

European view of Cook as a Hawaiian god explained, justified, and promoted European imperialism. What do you think?

### Hogs and Iron

One day during a time of the *Makahiki*, that ceremony and celebration in honor of Lono, the Hawaiians on Kaua'i were amazed and excited to see two ships offshore. Never had they seen objects like these; never had they seen anyone with such pale skin as these people had.

The time was January 1778, and the ships—the *Resolution* and the *Discovery*—were commanded by the British sea captain, James Cook. The ships were sailing north from the Society Islands when they sighted the western islands of the Hawaiian chain and anchored off Kaua'i.

With great joy the Hawaiians welcomed Cook as their returning god, Lono. They offered him many gifts. The Englishmen gave them pieces of iron—a metal the Hawaiians knew from bits they had found in driftwood. They esteemed it but had never known how to get it. The waters around the two ships soon teemed with canoes as the Hawaiians brought hogs, po-

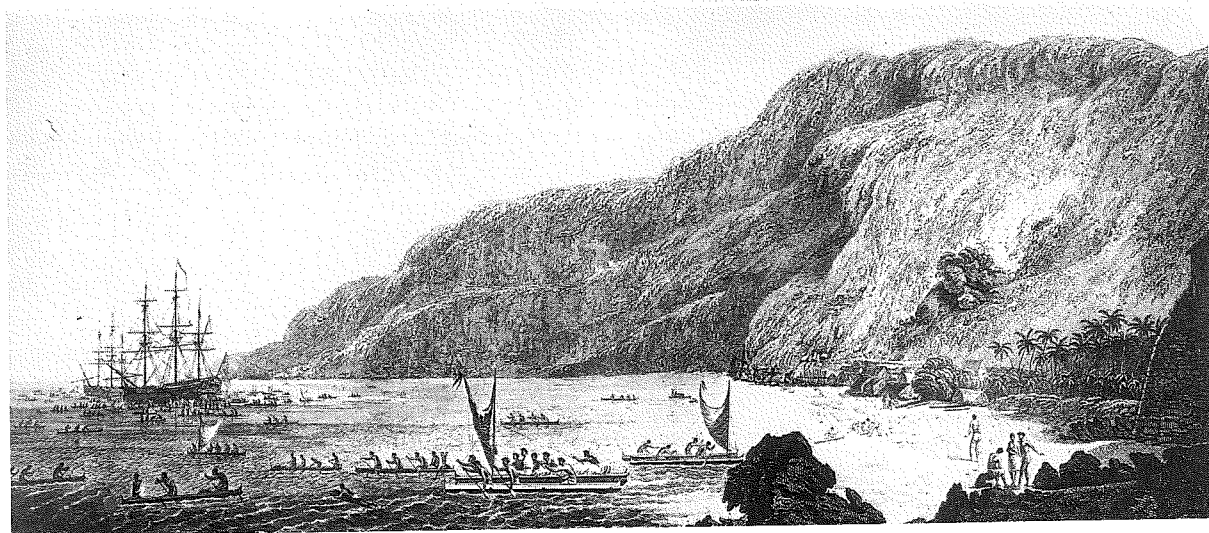
tatoes, taro, and other foods in exchange for the precious metal. In this way the captain re-provisioned his ships.

The Hawaiians were not the only ones amazed. Captain Clerke, second in command to Captain Cook, wrote, "This is the cheapest market I ever yet saw, a moderate sized Nail will supply my Ships Company very plentifully with excellent Pork for the Day, and as to the Potatoes and Tarrow, they are attained upon still easier Terms, such is these People's avidity for Iron" (Kuykendall, vol. I, 1938).

Well stocked with food and water after a 2-week stay, the *Resolution* and the *Discovery* left the Islands for the Arctic.

A year later, again during the *Makahiki*, they returned and anchored off the island of Hawai'i at Kealakekua Bay. It was January 1779. Again the Hawaiians swam or paddled out to the ships, surrounding them with joyful shouting and singing.

Again the Hawaiians supplied the ships. In return for the hogs, sugarcane, coconuts, breadfruit, *kapa*, feathers, and vegetables, the sailors gave iron. But this time, instead of nails, they gave daggers made by the ships' blacksmiths.



Throngs of Hawaiians greeted the *Discovery* and the *Resolution* upon their arrival at Kealakekua Bay. Their hospitality overwhelmed Captain Cook and his men. (Courtesy of Hawai'i State Archives)

The Hawaiians watched these artisans at work and learned to shape the metal into forms.

