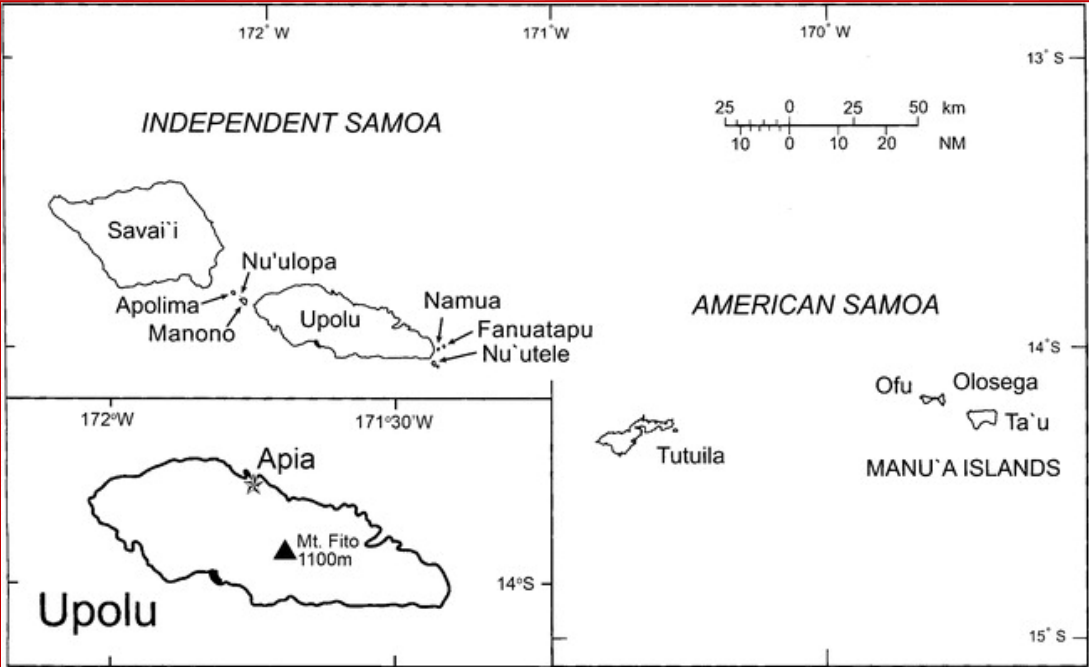
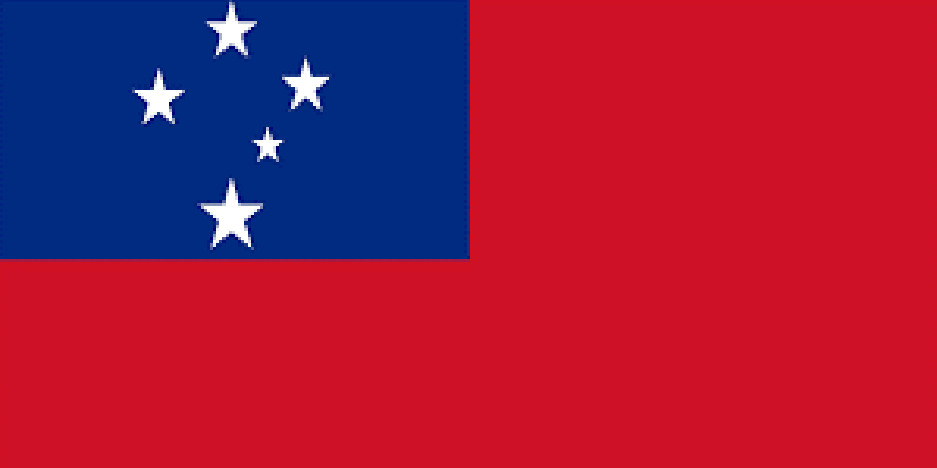


Spokane's Monaghan
Statue:
A Colonial Stain on
Our Community and
an Insult to our Pacific
Islander Neighbors

