

Internment Camps WWII: Was This A Good Plan?

Were the Japanese-Americans Protected in the U.S.?

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DIRECTION: Analyze the following documents. Use the documents and your knowledge of American history, to answer the questions that follow each document. Your answers will help you write a short essay related to the documents.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

Japanese-American Internment Camps

A historical fact that is not really "common knowledge" is the fact that, during World War II, over 100,000 Japanese-American individuals, the vast majority of which were actually American citizens, were rounded up and shipped eventually to internment camps. These consisted of poorly-constructed barracks surrounded by barbed wire, sentry posts and armed guards.

They were put in these camps, not because they had been tried and found guilty of something, but because either they or their parents or ancestors were from Japan and, as such, they were deemed a "threat" to national security. They were also easily identifiable due to their race. There was no similar large-scale roundups of German or Italian-Americans, even though we were also fighting them during World War II.

These people were forced to abandon their businesses, their homes and, in many cases, their families as some individuals were taken elsewhere and held, again without trial, for years. The Japanese-Americans suffered severe economic losses, personal humiliation and, in a some cases, death, due to this relocation.

The relocation itself was ordered by the then President of the United States, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and by an act of Congress.

The Japanese-American (Nisei) and the Japanese aliens (Issei) on the West Coast were rounded up and moved to assembly centers and then to internment camps. Few Japanese living in the East or Midwestern portions of the U.S., though, were treated the same way.

What is extremely interesting is that the Nisei and Issei living in Hawaii were not subject to a mass evacuation even though they formed a third of the population in Hawaii and were a lot closer to Japan than the Japanese-Americans on the West Coast of the U.S.

The reasons they weren't rounded up were both cultural and economic.

"There was no mass relocation and internment in Hawaii, where the population was one-third Japanese American. It would have been impossible to transport that many people to the mainland, and the Hawaiian economy would have collapsed without Japanese American workers. "

-from the book Japanese American Internment Camps by Gail Sakurai, 2002

"Ironically, the territory with the largest Japanese population saw the least discrimination. More than one third of all residents of Hawaii had some Japanese ancestry. Japanese labor was considered vital to the civilian and military economics of the Hawaiian Islands. Besides, the views of Delos Emmons, military commander of Hawaii, were the opposite of those of General DeWitt."

-from the book Japanese-American internment in American History, 1996.

As noted in some of the other reviews, there were a very small number of people arrested and detained in Hawaii and a small number that voluntarily went to the mainland camps, but primarily so they could find relatives. There was not a single act of sabotage in Hawaii by the Japanese Americans during the entire war.

In addition, since there were so many people of Japanese ancestry already living in Hawaii, about a third of the population, racism was not at all the kind of problem it was on the west coast

Although prejudice and discrimination played major roles in the internment, economics and jealousy did also, as many Californians were jealous of the economic success that the Japanese-American farmers and store owners enjoyed. Thus arose a lot of the anti-Japanese-American feeling in the same way that some people despise Jewish people, largely due to their economic successes. The hard work, self-sacrifice, and strong efforts by the Japanese-Americans and Jewish people are overlooked and ignored when people of prejudice proclaim their judgments against Japanese-Americans and Jewish people.

The fact that the internment did happen here in the U.S. is something to never forget since what has happened once could very well happen again, especially in these days of growing anti-immigrant, anti-foreigner feelings in the U.S.

