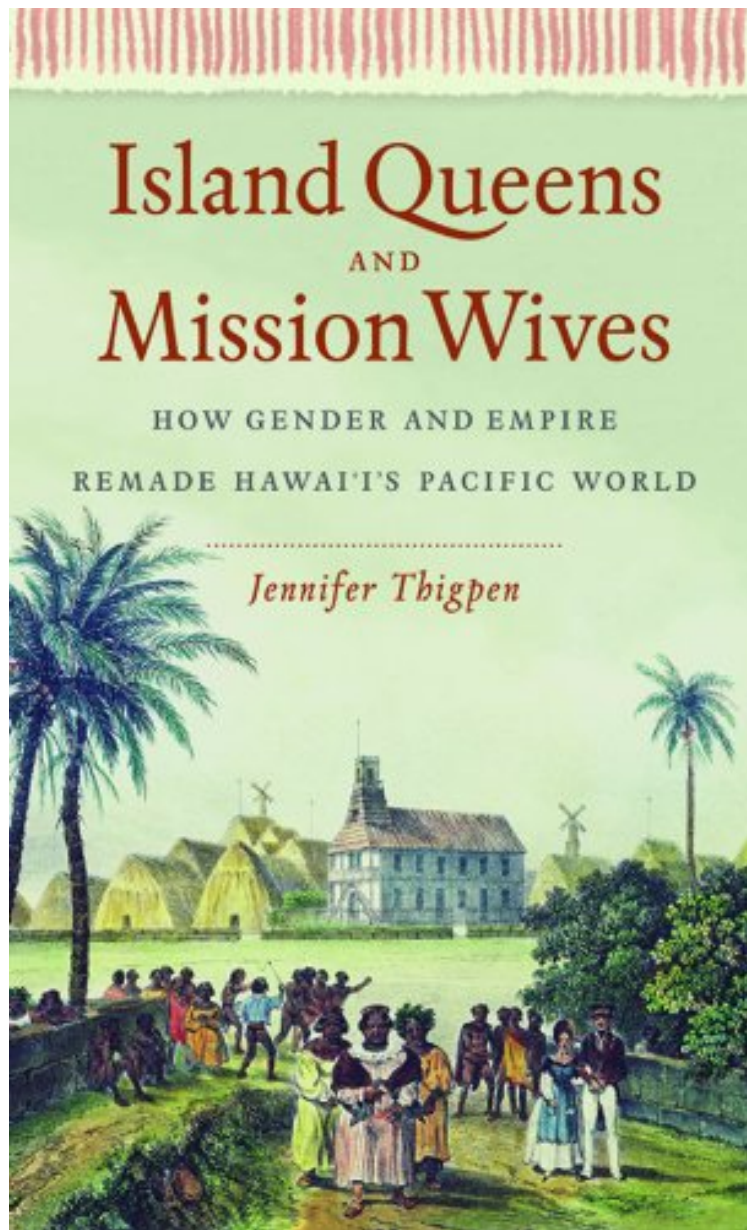


(Get free) Island Queens and Mission Wives: How Gender and Empire Remade Hawaii's Pacific World (Gender and American Culture)

