

In this text, Joy discusses her motivations and research process for writing a book on women in politics in the context of the Hawaiian Revolution and the role of Polynesian women in history. She began her exploration with a focus on the Hawaiian monarchy, particularly the story of Queen Lili'uokalani, seeking to tell her side and to deeply understand her life. Joy reflects on how the rhetoric surrounding gender and women's roles in politics seemed to be regressing during her research, which inspired her to investigate the intersection of gender, politics, and religion.

Joy highlights her research methodologies, which involved accessing a variety of historical records from American and British missionaries, and the Royal Navy, and emphasized the challenge of reconstructing the stories of Polynesian women who were less documented. She emphasizes the significance of understanding the women's political power within their cultures, especially during periods of European and American expansion and colonialism.

She draws attention to the historical context, wherein Captain Cook's arrival and subsequent British and American interests in the Pacific Islands shaped the dynamics of power. Joy outlines the evolving landscape of women's political power as influenced by the introduction of Christianity and changes in cultural norms, noting that although Polynesian women initially held more power compared to their Western counterparts, this shifted under colonial pressures.

Joy expresses her hopes that readers will recognize the brilliance and political acumen of these women, encouraging their inclusion in historical discussions. She also discusses the need for further research into the broader connections between Polynesian societies and international history. Her work aims to elevate the profiles of significant Polynesian women in history, advocating that their legacies be recognized in academic studies and textbooks.