

Racial and Ethnic Minorities
Sociology 225
Essential Knowledge of Hawaiian Americans

Hawaiian Ethnogenesis

- I. South Sea Islanders---Polynesians---discover and settle the Hawaiian Islands circa 400 AD.
{Hawaii, Oahu, Molokai, Lanai, Maui, Kahoolawe, Kauai, and Niihau}
- II. Native settlers become isolated from the rest of the world until 1778 after being discovered by British Captain James Cook.
- III. Hawaiian people evolve their own unique vowel-rich language, polytheistic religion, hierarchical social structure, and dynamic civilization {hula dancing, ukulele music, human sacrifice, and surfing} between 400 AD and 1776.
- IV. King Kamehameha reigns from 1770 to 1819 and becomes culture hero of Hawaiian people.
- V. Era of indigenous cultural collapse under *haole* influence {1778-1850}
 - A) American missionaries arrive and bring Western religion and civilization to the natives
 - B) Human sacrifice, hula dancing, and grass skirts are banned as barbaric and uncivilized
 - C) American capitalism imported to Hawaii by Bostonian William Hooper who creates the first sugar plantation
 - D) The Great Mahele (1848-1850) dissolves communal ownership of land in the Hawaiian Islands
 - E) Native population plummets from an estimated 300,000 to only about 40,000 people by 1850 as a result of contagious diseases unknown to the Islands until after their discovery in 1778
- VI. Ethnic diversification of the Hawaiian population grows under *haole* social, economic, and political dominance from 1850 to 1944.
{Chinese, Portuguese, Norwegian, Japanese, Puerto Rican, Korean, Filipino, Samoan immigrant waves arrive on sugar plantations}
 - A) Organic Act of 1900 annexes Hawaii as US territory and Hawaiian people become "limited citizens" of the United States
 - B) Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1921 sets aside 200,000 acres of primitive settlement land for landless natives (for example, Papakolea on Oahu)
- VII. Asian American (especially Japanese and Chinese) economic and political ascendance on the Hawaiian Islands since World War II.
 - A) Hawaiian language becomes co-official state language in 1978
 - B) Interracial marriage on the Islands averages about 30 percent since 1950
 - C) Hawaii becomes a US state in 1959
 - D) Hawaii is only US state with no history of racially segregationist policies of any kind