## Island Queens and Mission Wives: How Gender and Empire Remade Hawaii's Pacific World (Gender and American Culture)

*Jennifer Thigpen*

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before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised *Island Queens and Mission Wives: How Gender and Empire Remade Hawaii's Pacific World* (Gender and American Culture):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. *Island Queens and Mission Wives* is a MUST read for anyone interested in Hawaiian History. By Kamohomoho There is a tremendous amount of scholarship encapsulated in this thin book. Jennifer Thigpen has gone far beyond the common understanding of what the arrival of the missionaries entailed, and their route to influence in Hawaii. I've read extensively on the pre and post European contact Hawaii, and I regard this as a very significant contribution to the historical knowledge base. This is not a simple minded, emotional, and politically correct account of missionaries ruining the Rousseauian world of the 'noble Hawaiian savage', Rather it presents the Hawaiians, particularly the Island women of rank, as intelligent, worldly individuals who find the presence of Christian missionaries, particularly the women, advantageous to their own political and personal goals. It was the Island women of rank, through their complex gift exchanges with missionary wives, that allowed the missionaries to survive on Hawaiian shores. That they were at all successful in their mission was less due to missionary efforts than to the judgement of the female Ali'i that some of the Christian philosophies, customs, and accompanying technologies would be beneficial to them and their people. The missionary achievements, when shorn of their own testaments of success, become almost incidental to the overall flow of historical events in Hawaii. If you are looking for a book to give some foundation to the popular lament voiced by Brother Iz and Sistah Robie you best move on. Sorry, but the missionaries didn't come and 'take it all away'. In fact after ten years they had made little progress and were still very much dependent on the good graces of the Island Ali'i. This is a well researched, enjoyable read, by a scholar who is deeply in search of a 'better truth' to the events of the past. I, personally, am hopeful Jennifer Thigpen will continue to contribute more well researched works to the understanding of Hawaiian history. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. More to the stories. By James O. McElmurry Thigpen's account and comments adds another dimension to the story of the effect of the New England Missionaries in the Hawaiian Islands. Her discourse of the state of governance prior to the missionary arrival, the inclusion of the state of what women were expected to do and not do in society and their role as mission wives adds credence to the diary entries and personal recollections of events and relationships that helped shape Christianity in Hawaii.

In the late eighteenth century, Hawai'i's ruling elite employed sophisticated methods for resisting foreign intrusion. By the mid-nineteenth century, however, American missionaries had gained a foothold in the islands. Jennifer Thigpen explains this important shift by focusing on two groups of women: missionary wives and high-ranking Hawaiian women. Examining the enduring and personal exchange between these groups, Thigpen argues that women's relationships became vital to building and maintaining the diplomatic and political alliances that ultimately shaped the islands' political future. Male missionaries' early attempts to Christianize the Hawaiian people were based on racial and gender ideologies brought with them from the mainland, and they did not comprehend the authority of Hawaiian chiefly women in social, political, cultural, and religious matters. It was not until missionary wives and powerful Hawaiian women developed relationships shaped by Hawaiian values and traditions--which situated Americans as guests of their beneficent hosts--that missionaries successfully introduced Christian religious and cultural values. Incisively written and meticulously researched, Thigpen's book sheds new light on American and Hawaiian women's relationships, illustrating how they ultimately provided a foundation for American power in the Pacific and hastened the colonization of the Hawaiian nation.

Advances the scholarship on missionary and Hawaiian women. . . . Thigpen breaks new ground by investigating the generative encounters between the new groups.--NAIS Carefully reexamines the familiar story of Hawaii's transformation and gets her readers to look at it in a new way.--The Historian An in-depth critical analysis of the gendered nature of diplomacy in this period in Hawaiian history. . . . [Thigpen] makes a convincing argument for the importance of both mission wives and elite Hawaiian women in these early encounters.--H-Diplo *Island Queens and Mission Wives* explores the relationship of exchange between two cultures. . . . [and] provides a deeper look into the early days of colonialism in Hawai'i and a richer understanding of Hawaiian culture and diplomacy.--Washington State Magazine There is much to contemplate here, not only for historians interested in the Pacific, gender, colonialism, or American religious movements, but also for those interested in the economics of barter, the politics of fashion and style, and the problems of historical interpretation.--American Historical An important contribution to the historiography of missions, colonialism, and Hawaii.--Journal of American History An interesting, carefully researched, and well-written book that revisits an area of U.S. history that is currently the focus of considerable scholarly analysis. It will be of value for students and scholars of U.S. western history and for Pacific historians, who will be informed and engaged in nineteenth-century Hawaiian history.--Patricia Grimshaw, University of Melbourne Thigpen's book makes significant contributions to American religious history, the history of American missions, and American women's history, and it converses with works in Hawaiian studies and studies of colonialism. Some previous scholars have studied missionary women, other previous scholars have studied Native Hawaiian

women's engagement with the mission, but no previous scholar has made the relationship between these two groups an object of study. Thigpen demonstrates convincingly that the relationship between these two groups of women is crucial to understanding why the New England mission to Hawai'i took the shape it did.--David Chang, author of *The Color of the Land: Race, Nation, and the Politics of Landownership in Oklahoma, 1832-1929*About the AuthorJennifer Thigpen is assistant professor of history at Washington State University.