During the days immediately following the attack by the Japanese on Pearl Harbor, over 100,000 Japanese Americans were relocated and interned from the coast of California, primarily Los Angeles, to numerous states including Arizona, Utah, Colorado and California. According to the video *Japanese Relocation* published in 1943 by U.S. Office of War Information, Japanese Americans were interned during World War II to insure the safety of America and protect citizens from other attacks like Pearl Harbor. There are several reasons associated with the internment of the Japanese Americans during WWII. The government was fearful as to what would happen to these people. It was also believed that the Japanese who were living near the water were feared to obtain information about the American ships and the farmers were feared to obtain information about the American aircraft. The distrust of the American people caused repercussions that included arrests of prominent Japanese Americans, loss of jobs and public scrutiny and abuse (“Japanese” 1).

The atmosphere created by the relocation of the Japanese Americans caused confusion and frustration (“Japanese” 1). The move inland was originally voluntary, but due to fear of violent threats toward the Japanese Americans, army orders soon became necessary and notices were posted of the presidential Executive Order 9066, which “authorized the evacuation and relocation of any and all persons from military areas” (*Japanese Relocation;* “Japanese” 2). Many of the interned packed in only a few days, leaving unmanned farms and businesses. The government assisted by providing moving vans and buses that would aid in the relocation of the Japanese Americans. The government also promised to provide tenants to take care of the farms and businessmen who would lease or sell property owned by the transitioning Japanese Americans.

In addition to the help by the American government during the moving process, the government also provided “healthful, nourishing food for all”, advanced American education classes, health care and temporary housing. Despite the barbed wire and guards, the land in the new location was “raw, untamed, but full of opportunities” (*Japanese Relocation).* Imitating a normal community, the camps incorporated music, church, sports teams, self-government and newspapers. Along with these jobs, the Japanese Americans were permitted to serve their country by enlisting in the armed forces. According to the Library of Congress, “more than 30,000 men enlisted in the armed forces. The all Japanese American 442nd Regiment became the most decorated unit of its size in U.S. history.”

The bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941 created a chain of events that led to the relocation of over 100,000 Japanese American people. The Japanese Americans living on the coast near military bases could gain information that would benefit Japan during WWII. Even if they were loyal American citizens, they experienced prejudice and hostility by the American people due to fear and suspicions. The high level of care given to the camp citizens would assure future cooperation and devotion to America by the Japanese Americans.

"Japanese American Internment." *The Library of Congress*. N.p., n.d. Web. 22 June

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