

Those people, John in particular, who went against convention and generated an alternative viewpoint, also generated a new set of possibilities. These new possibilities begin with taking the Hawaiian nation seriously, and they lead to a serious reexamination of America's history in the Pacific.

Tom Coffman
Kāne'ohe, Hawai'i, 1998

A NOTE ON THE SECOND EDITION

I am as pleased as any writer with a second edition and grateful to my new publisher, Arnold Kotler, for his commitment and interest.

I am compelled to add that the continued relevance of this book reflects a far-reaching political, moral and intellectual failure of the United States to recognize and deal with its takeover of Hawai'i.

In the book's subtitle, the word *Annexation* has been replaced by the word *Occupation*, referring to America's occupation of Hawai'i. Where annexation connotes legality by mutual agreement, the act was not mutual and therefore not legal. Since by definition of international law there was no annexation, we are left then with the word *occupation*.

In making this change, I have embraced the logical conclusion of my research into the events of 1893 to 1898 in Honolulu and Washington, D.C. I am prompted to take this step by a growing body of historical work by a new generation of Native Hawaiian scholars. Dr. Keanu Sai writes, "The challenge for ... the fields of political science, history, and law is to distinguish between the rule of law and the politics of power." In the history of Hawai'i, the might of the United States does not make it right.

In the years between the 1993 Apology Resolution (by the U.S. Congress to the Hawaiian people) and 2000, the Democratic Party fumbled away its opportunity to set in motion a process of negotiation between the United States government and the submerged nation of Hawai'i. Thereafter, the more nakedly imperial Republicans

succeeded in quashing the debate. The administration of a President who led the United States to occupy Iraq also, by some of the same impulses, led the United States away from examining its past as it pertains to the status of Hawai'i.

Dear President Obama of Hawai'i, let us go back and start over. With truth might come some form of reconciliation. And with it, the once bright promise of Hawai'i would be renewed.

Tom Coffman
Hawai'i, 2009