*In 1959, Hawaii became the 50th state in the United States. Previous attempts at statehood were with met with opposition both by some in Hawaii and in Congress. The* [*Hawaiian Admission Act*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawaii_Admission_Act) *occurred during the Civil Rights Movement when minorities were campaigning for greater rights. Writing in August 1959, the editors of* WORLDVIEW *Magazine saw this as a victory in the fight towards greater racial tolerance and hoped that Hawaii would set an example of racial harmony for the entire nation.*

WORLDVIEW Magazine ran from 1958-85 and featured articles by political philosophers, scholars, churchmen, statesmen, and writers from across the political spectrum.

**The Problem Of Race, WORLDVIEW Magazine, August 1959**

From the standpoint of both our own domestic problem and the world scene, one of the most encouraging events in recent history is the admission of Hawaii to the Union as its fiftieth state. Last month the people of this territory voted overwhelmingly in favor of statehood. Commentators through the country have congratulated Hawaii. It would perhaps be more appropriate if we in the continental United States congratulated ourselves.

The admission of Hawaii to the Union was for years furiously opposed by those who clung to the myth of a "white" America. The reason, of course, is that the population of the Hawaiian Islands is only twenty-five percent "white." The majority of the population is native Hawaiian, Chinese and Japanese. But in these islands some measure of the racially "good society" has been achieved--a much greater measure than has been known anywhere else in the United States. Racial discrimination is almost unknown in Hawaii; relations between the various races are as good, probably, as they can ever be in a world where the hearts of men are still corroded by hatred and fear. This new state can set an example for the rest of the nation.

One political commentator has written that Little Rock was the white supremacists' Gettysburg and Hawaii is their Appomattox. We must hope this is true, if we are to hope for the moral leadership of America in the future at all.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. Why do you think the editors of this article feel optimistic about the Civil Rights Movement after Hawaii had been admitted as a state?

2. What do the editors mean when they reference that "Little Rock was the white supremacists' Gettysburg and Hawaii is their Appomattox." Do you think this ended up being true? Explain.

3. Do you think Hawaii could have been admitted as a state at a different point in time? If so, when? Explain your reasoning.

4. Do you see any parallels between when Hawaii was admitted as a state and other territories path/admission for statehood? Explain.