

Unfamiliar Fishes

by Sarah Vowell

The book is basically an essay by the author, after visiting Hawaii, about her observations, historical findings and musings using her considerable wit. She delves into the following topics:

- Hawaiian history for past 250 years, Americanization of Hawaii and path to annexation as a U.S. territory in 1898.
- Modern Hawaii, its quirks, diversity, tourist traps and lingering bitterness and grief at the loss of the Hawaiian monarchy and kingdom on the part of the ethnic Hawaiians.
- How and why the missionaries came to the Hawaiian Islands in 1820 from Massachusetts.
- Political reasons for the overthrow of the Hawaiian Monarchy. It was the time of Manifest Destiny and the American pineapple growers wanted more land, the American Navy wanted a Pacific port, and American businessmen wanted to freely develop businesses there.

Find out more here:

- A History of Hawaii and the United States: Sarah Vowell on Unfamiliar Fishes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pGS4zlgfc54>

- An Evening with Sarah Vowell

at MIT --

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QBY36PPln2g>

at U of Kansas --

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QbXpzOXY1TM>

- Sarah Vowell: 2016 National Book Festival

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rSODUWZCxYk>