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Come On, Bondholders! Give Puerto Rico a Break.

You took on risk. You lost. That's life. Now think of the victims of Hurricane Maria.

Is it possible that Puerto Rico's bondholders are finally coming to their senses? For a few of them at least, it certainly looks like an overdue change of heart has taken place. And to think: All it took was a Category 4 hurricane that destroyed the island.

It's hardly a secret, of course, that Puerto Rico owes its bondholders far more money than it can ever possibly repay: a staggering \$74 billion for an island with population that hovers around 3.2 million. (By contrast, the nation of Argentina, which had a population of 37 million when it defaulted in 2001, owed its bondholders only \$6 billion more at the time.)

But while the debt has received a great deal of attention in the three weeks since Hurricane Maria hit — especially once President Donald Trump started mentioning it in tweets — Puerto Rico has been struggling to find a way out of its predicament at least since the summer of 2015, when the government first began defaulting on bond payments.

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Bloomberg View

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