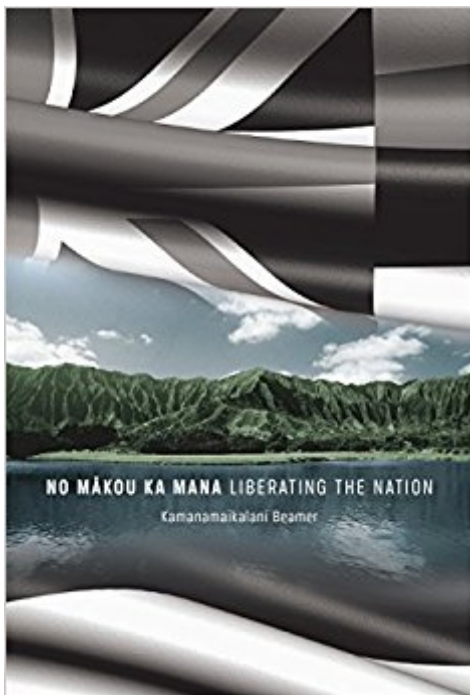


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No MÄkou Ka Mana: Liberating The Nation



Synopsis

Winner - 2015 Samuel M. Kamakau Award for Hawai'i Book of the Year
Winner - 2015 Ka Palapala Po'okela Award of Excellence in Hawaiian Language, Culture and History
No Mākou ka Mana asserts that the founders of the Hawaiian Kingdom exercised their own agency and were not just acted upon by foreign powers. The ruling ali'i selectively appropriated tools and ideas from the West--including laws, religion, educational models, protocols, weapons, printing and map-making technologies, seafaring vessels, clothing, names, and international alliances. The result? A hybrid system based on an enduring tradition of Hawaiian governance intended to preserve, strengthen, and maintain the Iāhūi. Using rare primary documents and "ā'ā'iwi optics," Kamanamaikalani Beamer offers a new point of reference for understanding the motivations, methods and accomplishments of Hawai'i's great leaders. No Mākou ka Mana is exhaustively researched, carefully written, and powerfully argued...a major contribution to Hawaiian history and Hawaiian studies...The clear analysis, engaging narrative, and original voice will serve as inspiration to other small nations and indigenous peoples the world over." --Noenoe Silva
"Beamer's study highlights native agency in the face of Western imperialism. This is a dicey political trade-off for Kānaka Maoli, who must sacrifice the role of victim--and its political potential for reparation--in order to explore the nature of native cooperation and engagement with Europeans and Americans and their nineteenth-century imperialist agendas...Ultimately, if we are to have a clearer sense of what colonialism really is in the modern age--not just about conquest, but more about influence and hegemony--we need this book." --Jonathan Kay Kamakawiwo'ole Osorio

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Customer Reviews

This well researched and written informative and insightful book by Professor Beamer gave me a new appreciation of the history and internationalization of Hawaii by King Kamehameha I and his descendants, and the injustice suffered by the kingdom and people of Hawaii through the "annexation" of Hawaii. His wisdom and foresight were trully inspiring. The treaties with the English Crown, the around-the-world journey of David Kalakaua to develop alliances with European and Asian heads of state to counteract the effort by the Washington bureaucracy and American interests in Hawaii was not fully known to me before I read this book. While the Royalty and Alii class could not stop the takeover of the Constitutional Monarchy by the U.S. Government, the internationalization of Hawaii through its immigration policies, and the culture of Ohana (family) and Aloha (welcome, friendship, affection) led to the multi-ethnic/multi-cultural of Hawaii today. I was impressed and inspired by the prescience of Kamehameha II King David Kalakaua and Queen Liliuokalani were well-educated, intelligent leaders of the Hawaiian nation. The key to the future of the State of Hawaii is to be found in this book. Ancient One ("Makule" in Hawaiian, I am not an ethnic Hawaiian, but I live in Hawaii, a descendant of immigrant parents.) Son of immigrant Japanese parents and 9th president of the University of Hawaii System.

