

# Study Guide: Research and Reflect on Guam's Quest for Self-Determination 1

1 of 6 Study guides for individuals and/or small groups

**Subjects:** Political Science, Civics, Government, World History, Guam History, CHamoru Studies

**Grade-level:** High [9-12], College

**Time required:** Research/inquiry 20 - 40 minutes, reflection 60 - 120 minutes

**Materials required:** Access to [guampedia.com](http://guampedia.com), computer

**Note:** Reflection papers can be emailed to instructor to remain paperless

## Objective

Research and Reflect on Guam's Quest for Self-Determination.

## Inquiry statement

The United States began its [colonial administration](#) of Guam in 1898. Today, more than 120 years later, Guam remains a colony of the US as an [unincorporated territory](#). Because of this colonial status, the island and its people lack full self-government and guaranteed civil rights afforded to other US citizens.

## Early Civil Rights and Non-US Citizenship (1898-1944)

When the US began its occupation of Guam at the close of the 19th century, CHamorus were not consulted as to whether they wished for Guam to become an American colony. They had already endured 240 years of Spanish colonialism forced upon them by soldiers and [missionaries](#). From 1898, when Guam was ceded to the US after the [Spanish-American War](#) and up to [World War II](#), more than 30 different [naval officers](#) were assigned to rule Guam with autocratic authority.

[Japan's occupation](#) of Guam during World War II from 1941 to 1944 interrupted US authority on the island, but after the war, Guam returned to its previous role as a US military outpost—and the military governors returned.

### **I. Documentary**

Independent or group viewing of Lazaro Quinata's documentary on [Guam's Quest for Self-determination](#) on Guampedia.com (run time: 8:00 minutes).

- [Self-Determination on Guam](#)

### **II. Entries**

Read aloud designated entries on Guampedia.com

- [Civic Rights and US Citizenship \(1898-1950\)](#)
- [US Naval Era Governors: Contributions and Controversies](#)
- [Guam's Strategic Value](#)

### **III. Reflection Questions**

Students assigned to write a 2-3 page paper based on the reflection questions posed. Encourage students to think critically, to *hasso*, and use their imaginations and share their voices. Questions can be specific to the particular exercise or general to the project.

#### *Suggested reflection*

- Do you think these efforts made by the people of Guam during the early Naval Era were important? Why or why not?
- Is this effort important today? Why or why not?
- What should be our next step to move forward?

## Guampedia study guides in this series

1. Early Civil Rights and Non-US Citizenship (1898-1944)
2. [Post War Reconstruction and Guam Congress Walkout](#)
3. [Organic Act of Guam \(1950\)](#)
4. [Guamanian Era \(1960s – 1970s\)](#)
5. [Contemporary Era \(1980s – Present\)](#)
6. [CHamoru Efforts](#)