The Order of the Axis

“Circumstances cause us to act the way we do. I realized this from the start during World War II” (Thor Heyerdahl). In response to the horrors and tragedies of World War II, the United States executed many controversial orders and injunctions in the name of national security. To counter the escalating threat of an Axis invasion on United States soil, President Roosevelt signed *Executive Order 9066*. For national security, Japanese Americans on the West Coast were targeted for relocation to an internment camps. Congress argued that these actions were necessary to protect the nation from further Japanese threats. Although a controversial part of American history, the Executive Order did weaken the potential for additional sabotage on United State shores.

In *Personal Justice Denied,* it is argued that those who opposed the Japanese internment camps did so on the grounds of injustices against the Japanese race. Although race undoubtedly played a factor in justifying the acts, the real reason for the exclusion and removal of these citizens can be found in *The Korematsu Supreme Court Ruling.* In the *Korematsu* case, the court explained that it was for the sole purpose of avoiding military threats against the United States. Fred Korematsu argued that the actions taken against Japanese-Americans by the United States government was unconstitutional. As a result, he refused to report to his designated internment camp. This ruling proved the extent at which the United States Congress and the Commission of Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) would go to protect American citizens.

*The Munson Report* claims that there would not have been a Japanese threat against American national security. During World War II, a growing threat that undercover agents were infiltrating the United States government resulted in the relocation of one-hundred thousand Japanese-Americans, most residing on the West Coast ([*https://archive.org/details/Japanese1943*](https://archive.org/details/Japanese1943)). The evidence supports that most Japanese-Americans remained loyal to the United States. In *The Crisis,* a claim is presented that the internment camps were created as a means of effecting racial prejudice. However, according to the *Texas Historical* Commission, many Germans and Italians who resided in the United States were also placed in internment camps for security purposes. Despite the internment camps being extremely strict, it is hard to deny their efficiency.

The responsibility of protecting both American ideals and the American people rested in the decisions made by a few. The Japanese internment camps are not the paramount events of our history, but it was a difficult decision that had to be made for the sanctity of our nation. More than forty years after the release of the Japanese-Americans from the camps, a formal apology and compensation was extended to them by the United States government. The dark events of World War II did not leave the United States’ history unblemished.