"Occupation describes a situation where one independent state has seized control or governance within the territory of another independent state. Significantly, occupations are not permanent and are governed by principles of international law." (p. 233). Thus one might refer to 1945 when the United States seized control of Japan after World War II as an occupation, not a colonization. To Dr. Kamanamaikalani Beamer, the 1893 seizure of control of the Kingdom of Hawai'i was and is an occupation. He and other like-thinking 'Oiwi (Native Hawaiians) are working diligently to end the occupation and restore the Hawaiian Kingdom. "No Makou Ka Mana: Liberating the Nation" is written with great precision of terms as a contribution to articulating the historical foundations of the nation's rights and avoiding the ramifications of seeing Hawaii as a colony of the United

States. These foundations center on governance, established international standing as an independent & jurisdictionally equal nation, and land ownership before and immediately after the 1893 seizure. The interest of such a book to Native Hawaiians speaks for itself. My review considers what a haole may find in a book I believe to be of great interest. Readers should keep in mind, however, that I have no standing other than as a malahini who loves Hawai'i and seeks to learn as much as possible. Dr. Beamer focuses on affirmative themes: "(1) how a group of Hawaiian ali'i confronted Europeans and Americans to form a nation-state in the nineteenth century; (2) how natives exercised their agency even while Hawaiian nationalism began to decline following the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom government in 1893, and (3) how 'O'iwi today can be emboldened by gaining a better understanding of the wisdom of our ali'i and the choices they made to benefit the lahui." (p. 3) In my view, Dr. Beamer excels in documenting that the Hawaiian kingdom was and had a well-established government. During the nineteenth century this government developed, as most governments do over the years, by adapting existing practices, policies, and procedures. In this case, he examines closely the agency (power) by which the ali'i and mo'i selected traditional elements as most appropriate to carry forward and which new elements they selected as their knowledge of other governments expanded. Fascinating! Dr. Beamer excels also in telling the story of the international recognition of the Kingdom in establishing mutual treaties and agreements such as sovereign states develop. In this, agreements with nations such as Japan and Great Britain were particularly fruitful. I found the efforts to develop a pan-Polynesian "republic" particularly far-sighted and illustrative of mo'i statesmanship. To my mind, these elements help strongly to establish the pre-1893 existence of a functioning kingdom according to international law as I understand it. I also appreciated the respect and governance powers accorded women (including supreme powers) as well as men long before the United States was so enlightened. Dr. Beamer is effective also in documenting a second element: land ownership and distribution, centering on the Crown lands. Maps, documents, laws, and other primary sources were, to me, a revelation in the pre 1893 thoroughness & legal detail of this aspect of the Kingdom---and the rapacity and greed of those who overthrew the Kingdom with regard to land tenure. I found that was, in thoroughness and detail, grippingly interesting. In a third area, the wisdom of the ali'i and mo'i, I feel Dr. Beamer would have done fuller justice to his themes by acknowledging what I understand from other sources to be a self-inflicted wound: selling Hawaiian assets such as sandalwood and accumulating debts that would drive the Kingdom almost into the arms of the money-lenders. These men were, as I understand things & have noted above, predatory as sharks and seemingly without principles. However, the ali'i and mo'i may not have been flawless exemplars of fiscal wisdom and

selfless fiduciary care for the people. While courageous & vigilant as Dr. Beamer describes, with regard to blocking military efforts such as the proposed Pearl Harbor treaty, they may have been less so with regard to fiscal matters & the sugar barons. As a preference, while understanding the affirmative intent, I would have liked a reading list in this fiscal/fiduciary area as well as a guide to other points of view. In closing, I apologize for any hurtful or ignorant statements and the lack of proper punctuation. These comments may, however, be helpful in sharing what a haole/malahini might see in this book and how very highly I recommend it.

Awesome work, it returns agency to Native Hawaiians at the same time explaining the constraints of that agency by the global imperialism that was rampant in the Pacific. Simply explained without getting lost in academic jargon, highly recommended for those interested in Hawaiian history from a Hawaiian perspective.

Extremely well researched and documented. Well written and straightforward. Beamer provides a plausible path forward for justice.

A must read if only to get a better idea of the internal up-swelling of Native Hawaii discontent.

Kamana Beamer does an awesome job in re-telling Native Hawaiian political history. The archived documents he uncovered and shares in this book alone make it worth the purchase. To say this is well-researched is an understatement. Uploaded here is an image of one of the archived documents Beamer shares with readers - an 1810 letter from Kamehameha I to King George IV.

very good reading would recommend to everybody

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