

On December 7, 1941 American troops on the naval base, Pearl Harbor, were struck with shock and frozen in fear as Japanese fighter pilots flew over and released bombs on multiple U.S. naval ships and the base itself. This disastrous and tragic event, that resulted in the loss of 2,300 American lives, stunned citizens of all backgrounds across the US and ultimately resulted in the American government declaring war on Japan which brought our nation into World War II. With the attack happening on American soil and Japan being declared an enemy, the United States government grew paranoid that they were being spied on by Japanese-American citizens and became fearful of possible terrorist attacks. The government then had the idea to detain all Japanese-American citizens in internment camps as an overly-precautionary measure as a result of the disastrous attack.

During the early periods of the war, America had remained a neutral country, but supplied allied countries when they were in dire need. With Germany being the then dominating power in the war and Adolf Hitler seeking world domination and the fall of democracy, he longed for America's involvement in the war to help relieve pressure on his Western Front. To do this, he recruited Japan to launch the attack on the US. This was the largest foreign attack on American soil in over 100 years. The losses were devastating and caused the American people to panic and become extremely paranoid of any Japanese-American citizen. Citizens called for the government to take action which is ultimately what led to the camps being created. It was a knee-jerk reaction, almost the exact same as it would be when the September 11 terrorist attacks occurred around 60 years later. The people were afraid, because they had no idea what was going on at the time and if more attacks would take place soon after. Albeit, after the attacks in New York, we did not imprison approximately 120,000 mostly innocent people for being from a certain region of the planet, but our nation undeniably treated Middle-Eastern and Muslim citizens with prejudice.

Document B states that the United States investigated around 60 Japanese-American citizens who lived on the West Coast (closest to Japan) that were accused of being spies. This was the unfortunate start to the American government's fear-inspired crusade that would result in the incarceration of thousands upon thousands of Japanese-Americans. The spies tried informing them about Pearl Harbor weeks before the attack ever happened. The United States was disconcerted about these claims and tossed them aside thinking they were Japanese spies lying about the impending attack. After the attack of Pearl Harbor, the United States passed a bill that forced the placement of thousands of Japanese-Americans in "concentration" camps, but were given the bare necessities including hospitals, food markets, and many other reliable outposts to acquire supplies.

"Psychology Today" defines fear as a "vital response to physical and emotional danger". The United States response was not one of cruel and malicious intent, but one to protect Her people and their prosperity in the face of a petrifying physical danger.