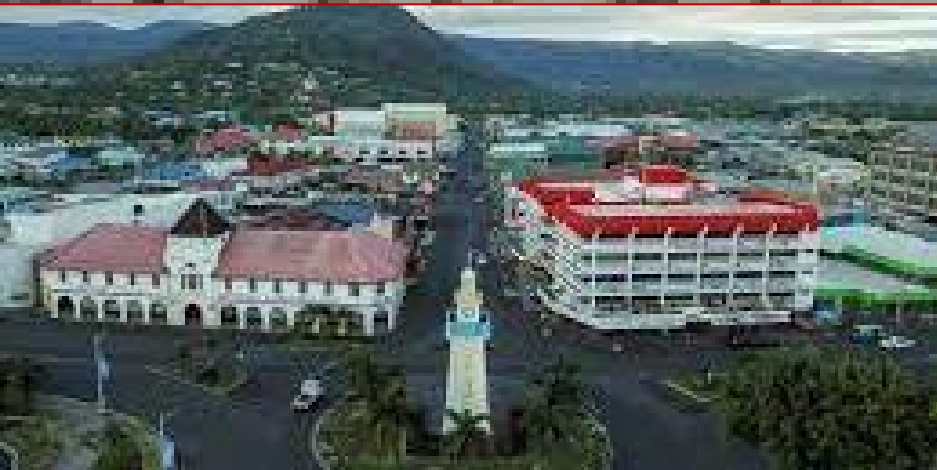


The Samoan Islands





Independent State of Samoa



Prime Minister
HC Fiame Naomi

- First Encounters – early/mid-1700s
- First missionary Arrival in 1830
- German Colony – 1900 - 1914
- New Zealand Colony – 1914-1962
- Traditional Governance: *fa'amatai*
- Current Administration – Parliamentary system, led by Prime Minister Fiame Naomi Mataafa
- Economy – Tourism, agriculture, remittances
- Diaspora – nearly 200,000 Samoans in New Zealand, about 75,000 in Australia, about 200,000 in United States.



Governor HC Lemanu Peleti
Palepoi Sialega Mauga



Congresswoman
TC Aumua Amata Coleman
Radewagon

U.S Territory of American Samoa

- **Appointed Governors**
- **Navy, then Department of Interior governed 1900-early 1970s**
- **Peter Tali Coleman – first elected governor**
- **American Samoa has the highest rate of military enlistment of any state or territory**
- **Residents born in the territory are U.S. Nationals, not U.S. citizens**

Traditional Samoan Governance

Matai system:

- High chiefs
- Talking chiefs
- High talking chiefs

Tama-o-Aiga

- Malietoa
- Tuimalealiifano
- Tupua Tamasese
- Mataafa

Matai responsible for allocating land resources within family, making and developing village law, enforcing *tapu*, ensuring harmony in family and village