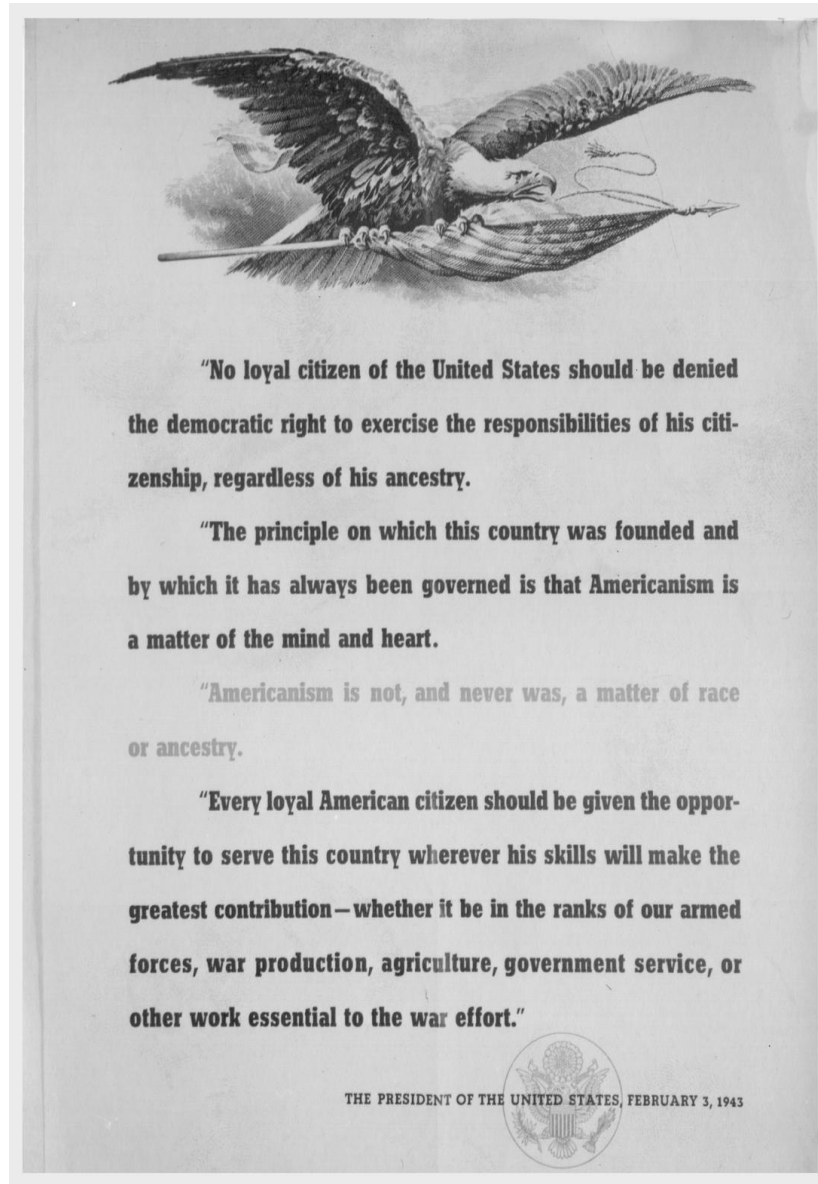
<p><i>Based on historical resources was it a good plan to put Japanese-Americans in Internment camps for their own protection during WWII?</i></p>



<http://www.bookmice.net/darkchilde/japan/camp.html>

QUESTION:

As early as 1924 Japanese loyalty to America was the focus of the U.S. attention. After December 7, 1941, Pearl Harbor bombing, Japanese- Americans were mistrusted. The Japanese-Americans were led to believe that they were relocated for their own protection. Write an essay to explain why or why not it was a good plan to put Japanese-Americans in Internment camps for their own protection during World War II.



<http://www.bookmice.net/darkchilde/japan/poster.html>

- 1a. According to the first paragraph what is the American citizens responsibility?
- 1b. Who wrote the document and what date was it written?
- 1c. What is meant by the statement "Americanism is not, and never was, a matter of race or ancestry?" Would this show that the government was protecting all Americans?

Document #2



Another mini-gallery of hunting licenses. The examples here explicitly use images of animals such as snakes and rats in their effort to characterize the Japanese as animals who should be hunted down.

<http://clioweb.org/openseason/animals.html>

2a. What date was on the license?

2b. Does this document prove that the Japanese were targets of abuse during WWII? In what way does this prove they were made fun of?

