

Following the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, President F.D.R. addressed a joint session of congress the next day asking for war to be declared on Japan. 33 minutes after he had completed his initial speech, congress declared war on Japan. With so much uncertainty and fear, the suspicion of fifth column activity lead to the creation of a commission under Chief Justice Owen Roberts. Without the time to gather factual evidence, a report was made based off suspicion of a threat inland United States. Even after the FBI deemed no real threat, F.D.R. issued Executive Order 9066, handing power over to the U.S. military. This allowed for any action deemed necessary to protect the country, including the power to relocate any citizen deemed a threat to the U.S. Relocation of all 120,000 Japanese American citizens began almost immediately.

When Fred Korematsu denied the order to evacuate from Oakland, California, he was arrested. Over the course of 2 years, Korematsu challenged his arrest and appealed his case all the way up to the Supreme Court. Korematsu's trial lasted only 2 days from October 11-12, 1944. His lawyers argued that Executive Order 9066 was in clear violation of the 14th amendment since it only affected those of Japanese descent, and the 5th amendment because they were given no due process. The appeal lost in a 6-3 decision with the primary argument being that the president had the power to do whatever was necessary to protect the nation in a time of war, even discriminating based on race. After the war had ended, and all Japanese Americans were released, not one person of Japanese descent had been accused of sabotage in any form.

40 years after the decision in the case, it was reopened by Dale Minami and a group of lawyers wanting to challenge the original decision, using Coram Nobis, the ability to challenge the final decision of a case upon the discovery of a fundamental error that did not first appear in the records. Coram Nobis meant that when Peter Irons, a legal historian, and member of Minami's team, had discovered evidence that government lawyers had hidden evidence from the Supreme Court, it could be retried. On November 10, 1983, the U.S. District Court agreed with Minami's team and the original case was thrown out. Using this, under the presidency of Ronald Reagan, Congress passed the Civil Liberties of 1988. This undid all decisions made during the war and repaid all survivors of the relocation camps \$20,000.

The bombing of Pearl Harbor is still one of the greatest American tragedies. This event shaped many laws today and how the U.S. involves itself in wars. We have learned a great deal from the events that occurred. The relocation of the entire Japanese American population is an event that should never have happened. When in war, there are measures that need to be taken for the protection of citizens, but relocation of an entire population is not one of them. I disagree completely with the measures taken and see no benefit from the relocation. If fifth column activity occurred, then the single groups responsible should be addressed, and prosecuted accordingly. It is fear and lack of knowledge that lead to such drastic measures. With other races which posed similar level threats, if not greater, action was taken on individuals deemed threats instead of groups. There were many spies in the United States who associated themselves with the Nazi and Communist parties and were prosecuted accordingly.

In the 1950s, the growing fear of communism in the United States led to a similar reaction to the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The accusation of communist association in congress and media led to hearings in the U.S. Senate. Led by Senator Joseph McCarthy, McCarthyism was a response to lack of understanding and growing fear. McCarthy fed off fear in American people to create racist policies that would criminalize people unconstitutionally. The greatest attack was upon the Russian American population. These trials proved that when there was fear of another country, all citizens in the U.S. associated with that country would be under attack.

The idea that an entire race should be punished for a crime committed by a different group of the same race is an outdated idea, yet not completely in the past. Our president's travel bans on the middle east were in response to perceived threats from small terror groups based in several countries. A small terror group does not include an entire population and should not be acted as such. Background checks, and the NSA are in place to counteract any threats from these groups. These measures were put in place as a direct response to the acts of terror cells and have acted as a figurative wall against any threat since they were enacted. Again, acting in fear and lack of understanding, congress has allowed for action to be taken against entire race groups for the sake of national security.

Going into the future, I believe there will be many more instances of attacks upon specific races due to fears of groups or other countries with which those races may associate. It is instinctual to fear that which we do not understand, and until there is clarity of every involvement of every country and group, we will never be without understanding. Therefore,

there will always be someone who fears a group, and if that one person has enough power, they have the ability to act against a population due to uncertainty.