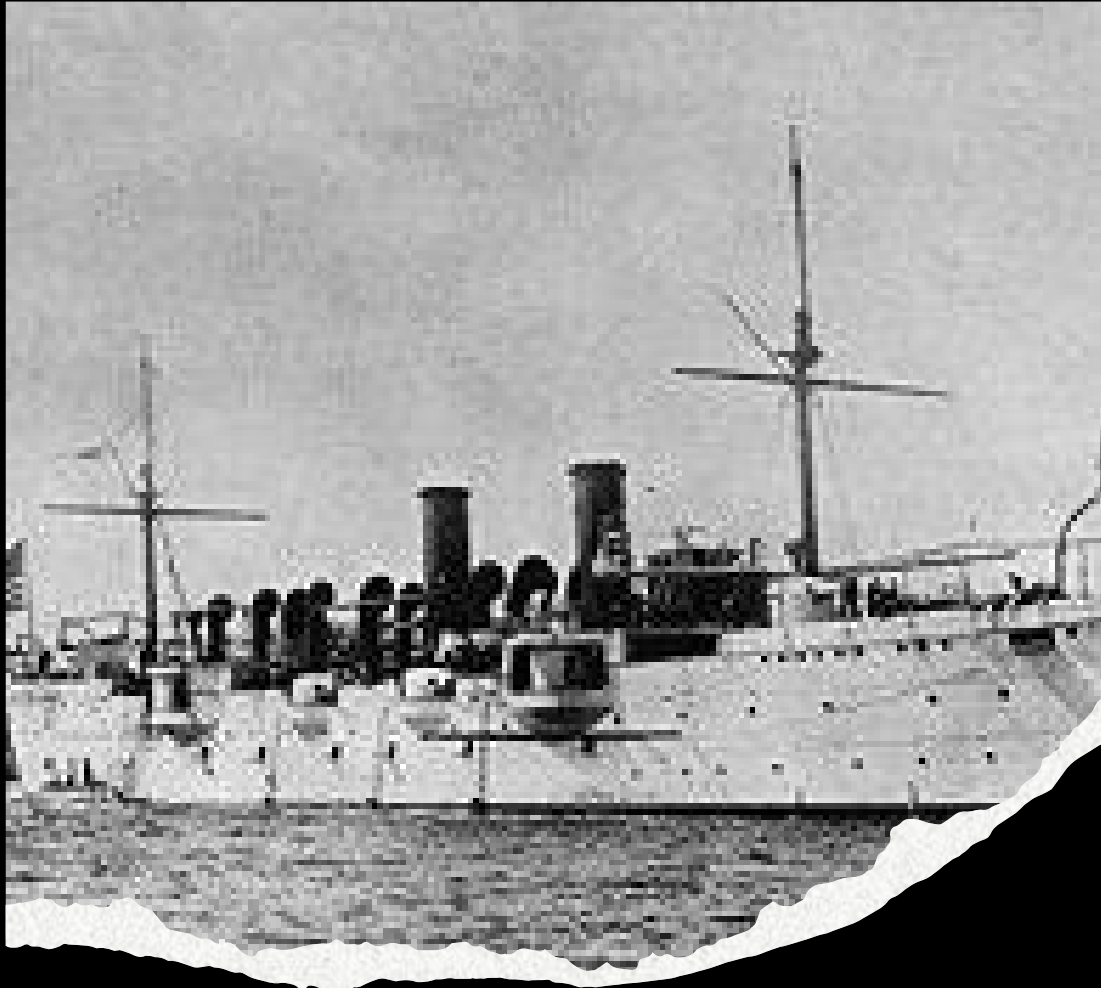


U.S. Involvement in the Samoan Islands



- Colonial settlers in late 1800s become involved in Samoan politics – 1875 Malietoa Laupepa becomes first “King”
- Germans, British, and the U.S. all vying for Pacific Control
- Germans backed Tamasese, and British and Americans backed Mataafa with arms and ammunition.
- Warships sent to Samoa (sunk in a hurricane)
- Berlin Treaty of 1889: Three colonial powers “respect autonomy” of Samoan islands, recognize Malietoa Laupepa as “king.”
- Some Samoans continued to recognize Mata’afa, and for several years in the 1890s, there were dueling governments.
- 1898 - Malietoa Laupepa passes away, and his successor, Malietoa Tanu, backed by Tamasese, vies for power against Mataafa.
- (British) Chief Justice decides against Mataafa; Samoans rebel, and Germans appoint new Chief Justice

