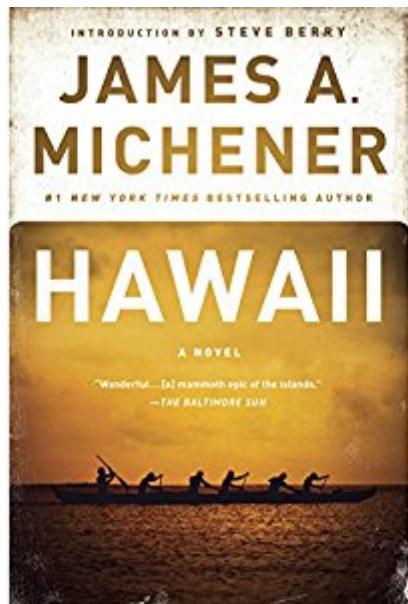


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Hawaii: A Novel



Synopsis

The saga of a land from the time when the volcanic islands rose out of the sea to the decade in which they become the 50th state. Michener uses individuals' experiences to symbolize the struggle of the various races to establish themselves in the islands.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Make no mistake; this is a loooong book. That said, I wanted to learn about our 50th state since we were going on a 15 day cruise there. Well, I started reading it before we left and finished it up about 2 weeks after we got back. You learn through the novel how the islands were formed, where the humans came from that originally settled there, the dramatic influence the New England missionaries had on the islands and the politics that eventually led to the island's statehood. World War II had a dramatic effect on Hawaii. Read before visiting. You will be glad you did.

I've been a huge Michener fan since reading Chesapeake many years ago, and Hawaii only made that feeling stronger. He does the best character development of anyone I've read. Same for creating the time period, events, geography - - just unbelievably descriptive. Aside from these (I also have Texas, Alaska, Return to Paradise, Centennial, and others), I normally prefer faster paced adventure books. But Michener can keep me glued to a story that spans nearly 3000 years, and make me want to read it again. He weaves fiction and actual history together in a way that has me going to Wikipedia to re-check who's real, who's based on someone real, and who's a character with no actual connection to reality. I've read Chesapeake twice - - my all-time favorite - - and will

likely read the others multiple times as well. Doing Texas currently, and he's done it again! Such a gifted author.

If you know Michener, you know his stories are LONG. Michener seems to use a standard formula for his books. This was his first (I think) and its obvious. His later books are much better. I think he perfects his "formula" in some later books like Centennial and Chesapeake. After every Michener book I've read, I feel like I have a connection to the area. This was no different. If you love the Hawaiian Islands, read this book. You will really feel like you understand the history of the Islands.

I study Hawaiian history as a hobby. I have traveled to Tahiti, American Samoa, Western Samoa, Tonga, Fiji as well as Easter Island, Johnston Island and Guam. I have traveled extensively in all the Hawaiian Islands and am a regular at Bishop Museum and Hawaiian history events and this book blew me away. It filled in holes and also dug new ones. I fact checked throughout and impressed at how the parallel stories of fact and fiction traveled the same space. This is a must read for anyone interested in Hawaii.

This was obviously early Michener and predicts a novelist of clout and power. However, he had not yet learned the art of separating essential information from noise, an art he absolutely mastered as his career progressed. So the novel seemed to go on and on and on endlessly. All the characters and groups and individuals were interesting independently and in combination. However, some points were beaten to death for pages when they could have been more effectively covered with parsimony. I have thoroughly enjoyed other (always comprehensive and well-researched) Michener novels such as Texas and Chesapeake Bay and admire him and his body of work very much. Had Hawaii been my first experience, however, I might have been less open to another such daunting reading commitment. That said, I am glad I persevered and glad that Hawaii is now a more meaningful place because of Michener's ability to share his understanding and love of it -- even with the extra words, pages and sometimes chapters.

I started reading this book with trepidation, I never read historical novels, but Michener is so famous and I was going to Hawaii, so I gave it a go. The book has a very slow beginning don't let it discourage you. You can skip all the geology if you like. I felt that it was too long and some bits less interesting than others, but I persevered. Now that I finished it, I changed my opinion of it. It's a good book, very interesting and extremely well researched and I learnt so much about Hawai'i. I'm

enjoying my holiday through the islands a lot more because of it.

I love this story. This is an epic telling the history of the Hawaiian Islands via the history of the Polynesian islands. I will not try to give a book report in this review. That is best left to more talented writers. I can only speak from my heart. The book is very long and tells of peoples and families with hard to pronounce names and places you may not recognize. Don't let that deter you from reading. Skim over those, you can always refer back if you find you are missing information. Instead, let yourself be taken away to the land just this side of Heaven. Get caught up in the folklore of the islands. Personally, I think it is more meaningful if you have visited one or more of the islands first. It's easier to put together what you have experienced with what you read. My original copy of this book in paperback. It is pretty beat up in spite of my efforts to keep books in good condition. But I carried it with me to read whenever there was a few minutes in my day. Because of the length of the book, it took a bit to read it all. Then I started it again because finishing it was like losing a good friend. I didn't want to let it go. Now I have it on my Kindle so I can always have it ready to read again and the pages won't fall out.

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