

Korematsu v U.S

The official cause of the United States' entry into World War II was the attack on Pearl Harbor. Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, which involved the bombing of naval sites, Franklin D. Roosevelt requested that Congress declare war on Japan, and on December 8, 1941, Congress granted it. In addition to drawing the US into World War II and making Japan an enemy of the US during the conflict, the bombing of Pearl Harbor stoked anti-Japanese sentiment. The fear of Japanese citizens in the US was growing among Americans. They didn't trust them because they believed they were reporting back to their country. Living so close to their homes and businesses would have made it easier for them to obtain information to notify their government, giving them an advantage in the war against the US. This anti-Japanese sentiment became so strong that it was finally brought to a head when Franklin D. Roosevelt, the current US president, issued Executive Order 9066, which authorized the US government to relocate 100,000 Japanese to internment camps scattered throughout the western states. This order did not discriminate on the basis of citizenship. Any person of Japanese descent was forced to relocate to internment camps, despite the fact that many Japanese children were born in the US and were US citizens. Hugo Black, an associate justice of the United States Supreme Court, stood by Executive Order 9066 during World War II by arguing that Congress and the Executive had the authority to impose military orders that led to the internment of people based solely on their Japanese ancestry due to potential espionage. Despite Justice Hugo Black's beliefs, people like Fred Kormatsu strongly disagreed with him, arguing that relocating US Japanese citizens is a gross violation of their civil liberties. Upon receiving the relocation order from Franklin D. Roosevelt, Korematsu's parents abandoned their flower-nursery business and relocated to the camp. On the other hand, Korematsu changed his name, had plastic surgery done on his eyes, and claimed ancestry from both Hawaii and Spain. He hid from the US government, ultimately refusing relocation, but was eventually caught six months later by the FBI. After his capture, the American Civil Liberties Union was assigned to defend Korematsu in federal court, arguing his case. The Supreme Court ruled that there was no racial basis for the relocation and that it was a "military

necessity." In the end, Kormatsue was sent to the Assembly Center in San Bruno, California, after being found guilty of disobeying military orders issued under Executive Order 9066.

Works Cited

“Facts and Case Summary - Korematsu v. U.S.” *United States Courts*,

www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/educational-activities/facts-and-case-summary-korematsu-v-us. Accessed 13 June 2024.