an ammunition depot and live bombing range for the U.S. Navy. Since the 1940s when the navy expropriated over two-thirds of the island, residents have struggled to make a life amid the thundering of bombs and rumbling of weaponry fire. Like the army's base in Okinawa, Japan, the facility has drawn vociferous protests from residents who challenged U.S. security interests overseas. In 1999, when a local civilian employee of the base was killed by a stray bomb, Vieques again erupted in protests that have mobilized tens of thousands of individuals and transformed this tiny Caribbean Island into the setting for an international cause célèbre. Katherine T. McCaffrey gives a complete analysis of the troubled relationship between the U.S. Navy and island residents. She explores such topics as the history of U.S. naval involvement in Vieques; a grassroots mobilization led by fishermen that began in the 1970s; how the navy promised to improve the lives of the island residents and failed; and the present-day emergence of a revitalized political activism that has effectively challenged naval hegemony. The case of Vieques brings to the fore a major concern within U.S. foreign policy that extends well beyond Puerto Rico: military bases overseas act as lightning rods for anti-American sentiment, thus threatening this country's image and interests abroad. By analyzing this particular, conflicted relationship, the book also explores important lessons about colonialism and postcolonialism and the relationship of the United States to the countries in which it maintains military bases.

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## Customer Reviews

Those interested in understanding the Vieques crisis will find *Military Power and Popular Protest* an indispensable work -- Amílcar Antonio Barreto, author of *Vieques, the Navy, and Puerto Rican Politics*

Residents of Vieques, a small island just off the east coast of Puerto Rico, live wedged between an ammunition depot and live bombing range for the U.S. Navy. Since the 1940s when the navy expropriated over two-thirds of the island, residents have struggled to make a life amid the thundering of bombs and rumbling of weaponry fire. Like the army's base in Okinawa, Japan, the facility has drawn vociferous protests from residents who challenged U.S. security interests overseas. In 1999, when a local civilian employee of the base was killed by a stray bomb, Vieques again erupted in protests that have mobilized tens of thousands individuals and transformed this tiny Caribbean Island into the setting for an international cause célèbre. Katherine T. McCaffrey gives a complete analysis of the troubled relationship between the U.S. Navy and island residents. She explores such topics as the history of U.S. naval involvement in Vieques; a grassroots mobilization-led by fishermen-that began in the 1970s; how the navy promised to improve the lives of the island residents-and failed; and the present-day emergence of a revitalized political activism that has effectively challenged naval hegemony. The case of Vieques brings to the fore a major concern within U.S. foreign policy that extends well beyond Puerto Rico: military bases overseas act as lightning rods for anti-American sentiment, thus threatening this country's image and interests abroad. By analyzing this particular, conflicted relationship, the book also explores important lessons about colonialism and postcolonialism and the relationship of the United States to the countries in which it maintains military bases. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I had to read this book for my Puerto Rican culture class and I have to say being a New York Rican I didn't know much about the history of Puerto Rico and this book definitely gives you a great insight into everything that was going on in the Vieques, Puerto Rico and the struggle against the U.S. Navy. This book gets into great detail about the ongoing war and I'm not here to give my opinions on the book or point of view but I want to say if you want to know of the struggles between Puerto Rico and the U.S. you should definitely read this book to find out. It is definitely an interesting and informative book.

sad story in Vieques, but the people love their island and are resilient. Great book,

Informative

Came in great shape, Love it!

Kate McCaffrey conducted on-site research in Vieques for about 10 years in order to present this very clear history of how the US Navy came to Vieques in the 1940's to conduct military practices and how the people of Vieques were successful in ending the bombing in 2003. I have a guest house in Vieques and keep a copy of Kate's book in each of my rooms so that visitors will know that our "island paradise" has been contaminated with 60 years of munitions and our people made sick with cancer and other illnesses from toxic military waste. I hope that everyone who reads this book will support a safe and complete clean up of Vieques and sustainable development of former navy lands that benefits our people. Kathy

good book to read

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