

According to an apologetic report published in 1980 by Congress's Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, America's "widespread ignorance of Japanese Americans contributed to a policy conceived in haste and executed in an atmosphere of fear and anger at Japan" ("Personal Justice Denied"). In the early 1940's the United States government targeted Japanese Americans and placed them into Japanese Internment Camps not only because of their unique physical characteristics but also as a hasty reaction to the Japanese invasion of Pearl Harbor.

First, the Japanese Americans were targeted due to their unique physical appearance. Unlike the Japanese Americans, Italians and Germans were not put under internment because they look very similar to Americans. In fact, Curtis B. Munson, a Special Representative of the State Department admitted in his "Munson Report" that the, "Germans and Italians are 'White.'" Due to the fact that Japanese Americans *look* Japanese, the government was not confident that they could distinguish innocent Japanese Americans from Japanese spies who government officials deemed "suspicious."

While the physical appearance of Japanese Americans inevitably led to their placement in internment camps, the American government perhaps chose to take this action as a hasty reaction to Pearl Harbor in an attempt to calm and secure, without a doubt, the United States. American leaders feared that the attack on Pearl Harbor was the result of Japanese espionage and were looking for scapegoats who assisted in the attack and could potentially continue working for Japan in America. According to Chief Justice Hugo Black and the "Korematsu Supreme Court Ruling," many Japanese Americans, including Fred Korematsu, were sent to internment camps because, "the military urgency of the situation demanded that all citizens of Japanese ancestry be

segregated from the West Coast temporarily...” While Black believed that this was merely an act of precaution, Curtis Munson felt that America overreacted by sending all Japanese Americans to Internment camps, as most Japanese Americans did not oppose a threat (only 50-60 in each district). While the US took swift action in placing all Japanese Americans into internment camps, they did not take the time to develop an efficient method for determining which Japanese Americans were truly suspicious and which ones were innocent people trying to make an honest living in the U.S.

Even though the United States’ decision to imprison Japanese Americans could be considered unjust, their decision ensured that no danger would come to the nation’s people. The only way they could ensure that their land and people would be protected is if they placed them all into internment camps where all communication and activity could be monitored. According to the Korematsu Supreme Court Ruling, the U.S. was “threatened by hostile forces” so much that they felt the “power to protect must be commensurate with the threatened danger.”