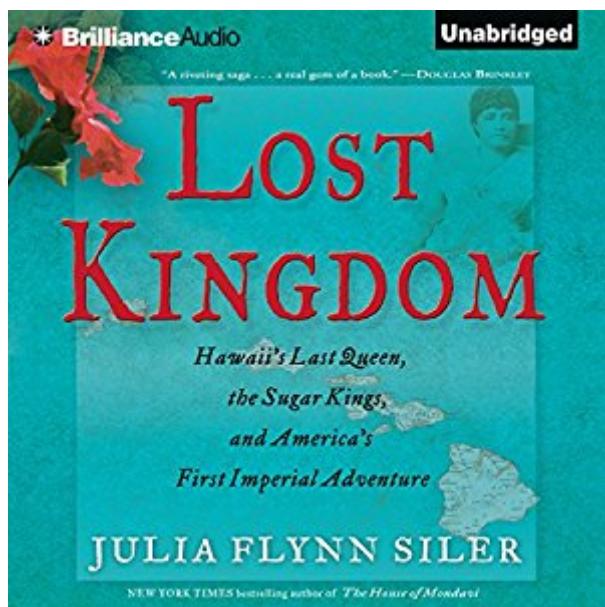


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# Lost Kingdom: Hawaii's Last Queen, The Sugar Kings, And America's First Imperial Adventure



## Synopsis

First colonized around 200 A.D. by intrepid Polynesian islanders, Hawaii existed for hundreds of years in splendid isolation. Foreigners did not visit the islands until 1788, when Captain Cook, looking for the fabled Northwest Passage, stumbled upon this nation with its own belief system and culture. Three decades later, fourteen Calvinist missionaries left Boston bound for Hawaii, and when they arrived they converted the royal family to Christianity, and set up missionary schools where English was taught. A thriving monarchy had ruled over Hawaii for generations. Taro fields and fish ponds had long sustained native Hawaiians but sugar plantations had been gradually subsuming them. This fractured, vulnerable Hawaii was the country that Queen Lili'uokalani, or Lili'u, inherited when she came to power at the end of the nineteenth century. Her predecessor had signed away many of the monarchy's rights, but while Lili'u was trying to put into place a constitution that would reinstate them, other factions were plotting annexation. With the help of the American envoy, the USS Boston steamed into Honolulu harbor, and Marines landed and marched to the palace, inciting the Queen's overthrow. The annexation of Hawaii was extremely controversial; the issue caused heated debates in the Senate and President Cleveland gave a strongly worded speech opposing it. This was the first time America had reached beyond the borders of the continental U.S. in an act of imperialism. It was not until President McKinley was elected and the Spanish-American War erupted, that Hawaii became a critical strategic asset, and annexation finally passed Congress in 1898.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book was recommended to me by a friend in Hawaii. It is about Hawaii's early years and its kings and queens that reigned over the island. It was a very informative book and written so well that I was able to picture life in Hawaii during those years. It was filled with fascinating items about the monarchy and the people who moved to Hawaii and how they influenced life on the island. I was enjoying it so much, that I was disappointed when I finished the book. I would recommend this book to anyone who would like to know more about Hawaii and how it came to be our 50th state.

The book started out slow, not getting to the main person and her monarchy until near the end. But it is highly interesting and sad the White men's greed stole this kingdom's sovereignty.

Hawaii and its people could have done worse than to become the US state, but the methods employed were regrettable. America's history, in the main, has been admirable, however this book relates a sorry chapter. The book is well written and pretty even handed in its reenactment of the regrettable affair of annexation by the USA.

This book immerses the reader into the time of the end of the monarchy. The Hawaiian people lost a lot due to the first century of contact with the outside world, but the book is well balanced and certainly shows that the Hawaiian dynasty of rulers were themselves far from perfect. The book does not try to show the royals as perfect innocents who made no bad decisions, and it also shows the disgraceful trickery that the provincial plotters used to steal away the kingdom.

I remember being a young teen when Hawaii was given statehood in the USA. Now I know the history of Hawaiians' struggles and entanglement with powers seeking to change traditions, to own land and businesses, take over political powers, to ignore the Hawaiian culture and mock its people. Well written account.

love reading history especially about the islands. So sad these other countries feel entitled to just come into a place and ruin someone else's lifestyle since it is different from theirs, as if they are superior. This was a very good read

my husband wanted this book and i was going to get it a Costco for a nice price but this price was the best of any price i saw and the book was everything he had hoped for.....

Julia Flynn Siler's *The Lost Kingdom* is a must read for anyone interested in the history of Hawaii and how it came to be a U.S. territory and state. Many of the until now untold stories finally come to light through Siler's scrupulous research to give a fair and even handed treatment of the intrigues and machinations of all those responsible for the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy, including members of the monarchy itself, and the major issues of land and power that continue to this day to plague Hawaii. Siler includes a very useful and helpful annotated list of all the key players. She carefully lays out the chronology of events that makes this story highly readable, never dull, and extremely significant in America's Pacific venture.

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