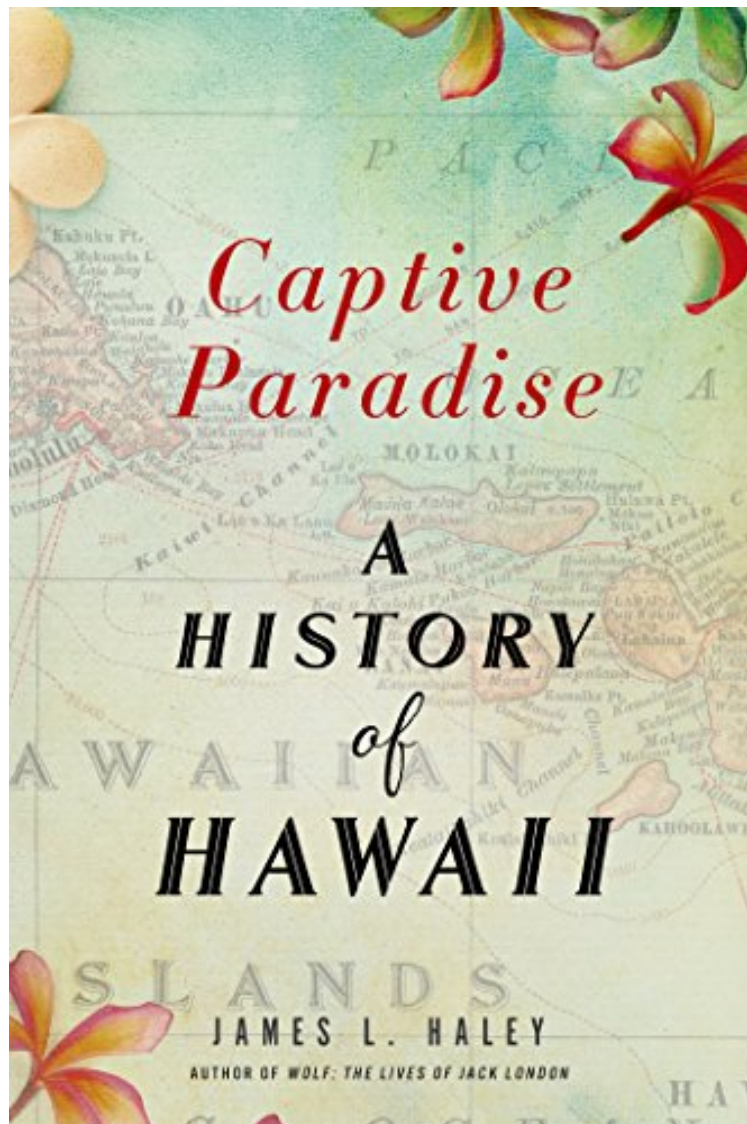


Captive Paradise: A History of Hawaii

James L. Haley

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#296272 in Books Haley James L 2015-12-08 2015-12-08 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.92 x 1.21 x 5.741, .0 #File Name: 1250070392464 pages Captive Paradise A History of Hawaii | File size: 74.Mb

James L. Haley : Captive Paradise: A History of Hawaii before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Captive Paradise: A History of Hawaii:

10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Not Quite Captivating but a Well Presented History By MJ "That Hawaii would one day end up a possession of an imperial power seems inevitable." Thus concludes James L. Haley in Captive Paradise: A History of Hawaii. Hawaii was a pawn in an era of shifting global power, a central theme of Haley's book. He discloses upfront and unapologetically his intent to present Hawaii's saga with objectivity, no easy

feat given the controversial nature of his subject. Haley opines that there was a time when political correctness meant telling the Hawaii story as one of America's greatness, rationalizing the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands in paternalistic terms. More recently, the trend has been to focus on the plight of Hawaiian natives, condemning the exploitative behavior of imperialists. Haley argues convincingly that reality lies somewhere in between these two perspectives. Before the arrival of the imperialistic powers, native chiefs and kings at times inflicted unspeakable horrors on the common people; in the imperialistic era, European powers, and later Americans opportunists, exploited the simple and trusting people of Hawaii in a power struggle that ended with American domination. Haley captures the breadth of this complicated and troubled history in a seemingly balanced manner. His writing is a bit dry, but his facts are well researched and presented. The book is slow to engage the reader, perhaps in part because the names of people and places are so dissonant to most of us. But eventually *Captive Paradise* does engage. For anyone interested in more than the stunning beauty of Hawaii and its storied beaches, I recommend persevering and reading Haley's book through the final chapter. It will not disappoint.

