

The Untold Story of Hawaii

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Hawaii is known as the fiftieth state and a tropical paradise, but how Hawaii came to join the United States is a story very few know. Most people just accept the fact that Hawaii is a state and a great place to visit. What most people do not know is that Hawaii only became a state after its government was overthrown and its people stripped of their rights.

Hawaii's government was taken over on January 17, 1893, by a small group of Americans. The American men were after one thing and that is sugar. Sugar was the most popular and profitable item the islands had to offer. Many Europeans joined the Americans in moving to Hawaii to make money in growing sugar cane and selling it all over the world. Most of the native Hawaiians were workers for the Americans who owned the plantations where the sugar cane was grown. These plantations have been handed down from the old missionaries that first brought religion to the islands. Since Hawaii has no mountains full of gold or other resources to make money, the farming industry was the only way of making a living. In 1826, the United States saw Hawaii as its own nation and imposed importing taxes on the sugar sold to the United States. The Americans who owned the sugar producing lands hated paying importing taxes because they were from the United States. Because of the high taxes on sugar importing, the plantation owners were not making nearly as much as the U.S. government did on sugar. High import taxes were the bases for what was to become a revolution by the American land owners.

King Kalakaua, who was the head of the Hawaiian government had a great respect for the United States, and always tried to keep good tidings with the American people. The Hawaiian people loved their monarchs, most likely because it was the people of Hawaii who elected



their Kings or Queens and not because of some royal bloodline. In 1887, the Hawaiian League was formed; it consisted of plantation owners, and businessmen. The Hawaiian League was led



by American Lorrin A. Thurston; their goal was to control the Kingdom of Hawaii through politics and the economy. There were only 400 members in the Hawaiian League, compared to the over 40,000 native Hawaiians.

While the league's true mission was to overthrow the monarchy, they told the native people that the Hawaiian League was there to help reform the

Hawaiian government. King Kalakaua dealt with the League and had no intentions of changing their government around just to make the Americans more money. The more the King argued the angrier the Hawaiian League got. There were talks within the League about killing the King and taking over completely. Some of the League members belonged to another group called the Honolulu Rifles which was in service of the King. The King was later taken into his palace by force, and ordered to sign a document that gave the entire King's power to his cabinet. This document was called the "Bayonet Constitution" because of how the King was forced to sign it. The new constitution said that the King should remain in his place and nobody was to know about how much decision making power the cabinet had. The constitution also said that no member of the cabinet could be taken out of office by the King. The Bayonet Constitution was just the beginning of the end of the monarchy.

On January 20, 1891, King Kalakaua died which left his sister Lili'uokalani as the new



Queen of Hawaii. Now that King Kalakaua had died, Lorrin Thurston, leader of the Hawaiian League decided to form a new organization, the Annexation Club. This time Thurston would not just control the Kingdom using the Queen, he wanted the monarchy destroyed. In early 1893, the Queen of

Hawaii tried to stop Thurston from succeeding, and wrote her own constitution that gave the power back to the native Hawaiians. Thurston found out about the Queen's plans to stop him and formed a group called the Committee of Safety, who told the Hawaiian people that if the Queen tried to change the existing constitution, it was a revolutionary act. On January 15, 1893, Thurston called his friend, Minister John Stevens, who was in control of an American battleship, the U.S.S. Boston. Thurston demanded that Stevens send all the troops on the ship to land and help them take over the land. Thurston told Stevens that American lives were in danger because of the Queen, when the reality was the Native Hawaiians were in danger because of Thurston. Two days later, threatened with the killing of her people Queen Lili'uokalani gave up her throne. The Queen surrendered Hawaii's Kingdom to the "superior force of the United States" as she stated in her resignation paper. The Queen specifically used the words "superior force" to have it documented that Hawaii was taken by an act of war.

