

The Internment of Japanese-Americans in World War II

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Executive Order 9066

Public Law 503

Internment

Most of the Japanese–Americans were
released in early 1945

My Interests and Biases

Naturalization Act of 1790

Amended in 1795, and 1798 Under John Adams

Repealed in 1952 -McCarran-Walter
Immigration Act

Alien and Sedition Acts 1798 Quasi-War with
France

The Sedition Act and the Alien Friends Act were
allowed to expire in 1800 and 1801, respectively

Enemy Aliens Act did not expire

American Nativism

Nation of Immigrants

Irish Immigration

American Party – “Know Nothing”

Blaine Amendment

Nordic Race

14th Amendment

Post Civil War

Changed the balance with State Rights

United States v. Wong Kim Ark

In 1898 the Supreme Court decision
in granted citizenship to an American-born
child of Chinese parents

Not been tested with other people

Chinese and Japanese Immigration

Chinese were ridiculed Japanese were
praised this changed over time

Lived in their own communities – similar
to Irish, Italians, Jews, Polish, etc.

Japanese immigrants arrive in Hawaii -
1868

Japanese immigrants arrive to the
mainland United States 1869

Anti-Immigration Laws

Welcoming Europeans – Statue of Liberty

Chinese Exclusion Act is passed, prohibiting immigration from China. It was enforced between 1882 and 1892

San Francisco School Board passes a regulation sending all Japanese children to the segregated Chinese school

Russo-Japanese War

Feb. 8, 1904 Sneak Attack on the
Russian Fleet in Port Arthur

Japan was winning the war

Treaty in Portsmouth, NH – Teddy
Roosevelt – Noble Peace Prize

Non white race defeats white race

Theodore Roosevelt

Theodore Roosevelt (like Taft after him) used the influence of the White House to prevent open anti-Japanese discrimination

T. Roosevelt sought to restrict Japanese entry and settlement in the United States

Sent a powerful message to his younger cousin that the Japanese presence in America was dangerous and undesirable

More Restrictions

1906 - San Francisco School Board orders the segregation of 93 Japanese-American students

1907 - Congress passes an immigration law banning Japanese laborers from entering the United States through Hawaii, Mexico, or Canada.

1908 - The Japanese and U.S. governments negotiate the “Gentlemen's Agreement” whereby Japan agrees not to issue visas to laborers who want to emigrate.

Did not stop “Picture Brides”

Alien Land Laws

1913 - California passes the Alien Land Law, which denies “all aliens ineligible for citizenship” the right to own land in the state. Similar alien land laws are soon passed in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, and Minnesota

1920 A second Alien Land Law adopted in California forbids the leasing of lands to aliens “ineligible for citizenship”

Steady Mistrust of Japan

Japan stops issuing passports to "picture brides" Halting their immigration from Japan to the U.S. 1920

Washington Naval Treaty 1922

Nordic Race – Eugenics

“Japs-A Habit of Mind” 1923

The Immigration Act of 1924, incorporating the National Origins Act, and Asian Exclusion Act bars all immigration from Japan

Citizenship - 1922

Takeo Ozawa v. U.S.- SCOTUS rules in the case of that U.S. citizenship is limited to “free white persons and aliens of African ancestry”

Congress passes the Cable Act. This law provides that anyone marrying an “alien ineligible for citizenship” will also lose their US. Citizenship

Common belief of a war with Japan

Court Marshall of Billy Mitchell

FDR and early relations with
Japanese

Growing concern of J-A in Hawaii

1934

Japan announced the *Amami* Doctrine, which claimed East Asia as Japan's special sphere of influence

Japan announced its determination not to renew the 5:5:3 ratio of capital ships

FDR in spring 1936, he made significant efforts to investigate and neutralize any possibility of disloyal activity

FDR efforts focused on the J-A residents of the then-territory of Hawaii, known in Hawaiian usage as the "local Japanese"

FDR mused that in the event of war with Japan some of the Japanese-Hawaiians would need to be placed in **concentration camps** (Roosevelt's words)

FDR did not make any similar effort to keep tabs on Americans of German or Italian ancestry during this period, despite the presence of Nazi agents in the United States and the propaganda activities of pro Axis groups such as the German Bund

ABC List

Group A were identified as “known dangerous” aliens

Group B were considered “potentially dangerous” but had not been thoroughly investigated

Group C were watched because of their pro-Japanese inclinations and propagandist activities

Government Internal Investigations

Munson Report – 1941

Ringle Report – 1942

December 7, 1941

Japanese Embassy in Washington

Ultimatum Delivered Late

Sneak Attack

Attack On Pearl Harbor

Kido Butai – “Attack Force” or “Strike Force”

No American-Japanese Subversion

Attack is tragic but not devastating

Sub Base

Oil storage fields

Repair and Dry Dock

Aircraft Carriers

Attacked the Battleships in shallow water – 6 re-serviced

Ni ihau Incident

December 7, 1941

Zero crash lands on Ni'ihau

Locals are unaware of the Pearl Harbor
Attack

Three J-A's assist the pilot

Hostages – Weapons

Pilot is killed by locals

Incident is used to show mistrust of J-A

Immediate Steps

Froze all assets of Japanese nationals as “enemy aliens”