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Not your Mother and Father's History of Hawai'i (which is good) By Reader 2 This book is truly a gem. It was very well written (which means readable despite having immense amounts of information). It appears to be well-researched. And it does not seem to have a particular axe to grind. Instead it looks at the talents and flaws in everyone who lived in, ruled, and influenced Hawaii from the pre-contact period onward. It explores all of the internal forces that led to and helped shape change through the period. And it does not portray Hawaiians as victims but rather as quite successful (but not perfect) navigators of a century (the 19th) in which they did a whole lot better at maintaining their sovereignty and culture than did most Pacific, African, or southeast Asian peoples. This is an important book, and it should be read and argued over by everyone who is interested in understanding the dynamics of the period.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Balanced view of Hawaiian History By Rory Wade-Easley The author does an excellent job of relating the chronology of the Hawaiian islands. As with any historical account, an educated analysis is more valuable than the facts. That is where the author succeeds brilliantly. While trying to relate the facts in a neutral voice, allowing the reader to come to their own conclusions, he purposely avoids the whitewash that seems to permeate current historical analysis. This refreshingly lends a perspective that counter-balances current academia's sensitive extremes. The first portion of the book sets up the detailed account of the final portion, the illegal overthrow of the royal government. I honestly couldn't put it down, even knowing the eventual outcomes.

The most recent state to join the union, Hawaii is the only one to have once been a royal kingdom. After its "discovery" by Captain Cook in the late 18th Century, Hawaii was fought over by European powers determined to take advantage of its position as the crossroads of the Pacific. The arrival of the first missionaries marked the beginning of the struggle between a native culture with its ancient gods, sexual libertinism and rites of human sacrifice, and the rigid values of the Calvinists. While Hawaii's royal rulers adopted Christianity, they also fought to preserve their ancient ways. But the success of the ruthless American sugar barons sealed their fate and in 1893, the American Marines overthrew Lili'uokalani, the last queen of Hawaii. James L. Haley's *Captive Paradise* is the story of King Kamehameha I, The Conqueror, who unified the islands through terror and bloodshed, but whose dynasty succumbed to inbreeding; of Gilded Age tycoons like Claus Spreckels who brilliantly outmaneuvered his competitors; of firebrand Lorrin Thurston, who was determined that Hawaii be ruled by whites; of President McKinley, who presided over the eventual annexation of the islands. Not for decades has there been such a vibrant and compelling portrait of an extraordinary place and its people.

"In this single hefty volume... Haley tells the quarter-millennium story of Hawaii's recent progress... This book presents a potent reminder of the crucial significance of Hawaii... "Captive Paradise" begins with a memorably fine account of the murderous moments leading up to Captain Cook's death at Kealahou Bay on the Big Island in 1779." ?Wall Street Journal "[A] compelling warts-and-all history of Hawaii's era of independence... James L. Haley explores it with commendable nuance and respect for native Hawaiians as active agents in the shaping of their country's destiny." ?The Daily Beast "A pertinent work of keen understanding of the complex Hawaiian story." ?Kirkus "[An] excellent survey of Hawaii's history... This is a revealing and balanced view" ?Booklist "A haunting tale... Brimming with phrases in the Hawaiian language, this meticulously researched account contains everything from local folklore to biographies of pre-statehood rulers... essential for readers interested in American history or politics" ?Library Journal "Haley's story goes beyond surfboards and orchids; it is a dramatic history of the U.S.'s most recent and complex state." ?Shelf-Awareness "Haley's narrative is certainly satisfying. In addition to the rich detail about the culture and the three-dimensional portraits of historical figures, the pace is quick and conveys the rapidity with which Hawaii became a powerful part of the Pacific." ?The Roanoke Times "Totally engaging, slightly off-kilter narrative ... enlivened by Haley's very effective character sketching ... and his readings of these characters are almost always refreshing. ... worth reading even by the wary." ?Open Letters Monthly "Historian and biographer James Haley charts Hawaii's epic journey from kingdom to statehood with authority." ?Road Scholar "[Haley's] excellent exploration of the legendary figures of Hawaiian culture avoids the revisionist tendency to 'rhapsodize over the natives' lost

innocence' and 'gloss over the horrors of precontact life... This balanced perspective is certainly welcome in the canon of Hawaiian history... this is an otherwise eye-opening study of Hawaii before it became a modern tourism capital--the Hawaii which continues to fascinate Westerners today." ?Publishers WeeklyAbout the AuthorJAMES L. HALEY is a critically acclaimed historian and biographer. His books have been praised by Publishers Weekly who called *Passionate Nation: An Epic History of Texas* "Outstanding." USA Today called his book *Wolf: The Lives of Jack London* "fascinating," and The Wall Street Journal said that Haley "surpasses Irving Stone."