Annexation is the first step in making another country a part of the United States. When a country is in the process of annexation, there is a vote which must take place before it is officially a U.S. Territory. Alaska had a vote where its citizens decided that it would be in their best interest to become a territory, this is just one step below a U.S. state. The people of Hawaii were not allowed to vote whether or not to become part of the U.S. territories. The Hawaiian people made a petition with over 29,000 signatures and had it sent to Congress, where it was decided that the Hawaiian's did not know what was in their best interest. President Grover Cleveland was the only person who opposed the annexation of Hawaii. Unfortunately President Cleveland's term ended before he could get the treaty that Queen Lili'uokalani signed dismissed. It was the next President, McKinley who agreed with the Annexation Club, and left the Queen's treaty in tact. Unlike the Native Alaskans and the people of the Virgin Islands, the people of

Hawaii had no opinion in deciding their fate. On August 12, 1898, the Kingdom of Hawaii was officially transferred to the United States through a joint resolution of Congress. Even though a joint resolution of Congress has no legal standing in a foreign country, which is what Hawaii was, the land was still turned over. The Hawaiian people had lost everything, their land, their Queen, and their independence. Many liberalists have compared the illegal invasion of Hawaii to the Persian Gulf War, where Iraq wanted to take over Kuwait. President Bush led us into the Gulf War because it is illegal to invade a country just to make your own country richer (Nichols O'Keefe, Ken. July 16, 2002).

It turns out, the goal of taking over Hawaii was not just about sugar and avoiding importation taxes, it was also about establishing a strong military presence in the Pacific Ocean. In 1941 President Roosevelt decided that in order to get America to want to join the war against Hitler, America had to get Japan to attack the United States. Roosevelt felt that if he cut the oil supply to Japan and made the military presence in Hawaii stronger he could bait the Japanese into attack Pearl Harbor. The Japanese did attack Pearl Harbor in December of 1941, and America found itself in the middle of World War 2. After World War 2, Hawaii was in the final stages of becoming an official state. Right before a U.S. Territory can become



a state there must be a vote, a plebiscite as it is called. The plebiscite must have a total of three choices on the ballot, the first is to become a state, the second is to remain a U.S. Territory, and the third is to return to an independent country. In 1959 the citizens of Hawaii had their chance to vote, but the people only had two choices on their ballot, either become a state or remain a U.S. Territory. The United States had robbed the Hawaiian people of their independence again.

Now with only two choices on their ballot, the Hawaiian people chose to become the fiftieth state, rather than remain a territory.

It wasn't until 1988, that a study from the U.S. Justice Department showed that Congress never had the right to send Hawaii to annexation without the native's consent. On November 23, 1993, President Clinton signed public law 103-150, which acknowledged the illegal overthrow of



Hawaii's monarchy by the United States. The public law also had an apology act that stated how Minister John Stevens conspired with other non-Hawaiians to overthrow the Kingdom of Hawaii. Even though the public law shows how the United States illegally took over Hawaii, it

does not say anything about giving Hawaii back to its people. The U.S. government has said that if Hawaii was returned to its people, the Hawaiians would owe the government money for all the improvements made to the state since it became a U.S. Territory. The people of Hawaii do not want to change anything other than where all the tax money will go. The Hawaiians want the taxes to benefit the Hawaiian land and its people. On November 22, 2002, Alii Nui (High Chief and King) Edmund Kelii Silva was elected king in order to help the Hawaiian people establish their independence. On June 24, 2003, the Hawaiian Declaration of Independence was handed to the White House, and then delivered to the United Nations two days later. The United States State Department has been talking with King Silva but to this day nothing has been resolved.

Although the United States government has completely apologized for its actions, no amount of apologies will undo then lies and illegalities done to the Hawaiian people. The truth about how Hawaii became a state has been show to the world and still there has been no action



taken against the United States.
Every single step in the way that
Hawaii became a state has been
filled with violation upon
violation of laws that are written
to protect the people of the

world. The United States has always had a hidden agenda when it comes to Hawaii, whether it was the sugar or Pearl Harbor, the United States needed to own Hawaii and did so by any means necessary. One fact remains constant, Hawaii is one of the most beautiful places on earth to visit or live, and no amount of injustice will ever change that.