Document #3

Transcript of Executive Order 9066: Resulting in the Relocation of Japanese (1942)

Executive Order No. 9066

The President

Executive Order

Authorizing the Secretary of War to Prescribe Military Areas

Whereas the successful prosecution of the war requires every possible protection against espionage and against sabotage to national-defense material, national-defense premises, and national-defense utilities as defined in Section 4, Act of April 20, 1918, 40 Stat. 533, as amended by the Act of November 30, 1940, 54 Stat. 1220, and the Act of August 21, 1941, 55 Stat. 655 (U.S.C., Title 50, Sec. 104);

Now, therefore, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States, and Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy, I hereby authorize and direct the Secretary of War, and the Military Commanders whom he may from time to time designate, whenever he or any designated Commander deems such action necessary or desirable, to prescribe military areas in such places and of such extent as he or the appropriate Military Commander may determine, from which any or all persons may be excluded, and with respect to which, the right of any person to enter, remain in, or leave shall be subject to whatever restrictions the Secretary of War or the appropriate Military **Commander may impose in his discretion. The Secretary of War is hereby authorized to provide for residents of any such area who are excluded there from, such transportation, food, shelter, and other accommodations as may be necessary, in the judgment of the Secretary of War or the said Military Commander, and until other arrangements are made, to accomplish the purpose of this order. The designation of military areas in any** region or locality shall supersede designations of prohibited and restricted areas by the Attorney General under the Proclamations of December 7 and 8, 1941, and shall supersede the responsibility and authority of the Attorney General under the said Proclamations in respect of such prohibited and restricted areas.

I hereby further authorize and direct the Secretary of War and the said Military Commanders to take such other steps as he or the appropriate Military Commander may deem advisable to enforce compliance with the restrictions applicable to each Military area hereinabove authorized to be designated, including the use of Federal troops and other Federal Agencies, with authority to accept assistance of state and local agencies.

I hereby further authorize and direct all Executive Departments, independent establishments and other Federal Agencies, to assist the Secretary of War or the said Military Commanders in carrying out this Executive Order, including the furnishing of

medical aid, hospitalization, food, clothing, transportation, use of land, shelter, and other supplies, equipment, utilities, facilities, and services.

This order shall not be construed as modifying or limiting in any way the authority heretofore granted under Executive Order No. 8972, dated December 12, 1941, nor shall it be construed as limiting or modifying the duty and responsibility of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, with respect to the investigation of alleged acts of sabotage or the duty and responsibility of the Attorney General and the Department of Justice under the Proclamations of December 7 and 8, 1941, prescribing regulations for the conduct and control of alien enemies, except as such duty and responsibility is superseded by the designation of military areas hereunder.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

The White House,

February 19, 1942.

<http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/japanese-relocation/images/thank-you-note.gif>

- 3a. What date was this document written?**
- 3b. Who was given authorization to set up the internment areas?**
- 3c. According to the underlined information, what must the Secretary provide? Does this information prove that the government was trying to protect the Japanese or does it prove something else is happening? If there is something else, what does it prove?**

Document #4

"It is my hope that residents of the U.S. of Japanese extraction will not be made victims of pogroms directed by self-proclaimed patriots and by hysterical self-anointed heroes... Let us not make a mockery of our Bill of Rights by mistreating these folks. Let us regard them with understanding, remembering they are victims of a Japanese war machine, with the making of international policies of which they had nothing to do."

— Congressman John Coffee, December 8, 1941.

<http://www.itvs.org/facetoface/activities/fact1.htm>

- 4a. Who was responsible for the quote and what was the date?**
- 4b. Does this document encourage protection of the Japanese-Americans?**
- 4c. What programs is the document referring to?**

Document #5



*"Amache School
Children Jumping
Rope"*
Photo Donated by
Elaine Wischnowsky

<http://www.colorado.gov/dpa/doit/archives/wwcod/granada6.htm>

- 5a. What type of buildings in the pictures?**
- 5b. What are the children doing? Do they seem happy?**

Document #6

WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY
WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION
Presidio of San Francisco, California
May 3, 1942

INSTRUCTIONS
TO ALL PERSONS OF
JAPANESE
ANCESTRY

Living in the Following Area:

All of that portion of the City of Los Angeles, State of California, within that boundary beginning at the point at which North Figueron Street meets a line following the middle of the Los Angeles River; thence southerly and following the said line to East First Street; thence westerly on East First Street to Alameda Street; thence southerly on Alameda Street to East Third Street; thence northwesterly on East Third Street to Main Street; thence northerly on Main Street to First Street; thence north- westerly on First Street to Figueron Street; thence northeasterly on Figueron Street to the point of beginning.

