

Japanese Internment Camps



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THESIS

During World War 2,
powerful figures used fear to
manipulate the public opinion
of Japanese- Americans and
diminish their rights as
citizens.



Pre-existing Bigotry and Hardships

- Gentleman's Agreement

- In 1924, it stopped further migration of all citizens from Japan and banned naturalization
- And also couldn't marry outside of their race
- They were denied the right to vote, and testify on court.

- California Alien Land Law Act

- In 1920, it prohibited Japanese citizens from acquiring, possessing, and transferring property
- Stopped Japanese-Americans from Acquiring some jobs
- Segregated Schools



Pearl Harbor

- The Attack

- 7:55 AM on Sunday, December 7, 1941— Japanese warplanes, launched from aircraft carriers far out at sea, attacked the American Pacific fleet anchored at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii

- Hours After

- Pearl Harbor the FBI searched households and collected items they considered contraband
- The FBI arrested 1,291 Japanese community and religious leaders
- Early Feb. 1942 restricted zones and curfews were instilled on the Pacific Coast.



Hysteria Spreads

Japanese Citizens Suspected to be Spies

Government Propaganda



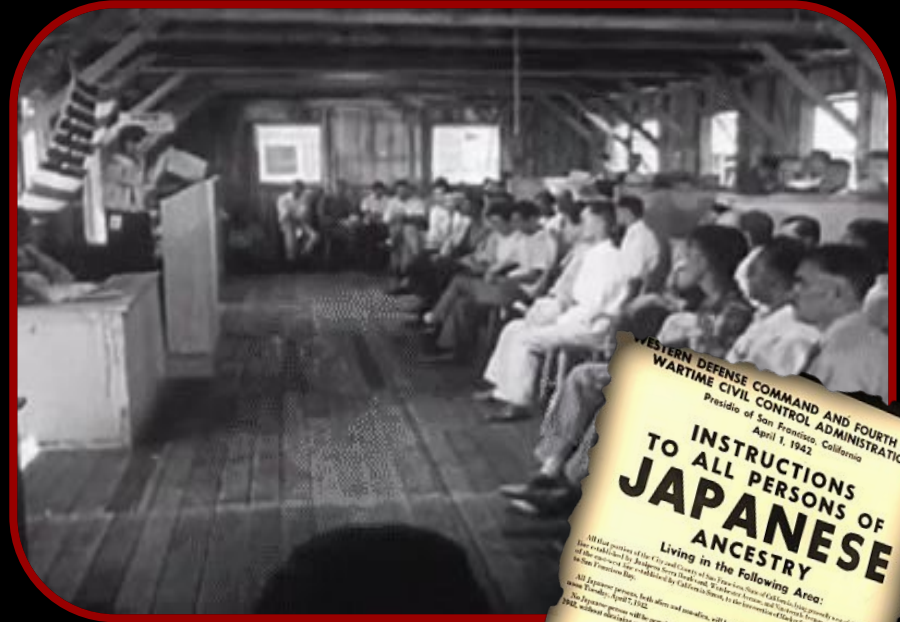
Executive Order 9066

- Franklin D. Roosevelt

- With Executive Order 9066, President Franklin Roosevelt authorized the removal and incarceration of "any and all persons" from areas of the country deemed vulnerable to attack or sabotage

- Start of the Evacuation

- March 31, 1942 Japanese Americans along West Coast were report to relocation site—an internment camp.
- First, they were evacuated from their homes, then taken to temporary assembly centres and from there, transported inland to the camps.



Relocation

- War Relocation Authority established

- Its mission was to "take all people of Japanese descent into custody, surround them with troops, prevent them from buying land, and return them to their former homes at the close of the war."
-The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica

- Mass Relocation notices posted April 30, 1942

- Roughly one week given to settle affairs
- People took advantage and bought items for less
- 110,000 Japanese Americans were taken to dilapidated areas
- The first internment camp was in Manzanar (CA) and between 1942-45 10 camps opened holding 120,000 inmates



Conditions

- Concentration Camps

- Largest assembly centers were found in, Santa Anita CA, Tanforan CA, and Puyallup WA

- Environment

- Barbed-wire fences
- Degrading and cheap commodities/housing
- Inadequate food
- Extreme weather
- Little privacy
- Nisei generation favored over Issei generation



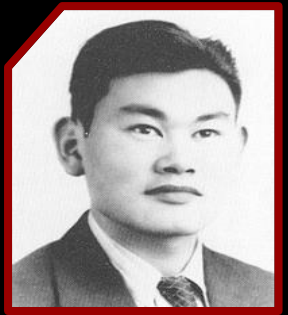
Community Fighting Back

- Response to incarceration
 - Communities formed inside the camps in spite of tensions
 - Internees created churches, farms, newspapers, schools and more to cope
 - Camps set up like small towns
 - Inmates were expected to keep the camps running for only \$12-\$19 a month
 - Organizations to advocate for Japanese-American rights were formed inside camps





Legal Actions



- Individuals fight back
 - Challengers of the court, Gordon Hirabayashi, Fred Korematsu, and Minoru Yasu
 - In Korematsu's case, the Supreme Court ruled that the evacuation and internment of Nisei was constitutional
 - Fourth case addressed by Supreme Court at the end of 1944 was Mitsuye Endo
- Loyalty
 - The Supreme Court's decision in the Endo case led to Japanese Americans being allowed to return to the West Coast starting in January 1945.
 - Inmates ruled to be loyal Americans were released and forced to find job, like a migrant laborer, or enlist

Aftermath



- December 18 1944– Government announced all camps were to be closed by end of 1945
- Issues Faced
 - Some Japanese-Americans found that their homes had become occupied by stranger and faced financial deficits after release
 - 1948– the Federal government gave only \$37 million in reparations
- Amendments
 - The Executive Order 9066 was only officially repealed in 1976 by president Gerald R. Ford in which America expressed its regret— about 3 decades later.
 - Redress Movement 1970s was campaign to resolve mistreatment of civil rights and the reopened Supreme Court cases
 - 1988– Congress passed the Civil Liberties Act, compensating more than 80,000 Japanese Americans with \$20,000 each for their suffering, and a formal apology was issued

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