Arrested as potential subversives some 2,000 Issei on the ABC list

All fishing boats owned by Japanese nationals beached

Suspended their licenses to sell produce in order to protect the food supply

Spoke hypothetically about taking over all J-A businesses and setting up concentration camps

Initially Favorable Treatment of J-A

J-A sent letters/telegrams to the
White House in support

Gen. DeWitt

FBI

FCC

Many Quick Japanese Victories

Previous to Pearl - fortified garrisons on
French Indochina, Thailand, Burma,
Malaysia , Philippines

Shortly thereafter attacked Wake, Hong Cong,
Burma

Air attack on Wake, Guam, and Luzon

Port Darwin in Australia, Java

Land based bombers sunk and destroyed the
HMS Prince of Wales and Repulse

3 months into the war, $\frac{1}{4}$ of the
Pacific was under Japanese
Control

All of the immediate goals of the
Japanese Empire were
accomplished

Very cruel treatment to American
POWs

TOKIO KID JAY-

BRING UP TEXELS
WASTE FOR SCRAP
JUST LIKE BULLETS
MAKE FOR JAP!
THANK YOU





OUR CARELESSNESS
Their Secret Weapon

PREVENT FOREST FIRES

Changes

Rumors of J-A subversion on radio

Greed of white farm owners

Racism: “It's a question of whether the white man lives on the Pacific Coast or the brown man”

Leland Ford: Catch-22

Canada removing Japanese from their west coast

DOJ vs. Sec. Of War and Army

Biddle and Ennis (DOJ)

Simpson, McCloy, DeWitt, and
Bendetsen

Final Report - Feb. 14, 1942

Cited Emp. Of Japan Victories

Loyalty of J-A to Japan - Kibei

J-A Unassimilated

Radio communications

Property near military bases

Conspiracy – “The fact that these [Japanese] have committed no acts of sabotage to date, is a disturbing and confirming indication that they will do so.”

Later Withdrawn by McCloy

Reissued in 1943 without the racist remarks

Executive Order 9066

Signed by FDR – Feb 19, 1942

FDR did not consult with Cabinet

Evacuation of West Coast

Charged the Army with the process

Provided for food and shelter for
evacuation

No provision for property

Later amended to allow for curfew
restrictions

Public Law 503

Provided legal actions for
violators of Executive Order
9066

Rushed to vote

Passed with almost debate

Property

Roosevelt Warned

Voluntary Evacuation

Very poor arrangement

Assistance – Execution

Fire sale

Mortgage payments

Escheat actions, legal proceedings to
absorb vacant land

Voluntary Evacuation to Internment

No Sponsorship

Limit of Funds

Property Left Behind

Hostile Mountain States

10,000 J-A moved to eastern CA – that became part of exclusion zone

Wartime Civil Control Administration (WCCA)

Assembly Centers

The evacuees remained under guard, living in stables and animal pens, for weeks or months while the army began to erect relocation centers

Negative Press and WRA

WRA – defacto approval of internment?

Milton Eisenhower led the WRA
– resigned shortly thereafter

Dept. of Interior took over

Japanese-Americans on Hawaii

Very strong pressure to intern

Mainland Option

Facilities on a remote Hawaiian Island

Roosevelt supported internment

Different General:- Delos Carleton

Emmons

California firing Nisei employees

The state personnel board questioned their loyalty and charged them with “failure of good behavior, fraud in securing employment, incompetency, inefficiency, and acts incompatible with and inimical to the public service”

Doolittle Raid

16 Mitchells left Hornet

Embarrassment – Blow to
pride

U.S. Breaks most of the JM25
code

250,000 Chinese Killed

Midway Atoll

Seeking the Decisive Battle ■ 103



Midway – June 4, 1942

Kido Butai – missing Shokaku (badly damaged) and Zuikaku (most of the planes destroyed) at the Battle of Coral Sea

Victory Fever

Yorktown (badly damaged), Hornet, Enterprise, and Midway Island

Kaga, Akagi, Soryu, and Hiryu
(Confirmed on June 19) sunk

Yorktown sunk

June 19, 1942

With Kido Butai sunk, Japan had lost the war

No longer a threat to the U.S. West Coast

McArthur started his island hopping knowing the Kido Butai was gone

By the end of 1943 the U.S. had 8 Essex Class carriers in the Pacific with 16 more in various building stages...and producing 100,000 airplanes a year...the combined production of airplanes from Russia, Germany, England, and Japan was 40,000 a year

The Relocation Camps

10 Camps

Tule Lake – segregation facility - used for problem internees

Barracks Style

No Privacy

Shared eating – poor quality food

Shared bathrooms

Poor ventilation/heating

Mail order clothing

Very low wages

Video

War and MAGIC