Pursuant to the provisions of Civilian Exclusion Order No. 33, this Headquarters, dated May 3, 1942, all persons of Japanese ancestry, both alien and [non-alien](#), will be evacuated from the above area by 12 o'clock noon, P. W. T., Saturday, May 9, 1942.

No Japanese person living in the above area will be permitted to change residence after 12 o'clock noon, P. W. T., Sunday, May 3, 1942, without obtaining special permission from the representative of the Commanding General, Southern California Sector, at the Civil Control Station located at:

Japanese Union Church,
120 North San Pedro Street,
Los Angeles, California.

Such permits will only be granted for the purpose of uniting members of a family, or in cases of grave emergency.

The Civil Control Station is equipped to assist the Japanese population affected by this evacuation in the following ways:

1. Give advice and instructions on the evacuation.
2. Provide services with respect to the management, leasing, sale, storage or other disposition of most kinds of property, such as real estate, business and professional equipment, household goods, boats, automobiles and livestock.
3. Provide temporary residence elsewhere for all Japanese in family groups.
4. Transport persons and a limited amount of clothing and equipment to their new residence.

The Following Instructions Must Be Observed:

1. A responsible member of each family, preferably the head of the family, or the person in whose name most of the property is held, and each individual living alone, will report to the Civil Control Station to receive further instructions. This must be done between 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M. on Monday, May 4, 1942, or between 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P. M. on Tuesday, May 5, 1942.

2. Evacuees must carry with them on departure for the [Assembly Center](#), the following property:

- (a) Bedding and linens (no mattress) for each member of the family;
 - (b) Toilet articles for each member of the family;
 - (c) Extra clothing for each member of the family;
 - (d) Sufficient knives, forks, spoons, plates, bowls and cups for each member of the family;
 - (e) Essential personal effects for each member of the family.
- All items carried will be securely packaged, tied and plainly marked with the name of the owner and numbered in accordance with instructions obtained at the Civil Control Station. The size and number of packages is limited to that which can be carried by the individual or family group.
3. No pets of any kind will be permitted.
 4. No personal items and no household goods will be shipped to the Assembly Center.
 5. The United States Government through its agencies will provide for the storage, at the sole risk of the owner, of the more substantial household items, such as iceboxes, washing machines, pianos and other heavy furniture. Cooking utensils and other small items will be accepted for storage if crated, packed and plainly marked with the name and address of the owner. Only one name and address will be used by a given family.
 6. Each family and individual living alone will be furnished transportation to the Assembly Center or will be authorized to travel by private automobile in a supervised group. All instructions pertaining to the movement will be obtained at the Civil Control Station.

**Go to the Civil Control Station between the hours of 8:00 A. M. and
5:00 P. M.,
Monday, May 4, 1942, or between the hours of 8:00 A. M. and 5:00 P.
M.,
Tuesday, May 5, 1942, to receive further instructions.**

[J. L. DeWITT](#)

Lieutenant General, U. S. Army
Commanding

SEE CIVILIAN EXCLUSION ORDER NO. 33

<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/8420/poster.html>

- 6a. Specifically who were these instructions written for?
- 6b. According to the underline information, what was the purpose of the permits?
- 6c. According to the document what day and time should the head of the family Meet at the Civil Control Center? Focus on the underline information.
- 6d. What things were not allowed at the Assembly center?
- 6d. Where were they taking the group of people?

Document #7



<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/wcf/images/wcf090a.jpg>

7a. Based on the clothing of the people in the image, what time of the year was this?

7b. How long do you think the people will be away based on their luggage?

Document #8



A young mother of three children stood waiting for her ration of food at Jerome, Arkansas. (UCA Archives)

8a. Why was there a need for rations for Japanese-Americans?

8b. What are rations?



The picture shows a suicide victim at the internment camp at Jerome, Arkansas. Many Japanese suffer from depression and insanity in the internment camps. (UCA archives)

<http://asms.k12.ar.us/armem/tsang/INDEX10.HTM>

8c. Why did many Japanese become depressed at the internment camps?

Document #9



<http://tomroeser.com/blog/img/f24042/japanesecamp.gif>

9a. Describe the treatment of these Japanese-American in this image.

