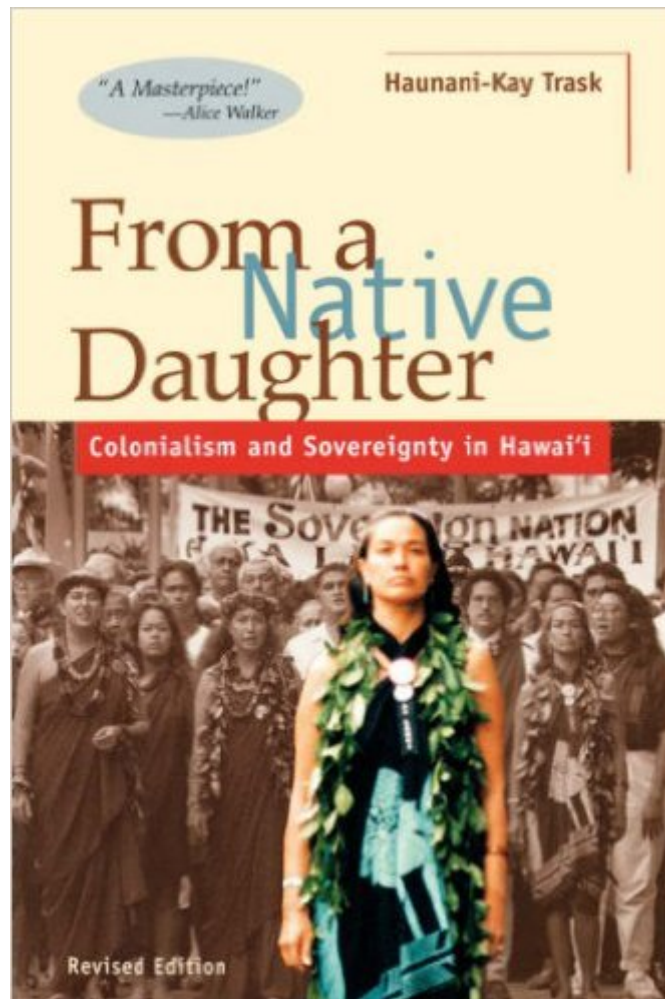


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# From A Native Daughter: Colonialism And Sovereignty In Hawaii (Revised Edition) (Latitude 20 Books)



## Synopsis

Since its publication in 1993, *From a Native Daughter*, a provocative, well-reasoned attack against the rampant abuse of Native Hawaiian rights, institutional racism, and gender discrimination, has generated heated debates in Hawai'i and throughout the world. This 1999 revised work includes material that builds on issues and concerns raised in the first edition: Native Hawaiian student organizing at the University of Hawai'i; the master plan of the Native Hawaiian self-governing organization Ka Lahui Hawai'i and its platform on the four political arenas of sovereignty; the 1989 Hawai'i declaration of the Hawai'i ecumenical coalition on tourism; and a typology on racism and imperialism. Brief introductions to each of the previously published essays brings them up to date and situates them in the current Native Hawaiian rights discussion.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"From a Native Daughter" is very intelligently written with strong academic and historical references. Who can fault Trask for being so passionate and angered about Hawaii's wrongful past? For over 110 years, Hawaii has been seized and administered illegally by the United States. The native people have had their culture, their sovereignty, and their spirits taken away. She is demanding a right of sovereignty for this island nation that has been falling on deaf ears for generations. There have been many interesting comments regarding this book that I've read and some are simply ignorant. No, Haunani Trask is not full Hawaiian but not very many are. One hundred years after

