The Japanese Internment

December 7, 1941 marked the start of the long and perilous conflict between the standing superpower that was the United States and the Empire of Japan. Trouble and tensions rapidly escalated as the Japanese military executed a sudden and unforeseen bombardment on the United States naval base, *Pearl Harbor*. This event led to the transition of the United States into World War II. Japanese Americans were promptly interned to camps across the United States. The United States decided to relocate Japanese American citizens into national internment camps, because they feared invasion of the West Coast. An atmosphere of fear and weak leadership led to the internment of Japanese American citizens during World War II.

Following the barrage, the Japanese were segregated for the safety and security of the American people and the government. The US government is believed to have acted out of, “*war hysteria and a failure of political leadership*.” The injustice of the United States toward Japanese Americans depicted that of a cruel state of discrimination, but this, however, was not an accurate portrayal of the United States at this time. Their actions were out of fear and made in haste with the best intentions for American citizens. The West Coast, in particular, was a largely populated area consisting of majority Japanese residents. This sparked much concern due to the high United States military presence in this region. The dramatic outflow of Japanese from the West Coast areas could be attributed to these military and government funded complexes. With this, the United States hoped to avoid and possibly divert a potential threat posed by the Japanese communities being in close proximity to many national level security buildings and government-funded organizations.

The unstable leadership of the American officials left citizens with a sense of shaky assembly. Franklin D. Roosevelt, in the hopes of a strong and cooperative people, attempted to make a public statement providing residents of the country with a figure to follow behind. Roosevelt, in preparing to address the situation, ultimately failed to gather and create a stable groundwork between the citizens and the developments. Instead of controlling, he fed the growing paranoia of the American people. Discrimination of the Japanese was at high tides on American soil during this time and would take much longer to decimate.

In conclusion, it was the lack of leadership and the installment of fear into the minds of US residents that ultimately led to removal of Japanese from certain points of United States soil and into the various internment camps. The fuelled hate against Japanese occupants came about from the conjoined and warped view given by American officials during this time. Although, this was a dark and vicious time in American history, the body that now stands has learned from the mistakes of past leaders and mistakes and is working toward an optimistic future.

Citations:

<http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/day-of-infamy/>

Personal Justice Denied: The Report of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians

[http://www.archives.gov/details/Japanese 1943](http://www.archives.gov/details/Japanese%201943)

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