

DOCUMENTS FOR WCPS INVESTIGATION: THE INTERNMENT OF JAPANESE-AMERICANS (U.S. STUDIES II CORNERSTONE TASK)

DOCUMENT 1: BACKGROUND

In 1941, Aki was a 16-year-old Seattle high school student. Aki later became a teacher in the Seattle Public Schools. The Aki Kurose Middle School in South Seattle is named after her.

(Akiko K. Interview, Copyright 1997 Densho Project or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ScpZJkLW5rc>)



This clip is an excerpt from Akiko Kurose's oral history interview conducted July 17, 1997 (denshovh-kakiko-01-0013). To see the complete interview, visit the Densho Digital Archive (<http://www.densho.org/archive>).

DOCUMENT 1: PERSONAL INTERVIEW

AKIKO K.: NO LONGER AN EQUAL AMERICAN

Well, I'd just come home from church. And then we kept hearing, "Pearl Harbor was bombed, Pearl Harbor was bombed." I had no idea where Pearl Harbor was. My geography was not that sophisticated. I had no idea, and my father said, "Uh-oh, there's going to be trouble." And I said, "Well, how come?" He said, "Well, Japan just bombed Pearl Harbor." And, he says, "We're at war with Japan." But, I thought, "Why should it bother me?" You know, "I'm an American." And then he said, "You know, we are aliens." My parents... "We don't have the citizenship, so they're gonna' do something, we'll probably get taken away." But at that time, my parents had no feeling that we would be removed because-so they were saying my brother would have to take on the responsibility to keep the family together, because they may be removed or put into camp or whatever. And, then when I went back to school that following morning, you know, December 8th, one of the teachers said, "You people bombed Pearl Harbor." And I'm going, "My people?" All of a sudden my Japaneseness became very aware to me. I no longer felt I'm an equal American, that I felt kind of threatened and nervous about it.



DOCUMENTS FOR **WCPS INVESTIGATION: THE INTERNMENT OF JAPANESE-AMERICANS (U.S. STUDIES II CORNERSTONE TASK)**

DOCUMENT 2: GOVERNMENT FILM

Japanese Relocation, U.S. Office of War Information, 1943. Retrieved from <http://www.archive.org/details/Japanese1943>

The film is available at <https://www.c-span.org/video/?323978-1/reel-america-japanese-relocation-1943>



DOCUMENTS FOR WCPS INVESTIGATION: THE INTERNMENT OF JAPANESE-AMERICANS (U.S. STUDIES II CORNERSTONE TASK)

DOCUMENT 3: BACKGROUND

Mary Tsukamoto Interview, Copyright 2001 Smithsonian Institution

The Time of Remembrance Program was created in 1983 by the late Mary Tsukamoto, Elk Grove educator and lifelong civil rights activist. In 1942, Mary, her husband Al, and daughter Marielle were forced to leave their home with whatever possessions they could carry and relocate to an internment camp in Jerome, Arizona. It was not until 1945 that Mary and her family returned to California, hoping to pick up the pieces of their lives in an atmosphere that was still charged with racial prejudices against Japanese-Americans.



With much determination and courage, she pursued a career in teaching and became one of California's first Japanese-American teachers. Throughout her career, she worked tirelessly with local communities and schools to bring all races and ethnic backgrounds together. Part of her continuing local legacy is the Time of Remembrance Program, which she organized to bring Elk Grove students into contact with former internees to listen to their stories and to learn what it means to be an American citizen.

DOCUMENT 3: PERSONAL NARRATIVE LEARNING OF EXECUTIVE ORDER

MARY TSUKAMOTO

We were shocked to realize that the President had signed this. We just kept saying, "But... we live out in the valley, not on the West Coast, not near, a... a airport or a naval base." Surely, you know, they wouldn't think that we needed to move too because we were busy raising strawberries, and harvesting crops that would really help our nation. We couldn't believe that they would need all of us to quit our work to produce our fruit, food for victory... and then be put away.