Cook 'discovered' Hawaii, the population had been reduced 90% due to disease and cultural shock. There are maybe 5,000 pure Hawaiians left today, and most of them are so disenfranchised they cannot even think of deciding to write a book. Haunani speaks for these people who are powerless. Another opinion is that her statements have little merit academically. The only revisionism occurring is the glossed tourist culture that is Hawaii today. And for anyone thinking that the wrong done to Hawaiians is not recognized (though very covertly), the Apology Bill signed by Clinton in 1993 displays the American government's fault in the illegal takeover. Interestingly, from this APOLOGY, all programs aimed to serve Hawaiians are being called racist and unfair for non-Hawaiians. This is hypocrisy in the highest. Haunani Trask is a racist? Her words are strong and no one can doubt her forceful style. Her political incorrectness is a reflection of how this government has treated the Hawaiians. America does not even recognize Hawaiians as an indigenous people like they do the Native Americans, not to say that Native Americans have a wonderful life either. The United States believes that Hawaiians are not different than other residents of Hawaii and that everyone should have an equal ground. It sounds so altruistic, but its destructive for native peoples. The Hawaiians have been here since the beginning of creation according to their religion. They practiced their culture, cared for the land, and lived in dignity over a thousand years before Cook landed. What are the results since the arrival: their language was banned, their religion was banned, their kingdom was annexed illegally, their people are still suffering today. I have a brief personal story. I had many relatives and friends on my father's dad's side that lived on a very rural and peaceful area named Makua on Oahu (except for the live military firing that is destroying very rare endemic plants and cultural sites sacred to Hawaiians). They were the kindest Hawaiian people who lived off the land and the sea not bothering anyone. My grandfather was one of these Hawaiians and I loved all of our friends and relatives there. They bothered no one and lived traditional Hawaiians lives, very simple and generous. They weren't homeless like many claimed, they were living simply and beautifully. About 7 years ago, the state said that these people were trespassing on public lands and the tourists did not feel comfortable going there. They were forced off the beaches, many of them having to pack their tents and their belongings and travel somewhere else, a somewhere that does not welcome this lifestyle. A memorable picture is that of the bulldozers coming in and threatening to raze their campsites. So these Hawaiians, with their little piece of land, perhaps the last place of refuge for the Hawaiians, were scattered into streetcorners and alleys. I will never forget what happened to the people in the place I also called home, so symbolic of the Hawaiian people who continue to be subjugated to American interests. I know that story seemed like a non-sequitor, but I wanted to share an intimate

example of how much hurt Hawaiians have endured and continue to endure. Hawaiians are homeless, have the worst health statistics in the state, have the highest prison attendance, the list goes on. If Hawaiians will ever be heard fairly, I do not know. It is a quiet genocide amidst the hula girls and luaus that are at best distant replicas of who the Hawaiians really were. If there is any injustice in this book, it's in the people who do not venture out of their perspectives and feel the tears and struggle saturated in the pages. Haunani Trask had a purpose with this book: To roar with anger and sadness for a people who live like tiny fireflies fighting the darkness of a long moonless night.

This is a very informative book. You can certainly learn a great deal about the many challenges native Hawaiians face. Such beautiful people who have been wronged by so many for such a long time. A must read.

I read this book for an introductory Hawaiian Studies class, and my first thought was to try and find some of whatever the author was smoking. In general, Trask is much too radical for my tastes. But she makes lots of very good points. I was shocked to see her accusing Gawan Daws of racism. I checked the passage she referred to in *Shoals of Time*, and sure enough, I could see that the paragraph was definitely racially insensitive. This is a book that really makes you think about things you've lived with in Hawai'i all your life and never really noticed. Trask may be a wingnut, but you should read her book anyway.

Great book! Informative and very interesting. Glad this book was required for a college course or I would never have read it!

I quote the author Alice Walker in my title review of this book. It truly is a masterpiece. If you want the truth about Hawaii and the tragic history of its colonial rule by Haole (that's me and you and every other white foreigner who wants a piece of this paradise), then read this book. If not, and you prefer the white-washed version told by white male (and increasingly female) academic anthropologists, then read most any other academic book that's been published. Trask offers an insider's eye view to what's happened and what continues to happen under Hawaiian statehood and corrupt Democratic rule. Her moral outrage shines through in scintillating writing that illuminates the deplorable picture of this sacred island, 30% of whose land base is occupied by the US military. While modern day Hawaii to a great extent functions to serve the tourism industry, this effort,

combined with Japanese and white corporate entities and the destructive force of the military, has trashed Hawaii in the process. Sadly, this is what Haole do to paradise. This is no easy truth to swallow, and as a frequent visitor to the islands, it muddies how I understand my relationship to this place. While it would be Rapture-like proportions if all the Haole were to leave Hawaii, in lieu of this unlikely event, maybe the best we can do is for every Haole (particularly the settlers who live there and consider themselves native Hawaiians), and certainly for every tourist, to read Trask's book in order to raise their consciousness and to tread very lightly...and respectfully.

Trask's book is definitely worth reading. She has some wonderful critiques of the tourist industry and its effect on the economy, politics, and sustainability of Hawai'i. I also believe that Trask provides a very long over due and pertinent analysis of the historic events that led to the occupation, overthrow, and takeover of the Hawai'ian Islands. In response to one of the reviewers, native Hawai'ians were friendly to you because they are paid to do so. To compare Trask to Hitler or David Duke is utterly ignorant and white backlash against a scholarly critique of white supremacy, imperialization, and colonization. The fact that Trask is not "100 %" Hawai'ian reminds us of the fact that the reason indigenous people are dying off is because of the colonial system that Trask critiques. On the other hand, I do believe that Trask leaves certain things to be desired. The diversity in opinions of various sovereignty groups in Hawai'i are all together left out and I have to disagree with her brand of extremist nationalism which tends to be not only exclusive but conservative as well. However, a critique of the colonialist exploitation of Hawai'i is often ignored and Trask fills in a void left by scholars and the general community alike.

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