Japanese Internment

On July 7, 1937, Japanese soldiers invaded China, marking the start of World War II. During this war, people who descended from a Japanese linage were interned because they were perceived to be a possible security threat to America. On December 7, 1941, Japan attacked a United States naval base at Pearl Harbor. After the attack, the American government became wary of all Japanese living along the west coast. There were approximately 100,000 people of Japanese ancestry living in Los Angeles when the attack occurred.

In 1943, the newsreel, “Japanese Relocation” was released by the United States Office of War Information with the subject being of the relocation of Japanese Americans that lived near Pearl Harbor. The newsreel can be considered credible since it contains facts concerning the movement, such as, “when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, our western coast became a potential combat zone.” However, while the newsreel is composed of somewhat of facts, it is mainly surrounded by an American bias. This makes the source less reliable because, while it can contain real information, it is likely that the source is not completely trustworthy. The off-set structure of the information makes the source unreliable and biased since it is written solely by the United States government.

In 1941, President Roosevelt ordered the State Department to investigate the Japanese Americans. The product was the “Munson Report.” This report was structured around the findings of the State Department’ assessments of Japanese American’s loyalty to America or Japan. A source’s authorship is constructed from the knowledge of the “author.” The “Munson Report’s” authorship is considered credible, since the information was gathered from a governmental investigation. The investigation uncovered that there were Japanese Americans and Japanese aliens that were considered to be potentially dangerous. However, the author can conclude that, “there is no Japanese ‘problem’ on the Coast.”

In September of 1942, The Crisis, an old black periodical, wrote an editorial about the internment camps. The editorial states, “color seems to be the only possible reason why thousands of American citizens of Japanese ancestry are in concentration camps.” Since this editorial was “dedicated to promoting civil rights,” its audience is intended to be those who are treated unfairly because of their race.

In the 1900s there was a internment of Japanese Americans. These people were ensured their rights and were segregated by their ancestry. The sources can that determined the internment were influenced by the information’s reliability, authorship, and audience.