At the start of World War II, the United States’ foreign policy underwent a stage of isolationism, in which the nation was solely focused on noninterference. The theory of isolationism quickly came to an abrupt halt after the attack on Pearl Harbor. On the day of this tragic incident, thousands lost their lives to Japanese actions. At the time, “100,000 Japanese Americans resided in Los Angeles, 2/3 being actual U.S citizens and the other 1/3 being aliens” (Japanese Relocation). In fear of another attack or disloyalty, the government imposed strict precautions to guarantee the safety of its citizens.

As a result, Executive Order 9066 was enacted to relocate Japanese American citizens living on the West Coast to internment camps. “Executive Order 9066 was not justified by military necessity, and the decisions which followed from it … were not driven by analysis of military conditions” (Personal Justice Denied). This relocation was a result of racial tension.

Racial discrimination and the physical appearance of Japanese Americans led these individuals to become hampered as potential saboteurs. Even though Germany and Italy were Japan’s allies and many Americans were of German and Italian descent, Executive Order 9066 focused only on Japanese Americans. This outcome resulted from the fact that Germans and Italians are “Caucasian”. “Color seems to be the only possible reason why thousands of American citizens of Japanese ancestry are in concentration camps” (The Crisis).

The United States attempted to justify the Japanese internment camps, by eliciting fear and anti-Japanese hysteria. The properly constituted military authorities feared an invasion of our West Coast and felt constrained to take proper security measures, because they decided that the military urgency of the situation demanded that all citizens of Japanese ancestry be segregated from the West Coast temporarily. The Japanese were feared as a security risk, especially since their loyalty could have potentially waivered in favor of Japan.

The Korematsu Supreme Court Case proved racial discrimination was not the main argument for the enforcement of Executive Order 9066. This court case did not derive from racial prejudice instead it presented real military dangers. “He [Korematsu] was excluded because we are at war with the Japanese Empire, because the properly constituted military authorities feared an invasion of our West Coast and felt constrained to take proper security measures” (The Korematsu Supreme Court Ruling).

In the eyes of the federal government and most American citizens, the exclusion of Japanese Americans was considered acceptable due to the accommodations of the camps. The Federal government justified the use of camps by providing certain advertised privileges. Interned individuals were given access to healthcare, housing, food, education, and other employment. In addition, the U.S government assisted the Japanese American citizens in gaining public and private jobs, such as public land jobs. In addition, the U.S gained cheap labor from the Japanese citizens in areas of work including rubber and military supply, such as creating camouflage nets (Japanese Relocation). The effort these citizens put forth showed their loyalty and support for the U.S in the war.