Cook and his ships left the bay for another trip north. Then a winter storm forced them back to the Islands to repair the foremast of the *Resolution*. They sailed back to Kealahou Bay.

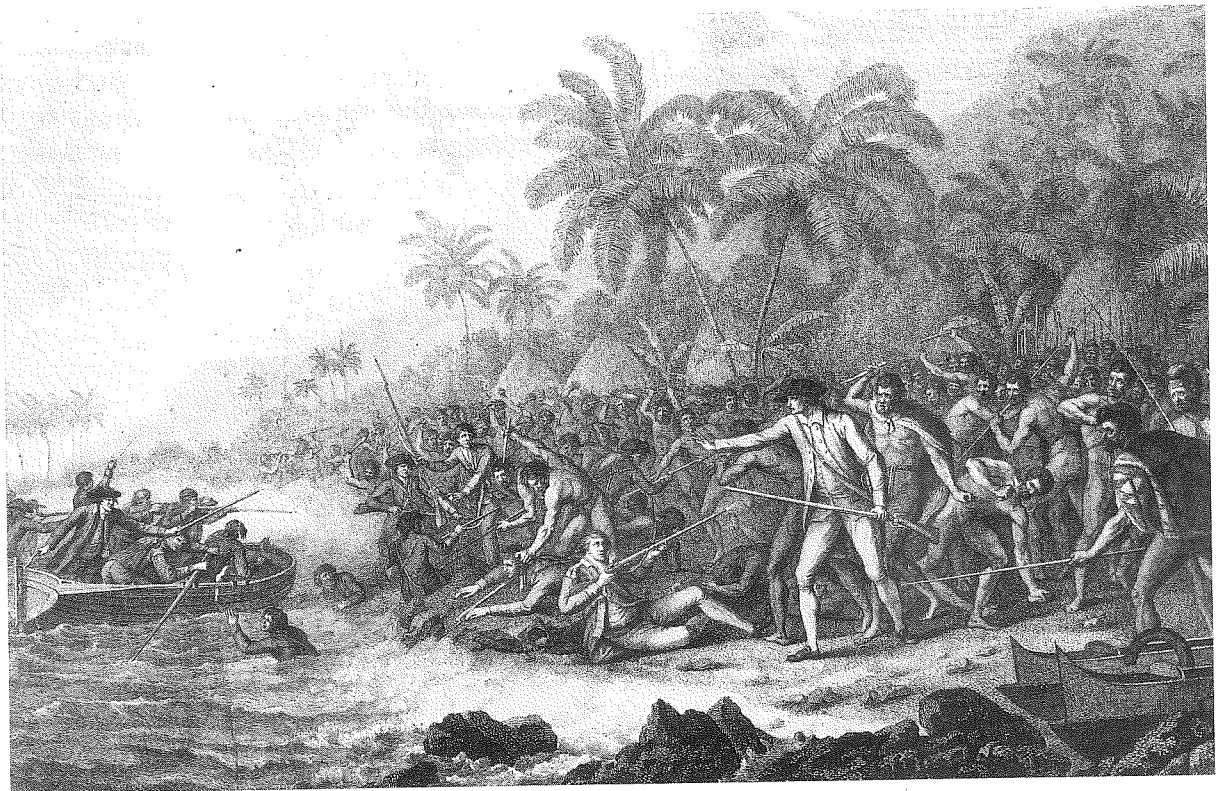
Imagine the Hawaiians' surprise at Lono's quick return. Hadn't he just visited them for the *Makahiki*? And what was this? A god with a broken ship? Doubts of Cook's divinity must have arisen. Problems arose between the Hawaiians and Cook's men. During the fray that followed, some men on both sides were killed, including Captain Cook, who was struck down with a club and stabbed in the back with a dagger.

The visit of Captain Cook to Hawai'i marked a turning point in the islands' history. Hawai'i, having been found by outsiders, would soon be visited by more and more Westerners.

The advent of Europeans and Americans on Hawaiian soil would eventually change the way of life in the islands. One of the first changes affected the traditional subsistence economy. By the beginning of the nineteenth century, Western businessmen had swarmed the Islands in hopes of exploiting the natural resources that Hawai'i had to offer.

### Question

1. The Hawaiians exchanged great quantities of food for iron. Why do you think they valued this metal so much?
2. Contrast the Western and Hawaiian views of trade during this first meeting between Cook and the Hawaiians.
3. What did Cook and his men introduce to Hawai'i?



Hawaiian chief wearing a feathered cape and holding a dagger is about to stab Captain Cook. Four of Cook's men also died in the melee. (Courtesy of Hawai'i State Archives)