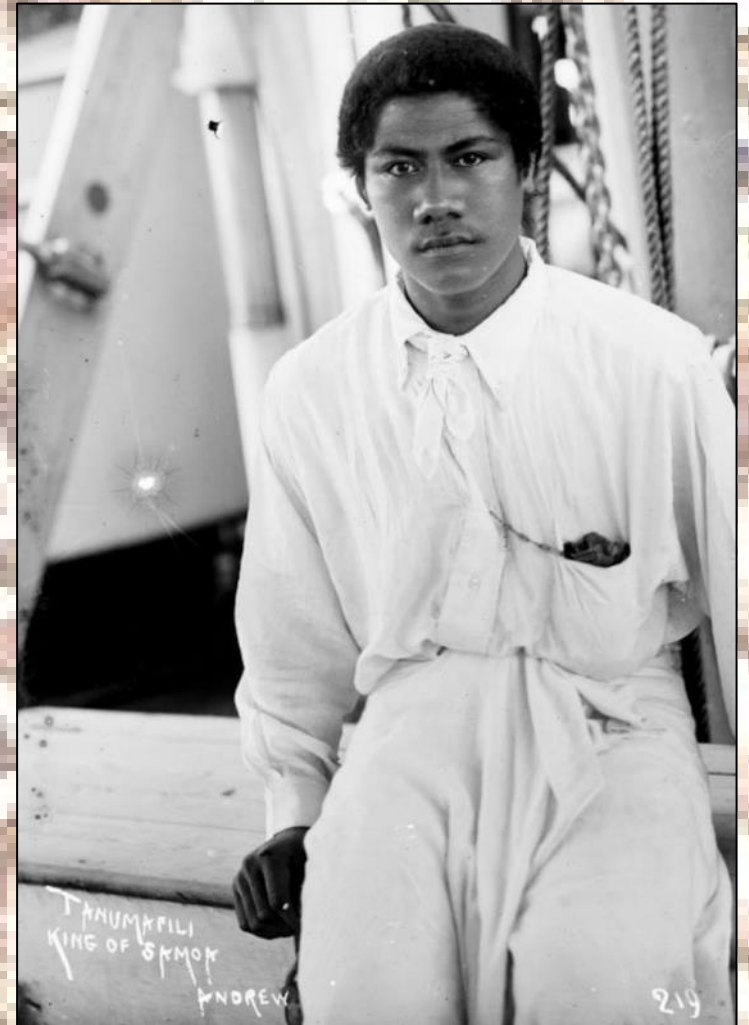
U.S. Involvement in the Samoan Islands



- Chief Justice removed, with British Chief Justice reappointed. Mataafa continues to dominate.
- U.S Naval Ship “Philadelphia” arrives; U.S Rear Admiral Kautz declares provisional government illegal, and Malietoa recognized as “king.”
- March 15, 1899, U.S., supported by Britain, begins shelling island of Upolu around the capital of Apia. Civil war breaks out.
- Mataafa’s forces fight back and kill three American soldiers in Apia.