DOCUMENTS FOR WCPS INVESTIGATION: THE INTERNMENT OF JAPANESE-AMERICANS (U.S. STUDIES II CORNERSTONE TASK)



DOCUMENT 4: BACKGROUND

Source: The Munson Report, delivered to President Roosevelt by Special Representative of the State Department Curtis B. Munson, November 7, 1941.
<http://home.comcast.net/~chtongyu/internment/generations.html>

In 1941 President Roosevelt ordered the State Department to investigate the loyalty of Japanese Americans. Special Representative of the State Department Curtis B. Munson carried out the investigation in October and November of 1941 and presented what came to be known as the "Munson Report" to the President on November 7, 1941. The excerpt below is from the 25-page report.

DOCUMENT 4: GOVERNMENT REPORT

There is no Japanese 'problem' on the Coast. There will be no armed uprising of Japanese. There will undoubtedly be some sabotage financed by Japan and executed largely by imported agents. . . . In each Naval District there are about 250 to 300 suspects under surveillance. It is easy to get on the suspect list, merely a speech in favor of Japan at some banquet being sufficient to land one there. The Intelligence Services are generous with the title of suspect and are taking no chances. Privately, they believe that only 50 or 60 in each district can be classed as really dangerous.

The Japanese are hampered as saboteurs because of their easily recognized physical appearance. It will be hard for them to get near anything to blow up if it is guarded. There is far more danger from Communists and people

of the Bridges type on the Coast than there is from Japanese. The Japanese here is almost exclusively a farmer, a fisherman or a small businessman. He has no entrée to plants or intricate machinery.



Vocabulary

saboteurs: a person who deliberately destroys something to gain a military advantage

Bridges type: a reference to Harry Bridges, a leader of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union

entrée: permission to enter

intricate: complicated

DOCUMENTS FOR WCPS INVESTIGATION: THE INTERNMENT OF JAPANESE-AMERICANS (U.S. STUDIES II CORNERSTONE TASK)



DOCUMENT 5: BACKGROUND

Source: Harry Paxton Howard, "Americans in Concentration Camps," *The Crisis*, September 1942.

The following excerpt is from an editorial published in *The Crisis* shortly after the establishment of internment camps for Japanese Americans. Founded in 1910, *The Crisis* is the official magazine of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), an organization dedicated to promoting civil rights.

DOCUMENT 5: EDITORIAL: THE CRISIS

Along the eastern coast of the United States, where the numbers of Americans of Japanese ancestry is comparatively small, no concentration camps have been established. From a military point of view, the only danger on this coast is from Germany and Italy. . . . But the American government has not taken any such high-handed action against Germans and Italians - and their American-born descendants - on the East Coast, as has been taken against Japanese and their American-born descendants on the West Coast. Germans and Italians are "white." Color seems to be the only possible reason why thousands of American citizens of Japanese ancestry are in concentration camps. Anyway, there are no Italian-American, or German-American citizens in such camps.



Vocabulary

high-handed: using authority without considering the feelings of others

DOCUMENTS FOR WCPS INVESTIGATION: THE INTERNMENT OF JAPANESE-AMERICANS (U.S. STUDIES II CORNERSTONE TASK)

DOCUMENT 6: BACKGROUND

Source: Chief Justice Hugo Black, *Korematsu v. United States*, 1944.

In 1944, Fred Korematsu, a Japanese American convicted of evading internment, brought his case to the Supreme Court. In a controversial ruling, the Court decided that national security outweighed Korematsu's individual rights and upheld the constitutionality of Executive Order 9066. The excerpt below is from the Court's majority opinion written by Chief Justice Hugo Black.



DOCUMENT 6: THE KOREMATSU SUPREME COURT RULING

We uphold the exclusion order. . . . In doing so, we are not unmindful of the hardships imposed by it upon a large group of American citizens. . . . But hardships are part of war, and war is an aggregation of hardships. All citizens alike, both in and out of uniform, feel the impact of war in greater or lesser measure. Citizenship has its responsibilities, as well as its privileges, and, in time of war, the burden is always heavier. Compulsory exclusion of large groups of citizens from their homes, except under circumstances of direct emergency and peril, is inconsistent with our basic governmental institutions. But when, under conditions of modern warfare, our shores are threatened by hostile forces, the power to protect must be commensurate with the threatened danger. . . . To cast this case into outlines of racial prejudice, without reference to the real military dangers which were presented, merely confuses the issue. Korematsu was not excluded from the Military Area because of hostility to him or his race. He was excluded because we are at war with the Japanese Empire, because the . . . military authorities feared an invasion of our West Coast and . . . because they decided that the military urgency of the situation demanded that all citizens of Japanese ancestry be segregated from the West Coast temporarily, and, finally, because Congress . . . determined that our military leaders should have the power to do just this.



