

On December 7th, 1941, the Japanese launched an attack infamously known as Pearl Harbor, killing 2,403 Americans. After this attack, the U.S. Government issued the American Document 9066 which forced all Japanese-Americans to involuntarily evacuate the West Coast to 'internment camps' which essentially incarcerated approximately 127,000 Japanese-Americans. The internment camps were created as a result of Pearl Harbor because it catalyzed the already present war hysteria, while also encouraging American hate and distrust towards the Japanese race.

At first, the U.S. was not yet fighting in World War II (which began on September 1, 1939), majority of Americans sympathized with the Allies. However, Japan sided with the Axis Powers which were the opposing force in World War II, which thus spawned Japanese-U.S. tension. Therefore, as a result of this tension, it spawned crude racism towards the Japanese. In Document C, Harry Paxton Howard published an editorial on the internment camps, stating that they were merely created upon the basis of race. As quoted, "Color seems to be the only possible reason why thousands of American citizens of Japanese ancestry are in concentration camps". This is proven because in the East Coast, where the majority of the German and Italian population were located, none of either races were put into any sort of 'camp' or even receive a consequence; even though both nationalities have major ties with the Axis Powers. This is primarily believed because of their color of their skin - white.

Next, is the American distrust of the Japanese as a whole. After the events of Pearl Harbor, countless Americans impetuously came to the conclusion that ALL Japanese could not be trusted. In 1980, congress enacted "the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment

of Civilians”, to explore the constitutionality of internment. In their report, they reliably stated, “The broad historical causes which shaped these decisions were race prejudice, war hysteria and a failure of political leadership”(Document E). A major point argued by the U.S. Government when internment was being conducted was that it was for “the protection of national security”, which is arguable because the West Coast contains numerous U.S. assets that could be leaked to the Japanese Empire, such as the Naval Air Base, shipyards, and Oil Rigs (Document A). However, Japanese internment cannot be justified completely upon this statement because there was no clear evidence on any given individual or group without review. All of the Japanese that were interned should have been *innocent until proven guilty*, but the U.S. did not even attempt to “filter” any suspicious or criminal Japanese from the innocent. Simply put, the extreme U.S. distrust of the Japanese influenced the Government to take an unconstitutional action.

In conclusion, Japanese Internment was formed because of heightened national racism, and war hysteria, which all stems from the events of Pearl Harbor. The U.S. Government did not go into a further investigation of the Japanese, therefore the Government should not have been allowed to involuntarily move the Japanese if they went through further investigation. The Japanese were rushed to internment camps without any reasoning, besides American resentment towards the race based off of the events in Pearl Harbor.