HAWAII & GUAM: THE IMPACT OF COLONIZATION ON PACIFIC ISLANDS PEOPLE & THEIR CULTURES

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RESEARCH QUESTIONS

◦ How has the colonization of Guam and Hawaii impacted their Indigenous cultures?
◦ What is similar and what is different?
◦ What has contributed to their survival?
“For many indigenous writers stories are ways of passing down the beliefs and values of a culture in the hope that the new generations will treasure them and pass the story down further. The story and the storyteller both serve to connect the past with the future, one generation with the other, the land with the people and the people with the story.” (Tuhiwai-Smith, 2012)
RESULTS

◦ **Land and Resources:**
  • (1898) Guam: strategic U.S. military locations
  • (1898) Hawai‘i: Military and private businesses for agricultural purposes

◦ **Culture:**
  • Cultural genocide
  • Cultural art and knowledge have been commodified under capitalism for profit and entertainment

◦ **Rights:**
  • Settler colonialism
  • Hawai‘i’s statehood: access to U.S. citizenship and more political rights
  • Guam is a territory: limited political representation
Solutions & Recommendations

◦ Center Indigenous voices and needs
◦ Cultural Revitalization in Education, including Heritage & Languages
◦ “De-commodify” Cultural Arts, Restore the Sacred and Promote Decolonial Eco-Tourism
◦ Supporting Indigenous Movements
CONCLUSION

• Global awareness of on-going experience and resistance to settler colonialism

• The fight for sovereignty and self-determination is a larger postcolonial global theme

• Cultural revitalization and perpetuation is key

• Global systems of interdependency can learn from Indigenous way of life
Bibliography


Trask, Haunani-Kay. (1999). From a Native Daughter; Colonialism and Sovereignty in Hawai‘i. University of Hawai‘i Press.