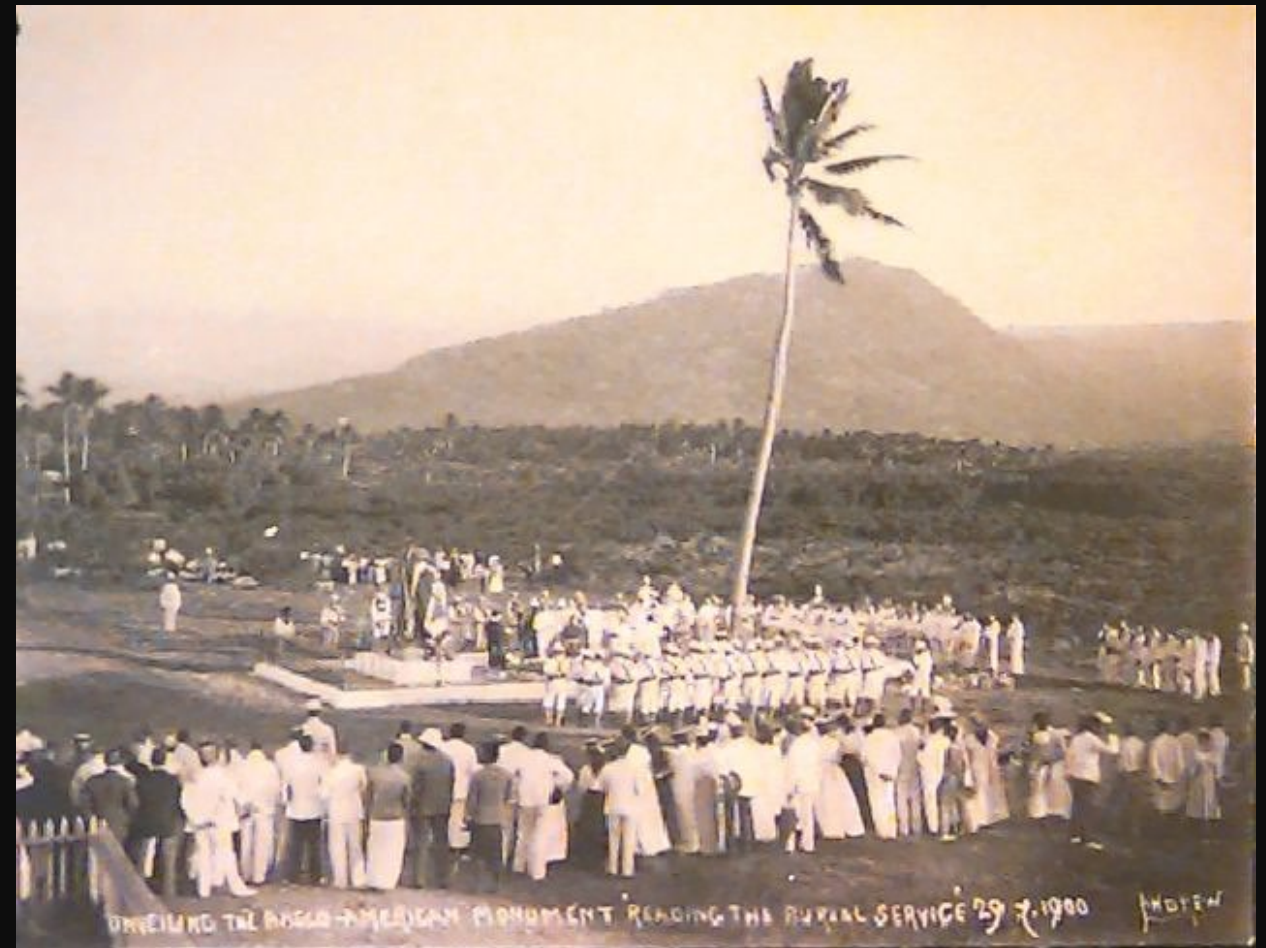
“Apart from the evident desire of our naval men from the first to “have a smack at” somebody, and the uncompromising attitude of the German officials, the organised attacks upon the Samoans by the united British and American forces have been both inglorious and ineffective. But the most deplorable, if not barbarous, part of the whole business has been the wanton destruction of the lives and property of the natives by the combined warships of the English speaking powers along the whole line of coast within reach of modern naval artillery.”