Vocabulary

aggregation: sum

compulsory: mandatory

commensurate: in proportion

DOCUMENTS FOR WCPS INVESTIGATION: THE INTERNMENT OF JAPANESE-AMERICANS (U.S. STUDIES II CORNERSTONE TASK)



DOCUMENT 7: BACKGROUND

Source: Personal Justice Denied: The Report of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, February 24, 1983.

In 1980, Congress established the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians to investigate the detention program and the constitutionality of Executive Order 9066. The Commission released its report Personal Justice Denied: The Report of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, on February 24, 1983. The passage below is an excerpt from this report.

DOCUMENT 7: COMMISSION REPORT: PERSONAL JUSTICE DENIED

The Commission held 20 days of hearings in cities across the country, particularly on the West Coast, hearing testimony from more than 750 witnesses: evacuees, former government officials, public figures, interested citizens, and historians and other professionals who have studied the subjects of Commission inquiry. An extensive effort was made to locate and to review the records of government action and to analyze other sources of information including contemporary writings, personal accounts and historical analyses. . . . Executive Order 9066 was not justified by military necessity, and the decisions which followed from it—detention, ending detention and ending exclusion—were not driven by analysis of military conditions. The broad historical causes which shaped these decisions were race prejudice, war hysteria and a failure of political leadership. Widespread ignorance of Japanese Americans contributed to a policy conceived in haste and executed in an atmosphere of fear and anger at Japan. A grave injustice was done to American citizens and resident aliens of Japanese ancestry who, without individual review or any . . . evidence against them, were excluded, removed and detained by the United States during World War II.



DOCUMENT 8: BACKGROUND

Source: U.S. Const. Art. 1, § 9.
U.S. Const. Amend. V.
U.S. Const. Amend. XIV.

DOCUMENT 8: UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION

Article 1, Section 9 - The Migration or Importation of such Persons as any of the States now existing shall think proper to admit, shall not be prohibited by the Congress prior to the Year one thousand eight hundred and eight, but a Tax or duty may be imposed on such Importation, not exceeding ten dollars for each Person.

The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may require it.

No Bill of Attainder or ex post facto Law shall be passed.

No capitation, or other direct, Tax shall be laid, [unless in Proportion to the Census or Enumeration herein before directed to be taken.]⁵

No Tax or Duty shall be laid on Articles exported from any State.

No Preference shall be given by any Regulation of Commerce or Revenue to the Ports of one State over those of another: nor shall Vessels bound to, or from, one State, be obliged to enter, clear, or pay Duties in another.

No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time.

No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States: And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State.

5th Amendment - No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

14th Amendment, Section 1 - All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

DOCUMENT 9: BACKGROUND

Source: President Gerald R. Ford's Proclamation 4417, Confirming the Termination of the Executive Order Authorizing Japanese-American Internment During World War II. February 19, 1976.

DOCUMENT 9: PROCLAMATION 4417

By the President of the United States of America, a Proclamation

In this Bicentennial Year, we are commemorating the anniversary dates of many great events in American history. An honest reckoning, however, must include a recognition of our national mistakes as well as our national achievements. Learning from our mistakes is not pleasant, but as a great philosopher once admonished, we must do so if we want to avoid repeating them.

February 19th is the anniversary of a sad day in American history. It was on that date in 1942, in the midst of the response to the hostilities that began on December 7, 1941, that Executive Order 9066 was issued, subsequently enforced by the criminal penalties of a statute enacted March 21, 1942, resulting in the uprooting of loyal Americans. Over one hundred thousand persons of Japanese ancestry were removed from their homes, detained in special camps, and eventually relocated. The tremendous effort by the War Relocation Authority and concerned Americans for the welfare of these Japanese-Americans may add perspective to that story, but it does not erase the setback to fundamental American principles. Fortunately, the Japanese-American community in Hawaii was spared the indignities suffered by those on our mainland.