9b. Why are there soldiers in the image?

Document #10

Government officials

"There is no possible way of separating the loyal from the disloyal... when we are dealing with the Caucasian race we have methods that will test the loyalty of them... but when we deal with the Japanese we are in an entirely different field and we cannot form any opinion that we believe to be sound."

— Earl Warren, Attorney General of California, 1942.

http://images.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/images/photodb/23-0304a.gif&imgrefurl=http://www.lawbuzz.com/tyranny/snow_falling/internment_camps.htm&h=457&w=600&sz=99&hl=en&start=11&um=1&tbnid=uBvPP5Ya3ZU9qM:&tbnh=103&tbnw=135&prev=/images%3Fq%3DJapanese%2Binternment%2Bcamp%2Bchildren%2Bimages%26um%3D1%26hl%3Den%26sa%3DX

10a Does the quote indicate the Japanese were fairly treated after the bombing of Pearl Harbor? Explain.

10b. Who was Earl Warren according to the quote?

Document #11



FIGURE 82.—Curious Okinawan children stand by as an American medical aidman takes a blood smear of a native girl at the Military Government Internment Camp, Taira, Okinawa, May 1945.

<http://history.amedd.army.mil/booksdocs/wwii/civilaffairs/ch16fig82.jpg>

11a. Describe the image. Who are the people in the image?

11b. What is the mood of the children?

Document #12

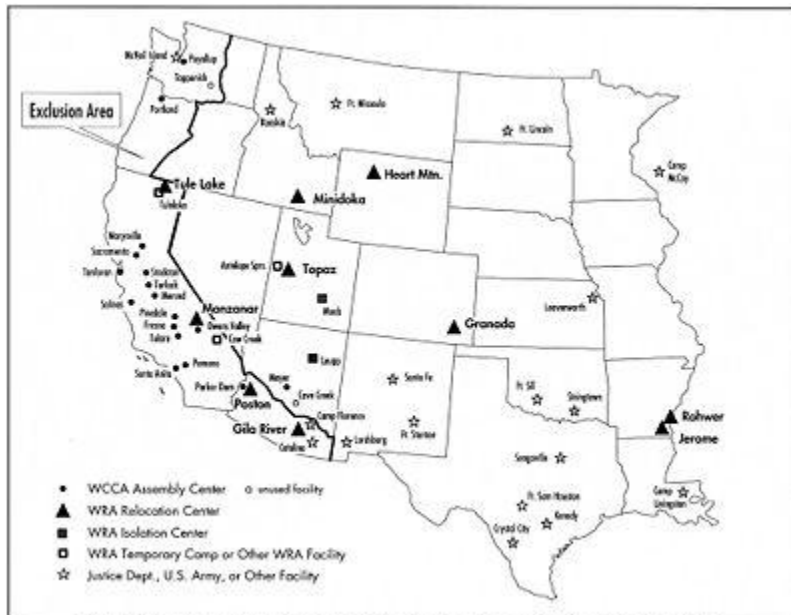


Figure 1.1. Sites in the western U.S. associated with the relocation of Japanese Americans during World War II.

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/d/d0/Japanese_internment.jpg/400px-Japanese_internment.jpg

12a. What areas of the United States were the internment camps located?

12b. Why did the government place the internment camps in these locations?

Document #13



Lemon Creek, B.C.

http://www.sedai.ca/images/history/3_9.jpg



http://www.cafehistoria.net/photos/uncategorized/us_internment_camp_arkansas_1942.jpg

13a. What type of game are the children playing?

13b. Describe the houses in the internment camp?

13c. What type of equipment are they using for the game?

13d. How are the children dressed?

Now you are ready to write your essay, using your own knowledge and the answers you have found in the documents. Based on the historical document write reasons why it was or was not a good plan to put Japanese – Americans in internment camps in the U.S.?

Rubric Checklist

Does your essay:

- **Address all aspects of the question by analyzing, and interpreting at least four documents.**
- **Include information provided by the document.**
- **Incorporate relevant background information that addresses your theme**
- **Support your arguments with facts.**
- **Include a clear and logical format**
- **Have a summation of the theme.**