Editorial, Wellington *Evening Post*, April 29, 1899



Resolution

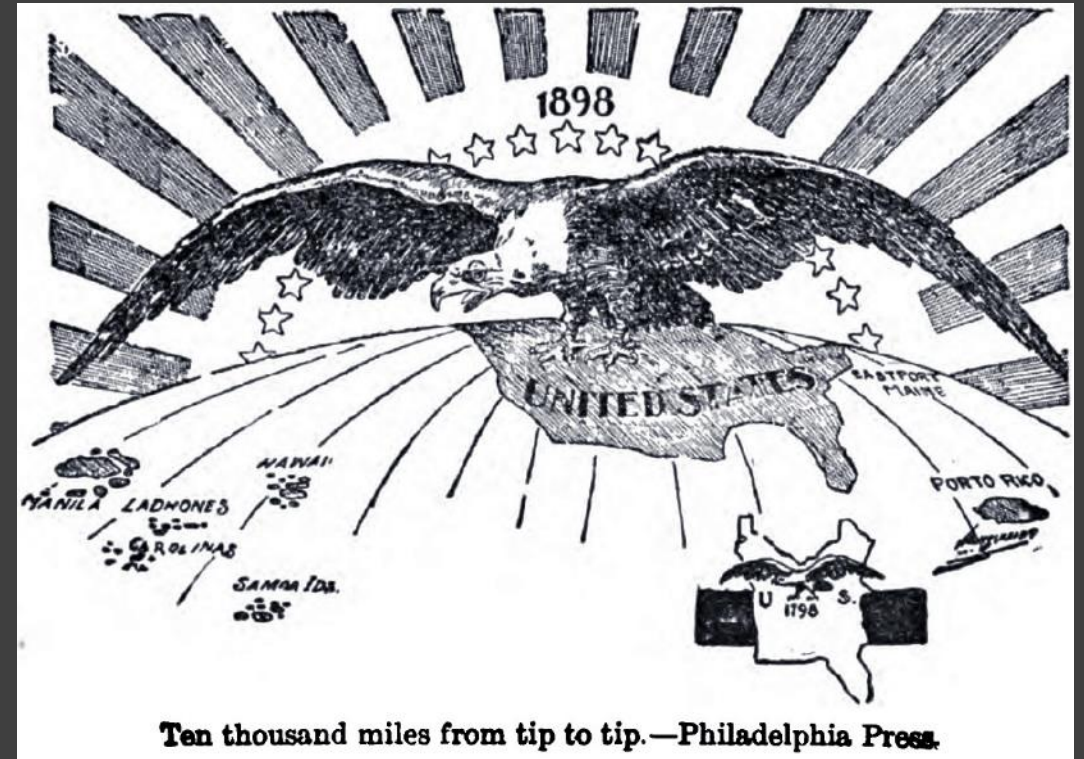
- Hundreds, maybe thousands, of Samoans killed (no attempt made to account for the dead made by U.S. or Britain).
 - March 23, 1899, Malietoa Tanumafili I appointed “king;” Malietoa and Mata’afa laid down arms and settled differences in culturally customary way.
 - November, 1899, the three colonizers split Samoa into two: eastern Samoa for the U.S., and western Samoa for the Germans, recognizing British interests elsewhere.
-



Why was the U.S. involved?

