

U.S. EMPIRE IN THE LATE 19TH CENTURY

essential understandings

The rise of the U.S. empire stemmed from:

1. Economic competition (as seen in Bananas)
2. Ideologies about race
3. Geopolitical competition



natives and the logic of removal

What drove further native removal & land dispossession?

1. government financing for railroad expansion
2. the Homestead Act of 1862: western migration
3. desire for statehood

how did dispossession take place?

1. broken treaties & the Indian Appropriation Act
2. destruction of the buffalo by the Army



hawai'i before colonization

the connection between life & land

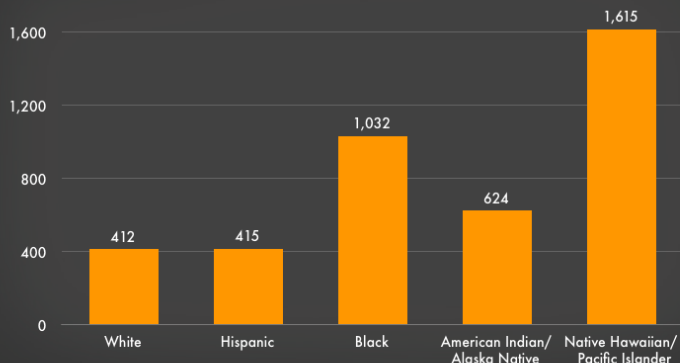
- * deep cosmological ties & responsibility (kūcāna) to the land (ʻāina)
- * land was stewarded by chiefs (aliʻi) for the common good

the conception of land changed with:

- * the settlement of Protestant missionaries, Western merchants and the rise of plantations

HAWAII INCARCERATION RATES BY RACE/ETHNICITY, 2010

(Number of people incarcerated per 100,000 people in that racial/ethnic group)



notes

- * **radical reconstruction** - the time period after the CW when the federal government sought to rebuild the South (returning to the same racism that African-Americans endured before) → this racist regime was Jim Crow. Eventually the feds allowed the South (and former Confederates) to "redeem" itself

→ **the result**: a brief period of political and economic empowerment for emancipated African Americans, which was quickly destroyed & replaced by Jim Crow

- * **broken treaties and railroad financing**: feds underwrote railroads and responded violently to native protest
- * **the homestead act of 1862**: allowed white settlers to claim land that they lived on for set period of time; discrimination rampant against A.A.; could gain more than 160 acres of land (this was not officially repealed in all states until 1980s)
- * **desire of statehood**: states wanted majority white pops. to gain admission as a state
- * **capitalism depends on access to resources, especially land**
- * **eastern settlers set their sights on the growth of pineapple & sugar plantations**
- * **successful cultivation required a pliable labor force** → plantations gave rise to Asian mass migration to the islands
- * **economic factors**: the sugar & fruit industry in the Gilded Age
- * **geopolitical significance**: midway between N.A. & Asia; staking territory in the age of empire
- * **racial politics**: (i.e. the crude portrayal of Queen Liliuokalani)

2010: only 10% of population are indigenous

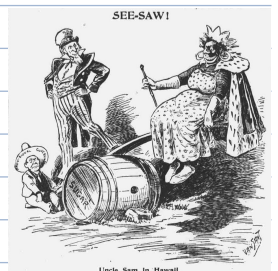
continued disparities in:

- education
- mass incarceration
- health
- employment

a cultural renaissance

- revival of arts (hula, the kanaka language)
- women as teachers & elders in the movement

- * **after battles of land in the decades following WWII**, Native Hawaiians began a new cultural renaissance. The revitalization of cultural forms
- * like the hula began as a way to teach young ppl about their indigenous heritage & rescue it from the commodified & sexualized version prepared for tourists.



yellow journalism & the "splendid little war"



america's new empire

potential discussion questions

1. what problems do you think arose from the treaty?
2. do you think Americans uniformly wanted to become an imperial nation?
3. how do you think the colonized ppl felt?

• the Spanish-American War: apr. 21, 1898 - dec. 10, 1898

• causes of war:

- empire fever
- the sinking of the U.S.S. Maine
- Yellow Journalism

• looking to establish a greater economic & strategic presence in the Caribbean, U.S. foreign policy thinkers & naval officials zeroed in on sugar interests in Cuba.

• the "Yellow Press" under newspaper publishers like William Randolph Hearst & Joseph Pulitzer spread sensationalistic and false rumors about Spanish brutality in its Caribbean colonies that culminated in accusations that the destruction of the American ship (U.S.S. Maine), was a deliberate act of war → w/ the public in a frenzy, the U.S. declared war on Spain, and quickly beat the old European power in what John Hay called a "splendid little war" that lasted from April to August 1898

• concluded w/ the Treaty of Paris, 1898



• as a result of the Treaty of Paris of 1898, the U.S. acquired the old Spanish colonies of:

1. Cuba
2. Puerto Rico
3. Guam
4. the Philippines (for \$20m)