We now know what we should have known then--not only was that evacuation wrong, but Japanese-Americans were and are loyal Americans. On the battlefield and at home, Japanese-Americans -- names like Hamada, Mitsumori, Marimoto, Noguchi, Yamasaki, Kido, Munemori and Miyamura -- have been and continue to be written in our history for the sacrifices and the contributions they have made to the well-being and security of this, our common Nation. The Executive order that was issued on February 19, 1942, was for the sole purpose of prosecuting the war with the Axis Powers, and ceased to be effective with the end of those hostilities. Because there was no formal statement of its termination, however, there is concern among many Japanese-Americans that there may yet be some life in that obsolete document. I think it appropriate, in this our Bicentennial Year, to remove all doubts on that matter, and to make clear our commitment in the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GERALD R. FORD, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim that all authority conferred by Executive Order 9066 terminated upon the issuance of Proclamation 2714, which formally proclaimed the cessation of hostilities of World War II on December 31, 1946.

I call upon the American people to affirm with me this American Promise -- that we have learned from the tragedy of that long-ago experience forever to treasure liberty and justice for each individual American, and resolve that this kind of action shall never again be repeated.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of February in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-six, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundredth.

DOCUMENT 10: BACKGROUND

EXCERPTS OF LETTER WRITTEN BY LAWRENCE T. KAGAWA

Photocopies of declassified documents from the National Archives regarding the World War II POW facilities at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin obtained by Mueckler in preparation of his thesis. Included are lists of internees of Japanese heritage that are appealing their detainment.

DOCUMENT 10: LETTER WRITTEN BY LAWRENCE T. KAGAWA

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

COPY

March 12, 1942
L.T. Kagawa
Camp McCoy
Sparta, Wisconsin

Hon. Delegate Samuel W. King
Washington, D. C.

My dear Delegate King:

Will you pardon my writing you a personal letter when you are so busy and the country needs you most.

You will notice from the above address that I am detained in the camp now, transferred from our beloved city, Honolulu.

As you know, Mr. King, I am always and have been a good American citizen and I am still good American in my heart. I don't know why I am detained. If I am detained here because of my dual citizenship then it is no fault of mine. Constitution gave me the absolute sacred right as American citizen upon my birth. I am one of the citizen of 30,000 that signed the request to Secretary Hull in regards to the simplification on dual citizenship expatriation method, which you kindly presented in behalf of the group to Secretary Hull. As a law abiding citizen my five children are not registered with any other country of their birth, they are all educated in every way as fine American citizen. Because I had some dealing with Japanese business that can't question my loyalty disqualified my right as good American citizen. As you kindly helped so much towards to our undertaking of new store located at King and Bethel St; International Enterprises, Ltd. (I have resigned from the company as president on December 1940, since I am the General Agent for Occidental Life of California) if this is the reason of my arrest, then it has nothing to do with my loyalty. If I am allowed to say, this is the time for unity and every well thinking American's responsibility is to uphold the principle of democracy and liberty, which we Americans treasure most. I have preached and lead all these years among my race of American citizens to know and understand the spirit of our country and after declared war, I wrote so many letters including my brother at Tulane University to stand by and give our life to American. I wrote so many letters to the fact that our beloved America is standing on the crossroad to defend American democracy and the American citizen of Japanese descent should give their life to defend the country, not only from the standpoint of American citizen but this is the time and only chance to show our absolute loyalty to the country so that the next generation of our race will be accepted as fine Americans without prejudice or suspicion.

I still believe the above stated reason and urge for fairness on the part of other American and praying every day for my freedom so that I'll be able to serve the country properly because we owe so much to the American.

As to my character and ability please refer to Occidental Life Ins. Co. of Los Angeles, Calif. The entire officers of the company are my business personal associates for many years.

Thanking you for your kind consideration, I remain,

sgd.

Lawrence T. Kagawa