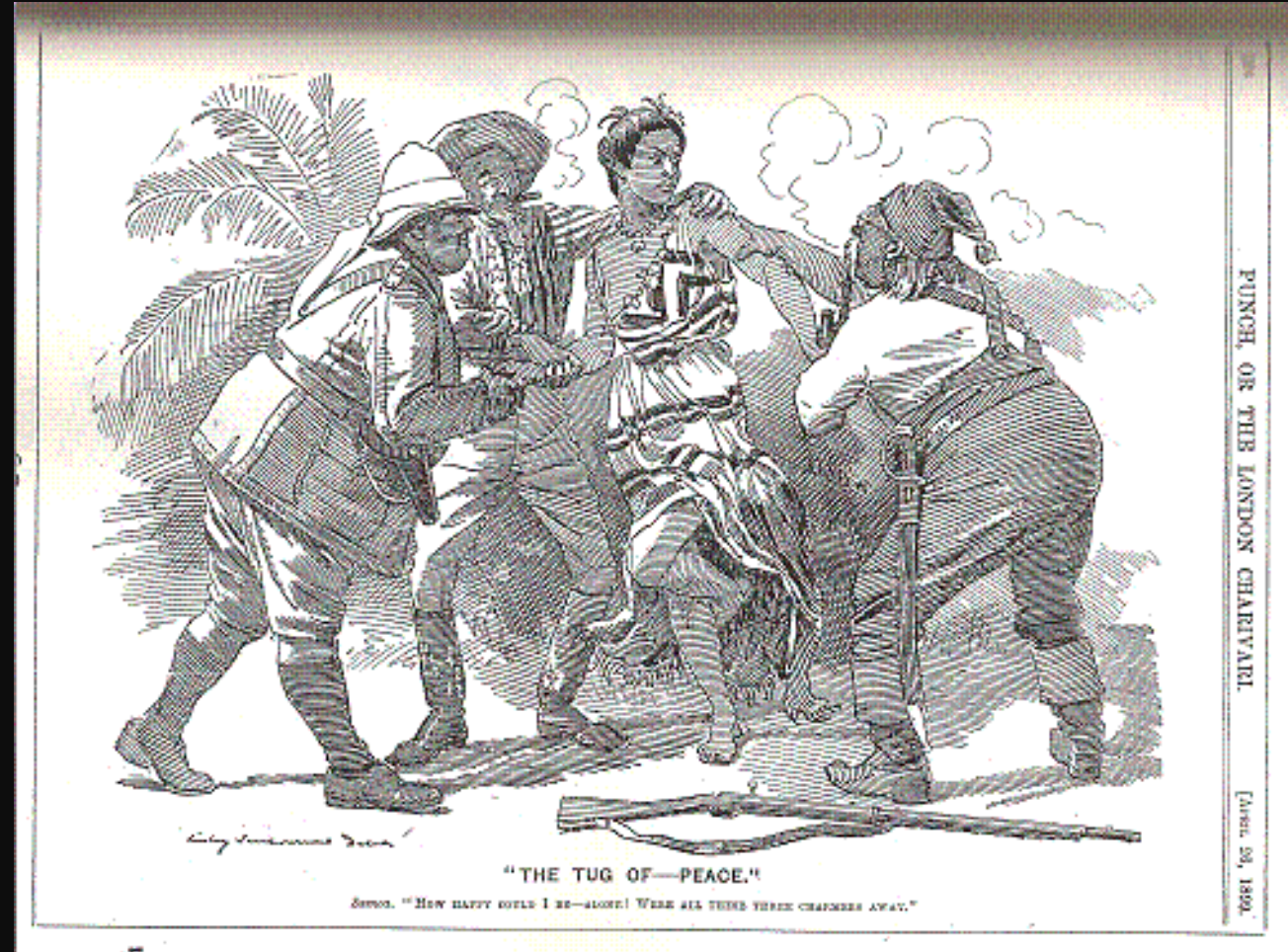
“Its [Berlin Treaty] fundamental purpose, as far as our country was concerned, was to secure the neutralization of the islands lying at the center of the South Pacific, as the Hawaiian Islands do at the center of the North Pacific, in the direct pathway of the commerce ever increasing between our country and the British colonies, and for the protection of our rights and interests in the admirable harbor of Pago Pago. Every other important group in the South Seas had been seized and appropriated by some foreign Government. Samoa was the only foothold left for us.... The Treaty constituted a law binding upon the great nations, and defining the rights of all.”

-Henry Ide, *“The Imbroglia in Samoa,”*
1899



“With the tremendous development that is going on upon the shores of the Pacific, making it the theatre of some of the vastest political and commercial events of this age, and with the United States taking its position as a world power, and being from its location more interested than any other great power in occurrences throughout every portion of the Pacific, we cannot afford to make the slightest relaxation of the rights in Samoa that have been secured to us by the Berlin Treaty. "The white man's burden" in Samoa rests as heavily upon German shoulders as upon those of England and America.”

“The Imbroglia in Samoa,” Henry Ide, 1899



John Monaghan

- First eastern WA graduate of the Naval Academy
- Officer on the *USS Philadelphia*
- Killed near Apia trying to rescue fellow officer:
 - *“one rifle against many, one brave man against a score of savages. He knew he was doomed. He could not yield. He died in heroic performance of duty.”*
- Statue in downtown Spokane dedicated in 1906, gifted by his sister Agnes.
- No explanation of US “imbroglio” on the statue



Why does it matter? Samoans deserve an accurate history



*Mata'afa and his family, photographed by
Otto Tetens, 1904*

“...the exodus of the panic-stricken non-combatants rushing hither and thither; shells bursting everywhere; the cries of the bed ridden and the helplessly wounded burning alive in their blazing hours; women in the pangs of childbirth (for Nature takes no count of bombardments); mangled children crawling on the sands - the sea before them, the bush behind them; and we read that the woods also are shelled. Who is to be held accountable for those deeds that disgrace both England and America?”

