

Japanese American Internment Opinion Piece

CRASH! A Japanese bomb smashed into the deck of the USS Arizona. Bombing planes were flying all around filling the sky with the rising sun symbol, the Japanese flag. This attack was known as the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Two months later, Franklin D. Roosevelt signed executive order 9066 saying that all American citizens with Japanese ancestry were to be relocated into internment camps. Japanese American Internment was unnecessary because very few Japanese Americans are actually dangerous, American government interned Japanese Americans mainly because of race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership, and because the choice to use internment happened to fast and was executed in an atmosphere of fear and anger at Japan.

The first reason I am against internment is that a very little amount of Japanese Americans were actually dangerous is In *The Munson Report*, delivered to President Roosevelt by Special Representative of the State Department Curtis B. Munson, November 7, 1941. it states, "only 50 or 60 in each district can be classed as really dangerous." This is saying only 50-60 people in each district were dangerous and that they were the only people that should have been interned instead of all the other Japanese Americans

Another reason Internment wasn't necessary is that Internment was mostly out of race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership. The document *Personal Justice Denied: The Report of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians*, February 24, 1983, assesses, "The broad historical causes which shaped these decisions were race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership." This quote explains that the reasons for internment were the color of their skin, the panic of the war, and a failure of leadership from the government and president. Also, The document, *The Crisis*, Harry Paxton Howard, "Americans in Concentration Camps," *The Crisis*, September 1942 maintains the fact of imprisoning Japanese Americans because of racism. The document indicates, "Color seems to be the only possible reason why thousands of American citizens of Japanese ancestry are in concentration camps."

The final reason why Japanese Internment was un-needed is that the choice to use internment happened to fast and executed in an atmosphere of fear and anger at Japan. *Personal Justice Denied: The Report of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians*, February 24, 1983, illustrates the view that the decision to use internment happened to fast and executed in a world of hate and fear. Saying we should have slowed down. The document states, "Widespread ignorance of Japanese Americans contributed to a policy conceived in haste and executed in an atmosphere of fear and anger at Japan."

You might say that Japanese Americans could have sabotaged American forces because of their ancestry to Japan. What I say to that is that Japanese Americans were being hampered as saboteurs. In *The Munson Report*, delivered to President Roosevelt by Special Representative of the State Department Curtis B. Munson, November 7, 1941, It states, "Japanese are hampered as saboteur because of their easily recognized physical appearance." The key word in this is "hampered". Hampered in this statement means negatively affected. They are negatively affected because of their appearance. Not because they are spies, and like I stated earlier only 50 or 60 Japanese Americans in each district could have been classified as really dangerous so you can't say all

Japanese Americans are dangerous and would sabotage America.

In conclusion, Japanese Internment was not the most efficient way of dealing with Japanese Americans because very little amount of Japanese Americans are actually dangerous, we interned mainly because of race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership, and because the choice to use internment happened too fast and executed in an atmosphere of fear and anger at Japan. I hope this opinion piece has convinced you why Japanese Internment was wrong.

Sources:

The Munson Report, delivered to President Roosevelt by Special Representative of the State Department Curtis B. Munson, November 7, 1941.

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

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