Abstract

This bachelor thesis deals with role of the United States of America and their citizens during overthrow of the Hawaiian government in 1893. Hawaiian Islands represented strategic location for the United States for further expansion into the Pacific region. Americans, living in Hawaii, were interested in close cooperation with the United States to empower their own positions. Efforts of American expansionists and Hawaiian Americans resulted in two reciprocal treaties, approved in 1876 and 1887, which provided duty-free import of Hawaiian sugar in the United States in exchange for partial loss of sovereignty. Hawaiian economy reoriented to sugar trade and was vulnerable against any changes in American import policy. As a result of McKinley tariff bill's approval in 1890 Hawaiian Americans lost their advantages in sugar imports into the United States. Their last resort to save their property and sugar business was to annex the Hawaiian Islands to the United States. The thesis aims to evaluate the role of American groups in Hawaii which participated in the overthrow, as well as the United States' governments and their attitude towards the overthrow and the annexation afterwards which differed based on party affiliation.