– Fanny Stevenson, June 1899



Impacts of stereotypes on minority/Pacific Islander communities

- Health and educational disparities
- Disparities in criminal justice system
- Erasure

Erasures, Omissions, and Inaccuracies Persist

Ann M. Cameron: Monaghan statue a monument to his character

Wed., Aug. 5, 2020

Obviously, the monument was never intended to be a political statement. Anyone looking at the plaque and knowing the history can see that profound artistic license was taken. Indeed, the Samoans look African and the weapons are all wrong. John Robert was shot – shot with rifles supplied to the Samoans by the Germans, the British and the Americans, ironically. As for the wording “savage foe” which seems to offend people, it is my understanding that it refers to the Samoan custom of severing of the heads of their dead enemies after the fight and carrying them as trophies at the head of a procession to present them to their chiefs. John Robert’s body was desecrated in this manner, as were those of Lt. Philip Lansdale – his unit commander – and Lt. Angel H. Freeman, RN, in general charge of the expedition and specific charge of the British forces.

It is one thing to lose a fine young man, it is quite another to see his body treated in such a manner. The word is appropriate to the event as defined by Webster’s Dictionary meaning “cruel; barbarous; fierce; ferocious; inhuman; brutal.” It was undeniably cruel and brutal. Remembering the past does not condone it. If we erase our history, how do future generations learn from it?

Soldiering on

Tributes over the years have ensured that some of our area’s best-known veterans will never be forgotten

Sun., May 30, 2010

The screenshot shows the 'DOWNTOWN SPOKANE HERITAGE WALK' website. The header includes the title and the tagline 'Discover the unique history, charm and diversity of downtown Spokane.' Below the header is a navigation menu with categories: SPOKANE HISTORY, EAST SPOKANE, WEST SPOKANE, CENTRAL SPOKANE, RESOURCES, and CREDITS. The main content area is titled '< WEST >' and features a map of downtown Spokane with numbered markers (1-15) indicating various heritage sites. A blue arrow points from the text below to marker 9 on the map. The text describes the Monaghan Statue, located at the intersection of N. Monroe Street and Riverside Avenue. It details the statue's unveiling in 1906 and the life of James Monaghan, a pioneer and military officer who served in the Samoan Islands in 1899.

MONAGHAN STATUE
N. MONROE STREET AND RIVERSIDE AVENUE

In the fall of 1906, a crowd of 10,000 gathered to witness the unveiling of the Monaghan Monument at Riverside and Monroe in Spokane. Born in Chewelah, Washington in 1873 to one of Spokane’s earliest and most prominent pioneers, James Monaghan, Robert John Monaghan was one of the first students to attend Gonzaga University in 1887. Following an 1891 military academy examination, Monaghan became the first Washington graduate from the Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland in 1895. Assigned to the battleship Philadelphia in 1899, Monaghan went to the Samoan Islands where hostilities were rising between two rival chieftains. Having chosen a king between the two rivals, English and American forces put ashore at Apia to disperse remaining rebels. Laying in wait for the soldiers in the jungle, the enemy ambushed Monaghan and his men, wounding and killing many of his party. Upon retreat,

battleship Philadelphia in 1899, Monaghan went to the Samoan Islands where hostilities were rising between two rival chieftains. Having chosen a king between the two rivals, English and American forces put ashore at Apia to disperse remaining rebels. Laying in wait for the soldiers in the jungle, the enemy ambushed Monaghan and his men,

Questions/Fesili? Fa'afetai lava

Resources:

- <https://www.thecoconet.tv/know-your-roots/tales-of-time/tales-of-time-the-samoan-war-you-didnt-know/>
- <https://spokanehistorical.org/items/show/600>

Pacific Islander Community – WA

- <https://www.picawa.org/>

Please Sign Our Petition to Remove the Monaghan Statue:

- <https://tinyurl.com/RemoveRacistStatue>

