

Paul F. Hooper, *Elusive Destiny: The Internationalist Movement in Modern Hawaii*, Honolulu: The University Press of Hawaii, 1980. Pp. 240. \$15.00.

This wide-ranging and diverse work is an interpretive description of internationalism in nineteenth and twentieth century Hawai'i, termed by the author as a role for Hawai'i in the international affairs of the Pacific basin.

Mid-nineteenth century Hawai'i was drawn into the vortex of international rivalry among major foreign powers in the Pacific. Gradually, however, as Hawai'i's precarious independence as a kingdom was acknowledged, island political leaders began to initiate overtures into the political life of the Pacific. Foreign minister Robert Wyllie is credited by Hooper as perceiving Hawai'i as a superior form of society with an obligation to provide "moral leadership" in the affairs of the Pacific. This notion formed the "basic rationale" for subsequent internationalist activism. The "Primacy of the Pacific" doctrine, perhaps too rashly conceived, appears to have been an immature response to rapidly developing situations in the insular Pacific. The awry *Kaimiloa* expedition to Samoa, sanctioned by the **Kalākaua** cabinet, was an outgrowth of such a doctrine and perhaps Hawai'i's first adventure in interventionist politics. The incredulity and amusement by which the *Kaimiloa* expedition was greeted by the German administration was hardly an auspicious beginning for Hawai'i foreign policy. No matter how amusing and ultimately dismaying this era in Hawai'i foreign policy may have been, concludes Hooper, it was still a time of "extraordinary significance" so far as the subsequent Hawai'i undertakings in the internationalist realm are concerned.

The annexation of Hawai'i to the United States terminated direct island involvement in international affairs in the Pacific. The movement, however, pursued new ways of expression and activity. The founding of *Mid-Pacific Magazine*, the Hands-Around-the-Pacific club and even the Outrigger Canoe Club illustrated the vitality of international awareness in Hawai'i. The Pan-Pacific Union became the primary organization that would transform internationalism from a frequently ineffectual, often commercially-oriented, and little known effort into an authentic international movement fundamentally concerned with political and cultural relations. The organization was riveted to the task of brokering a leadership role for Hawai'i in Pacific affairs. The formation of the Institute of Pacific Relations in 1925 made important contributions to Asian, Pacific, and East-West scholarship. It is clear that such organizations were convinced, as Wyllie was, that the multi-cultural community of Hawai'i was a particular paradigm for the international community to emulate.

This notion still continues today. Though many such organizations and publications have disappeared or have dissolved, the internationalist movement has continued to pursue its objectives with basically the same strategies and beliefs. It may be said that the major contribution and achievement of the Hawai'i internationalist movement was to promote an idea of Pacific community that ran counter to the isolationist and "yellow peril" positions that permeated metropolitan policies in the Pacific

during the first half of the twentieth century. Whether this movement has outlived its usefulness today merely forms the next threshold question in the forthcoming years.

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