**The Annexation of Hawaii and President Cleveland’s Principled Stand**

**By Dennis Brady\***

The story of how the United States acquired Hawaii is one of the most shameful chapters in our history. One of the few heroes’ of this sad chapter was President Grover Cleveland. In 1893, a conspiracy was hatched by a small group of American businessman, sugar and plantation owners in Hawaii. The conspirators imprisoned the queen and seized 1.75 million acres of royal land and set up a government. The excuse the businessman used was that they were replacing a corrupt government with a democratic one. This was of course a lie since they never intended to give the Hawaiian people voting rights. In order to preserve peace and protect her subjects from violence Queen Lil stepped down from her throne and called upon the U.S. government “to undo the actions of its representatives.” The U.S. Government refused to assist her to regain her throne. After this coup was complete the American businessmen petitioned President Benjamin Harrison and Congress to annex Hawaii. President Harrison sent the treaty for annexation to the U.S. Senate for ratification in the last month of his term.

        Newly elected President Cleveland withdrew the treaty and invited Queen Lil to Washington. He ordered that the American flag be taken down in Hawaii and replaced with the Hawaiian national flag. President Cleveland strongly recommended to congress that the Hawaiian monarchy be restored. Both parties in congress rejected his recommendation. In 1894, Sanford Dole the pineapple plantation baron declared himself President of the Republic of Hawaii without the native Hawaiians voting for him. Dole’s government found Queen Lil guilty of treason and put her under house arrest.

     During the 1894 U.S. presidential election the Republican Party called for the annexation of Hawaii in its campaign platform. The newly elected Republican president William McKinley called for a joint session of congress which voted for annexation. The islands became a U.S. territory in 1900, and 1959 Hawaii entered the union. One hundred years after the “Businessman’s Coup” a joint resolution of the U.S. Congress signed for by President Clinton apologized for the U.S. role in the coup.

President Cleveland would have smiled.

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| **Conspiracy**: a sneaky plan **Conspirator**: a person who takes part in a sneaky plan  **Coup**: a sudden, violent, and illegal seizure of power from a government  **Ratification**: approval, to say yes **Annexation**: to bring in, make part of |

1. What is the author’s CLAIM?
2. What reasoning (LOGOS) does the author offer to support their CLAIM?
3. Give an example of an appeal to emotion (PATHOS) that the author uses to persuade you to agree with them.
4. How much credibility (ETHOS) do you believe the author has? Explain why or why not you believe they have credibility.

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| Bloggers Biography: Dennis Brady is a Concerned American Conservative Libertarian who loves his God, country, his heritage and the US Constitution. Education: B.S. Business Administration & Economics from Fairleigh Dickinson University, Teaneck, NJ. Career:Domestic & International Logistics   * + 15 years in the Pharmaceutical /Consumer Products Industry   + Ten years in the chemical industry   + Four years in the fashion apparel industry |