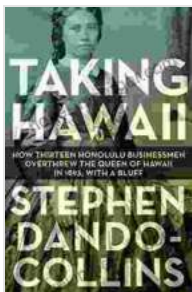


How Thirteen Honolulu Businessmen Overthrew The Queen Of Hawaii In 1893



Taking Hawaii: How Thirteen Honolulu Businessmen Overthrew the Queen of Hawaii in 1893, With a Bluff

by Stephen Dando-Collins

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 2507 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 360 pages
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In the annals of history, the overthrow of Queen Lili'uokalani of Hawaii in 1893 stands as a testament to both the fragility of power and the audacity of ambition. The perpetrators of this audacious act were not formidable military leaders or seasoned revolutionaries, but a group of thirteen Honolulu businessmen, driven by a mix of greed, political opportunism, and a deep-seated desire to assert their dominance over the islands.

At the heart of this treacherous plot was Lorrin Thurston, a wealthy sugar planter and the mastermind behind the coup. Thurston, fueled by a burning desire to maintain his economic interests and expand his influence, rallied a group of like-minded associates to his cause.

Among Thurston's co-conspirators were Claus Spreckels, a wealthy sugar baron, and Sanford Ballard Dole, a prominent lawyer and future president of the Republic of Hawaii. Together, they formed a secret society known as the "Committee of Safety," dedicated to undermining the Queen's authority and seizing power for themselves.

The Queen, a beloved and respected figure among her people, had ascended to the throne in 1891. However, her reign was met with growing opposition from the foreign-born businessmen who controlled much of Hawaii's economy. These businessmen resented the Queen's attempts to protect the rights of native Hawaiians and preserve their traditional culture.

In 1893, Queen Lili'uokalani proposed a new constitution that would have reduced the power of the white minority and strengthened the authority of the monarchy. This move was seen as a grave threat by the Committee of Safety, who feared that their economic and political dominance would be curtailed.

With the support of a contingent of U.S. Marines, the Committee of Safety swiftly moved to overthrow the Queen. On January 17, 1893, they stormed Iolani Palace, the royal residence, and forced the Queen to abdicate. The Hawaiian monarchy, which had ruled for centuries, was extinguished in a matter of hours.

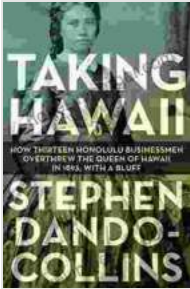
In the aftermath of the coup, the Committee of Safety established a provisional government, with Sanford Ballard Dole as its president. The United States quickly recognized the new government, effectively annexing Hawaii and turning it into a territory.

The overthrow of Queen Lili'uokalani was a pivotal event in Hawaiian history. It marked the end of an era of Hawaiian independence and the beginning of American dominance over the islands. The actions of the thirteen Honolulu businessmen who orchestrated the coup had far-reaching consequences, shaping the political and cultural landscape of Hawaii for generations to come.

In 1898, Hawaii was officially annexed by the United States, becoming a territory and eventually, in 1959, the 50th state of the Union.

The story of the overthrow of Queen Lili'uokalani serves as a cautionary tale about the dangers of unchecked ambition and the fragility of political power. It is a reminder that even the most entrenched institutions can be

toppled by a small group of determined individuals willing to resort to treachery and deceit.

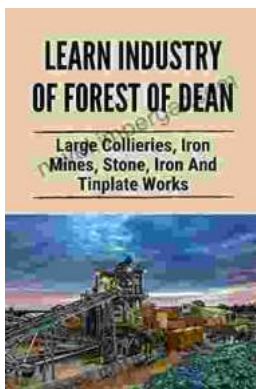


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