

Japanese Internment



Executive Order 9066

February 19, 1942

- Relocated all persons of Japanese ancestry from California, parts of Washington, Arizona, and Oregon to “relocation centers”

Ten Internment Camp Locations



Purpose

- To prevent espionage
- To protect persons of Japanese descent from harm at the hands of Americans who had strong anti-Japanese attitudes.

A black and white photograph of an elderly man with glasses, smiling and pointing his right index finger towards a sign. The sign is white with bold, black, sans-serif text. The man is wearing a light-colored, short-sleeved shirt. In the background, there is a dark wooden cabinet with a decorative panel on the left side that has the letters 'SI' on it. Another sign is partially visible above the main sign.

**WE DON'T WANT ANY
JAPS
BACK HERE--EVER!**

JAPS
KEEP OUT
YOU ARE
NOT WANTED

JAPS KEEP MOVING
This
- is A WHITE MAN'S NEIGHBORHOOD.



414

5 10 25 NOTIONS - TOYS - GIFT SHOP

10¢
STORE

**CLOSING OUT
EVACUATION SALE**

10



All Packed Up and Ready to Go

By Rodger



Directions given:

- Only given short notice to sell their homes, businesses, and belongings for less than their true value
- Could only take bedding, linen, toilet articles, extra clothing, eating utensils, and essential personal items
- Not allowed to bring pets or non-essential personal items, and no household goods would be shipped

Who Was Affected

➤ 110,000 people of Japanese descent

-2/3 were Nisei-native-born citizens of the US

-The Issei were the first generation of Japanese, born in Japan and immigrated to this country

Living Quarters



- Makeshift barracks divided into “apartments” - one room (18 x 20 feet) for a whole family
- Furniture and appliances- army cots, mattresses (some made of straw), stove (used for heat), bulb hanging from the ceiling (for light)

- “Apartments” didn’t have showers or toilets
- Only one window
- Public showers, toilets, messhalls, canteens, and laundry rooms were about 2 blocks from “apartments”











Treatment on grounds

- Like a prison → guards ordered to shoot anyone who approached within 20 ft. of the fence
- 9 pm Curfew → no one allowed even to the bathroom after 9.

Internment Camp Grounds





High School at Internment Camp



Elementary School



Japanese Playing





Japanese Working



Japanese Working



Korematsu v. U.S. (1944)

- Fred Korematsu in his early 20's, tried to enlist twice in army but rejected, never arrested or in trouble, worked in a defense plant, posed as a Chinese man so he wouldn't be taken away from his white girlfriend
- Was arrested for violating the exclusion order
- Court upheld the restrictions- “a military necessity”

Releasing Japanese

- In December of 1944, President Roosevelt rescinded Executive Order 9066, and the WRA began a six-month process of releasing internees and shutting down the camps. In August 1945, the war was over.

Restitution

- Japanese American Citizens League- pushed gov' t to compensate those interned
- 1976- Pres. Ford repealed Executive Order 9066
- 1984- Korematsu' s conviction overturned
- 1990 Check for \$20,000 sent to every Japanese American sent to a relocation camp

“We can never fully right the wrong of the past. But we can take a clear stand for justice and recognize that serious injustices were done to Japanese Americans during World War II”

-George Bush Sr.