

Japanese Internment

When you think of World War 2 you might think about Adolf Hitler or concentration camps, but what people normally don't think of is Executive Order 9066. The internment of Japanese Americans in the USA. On July 26, 1941, the US stop giving Japan oil and other resources. This was very severe for Japan because the US supplied them with 80% of there oil. In return, Japan Bombed an American naval base called Pearl Harbor. On December 7, 1941, 353 Japanese bomber planes filled the air with a ferocious air bombing on the cost of Hawaii. The plan was to sink all Americas powerful ships so America couldn't fight back. It turns out most of Americas ships were out at sea. The one major sinking was the USS Arizona. More than 1,000 people died after a bomb crashed through the deck and sunk the ship. After the events of Pearl Harbor, America was afraid and angry at Japan, so on February 19th, 1942, Franklin D Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 and the relocation of Japanese Americans started.

Reasons For Internment

After Franklin D. Roosevelt signed executive order 9066, saying that all citizens of America with Japanese ancestry on the west coast were to be located and be relocated to an internment camp, 120,000 American citizens were relocated. The first reason why Japanese were interned is in the document "*Chief Justice Hugo Black, Korematsu v. the United States, 1944*". In this document, Fred Korematsu evaded internment, He got arrested and his case got taken to the supreme court to see if his rights were violated. They concluded that his rights were not violated. The document explains that Fred wasn't arrested because of race prejudice, He was arrested because the military feared another invasion on the west coast. The government thought that Japanese Americans on the west coast could sabotage the American Military easily because many shipyards, oil wells, and naval bases were on the west coast. Another reason why Japanese Americans were interned comes from Fred Korematsu's case again. The document said, "Citizenship has its responsibilities, as well as its privileges, and, in time of war, the burden is always heavier." This means that the government believes that its Japanese Americans responsibilities to make America safer for everyone else by interning themselves.

Reasons Against Internment

Although the government had many good reasons why we interned Japanese Americans, there are documents against internment and how we shouldn't have used it. The first reason against using internment comes from "*The Crisis*, Harry Paxton Howard, "Americans in Concentration Camps," *The Crisis*, September 1942. *The Crisis* is an official magazine of the NAACP (The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People). *The Crisis* states that the Japanese Americans were excluded mainly because of race prejudice. That means that *The Crisis* thinks that the main reason why we are excluding Japanese Americans is that of the color of there skin and their ancestry and not out of fear like "*Chief Justice Hugo Black from Korematsu v. the United States*" said. Another reason why Japanese Americans were interned during WW2 is from the

document, *Personal Justice Denied: The Report of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians*, February 24, 1983. This document is the American government apologizing for Japanese Internment. This document claims, "The broad historical causes which shaped these decisions were race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership." This quote explains that the decisions to intern Japanese Americans were shaped out of racism, the high amount of emotions from the Japanese bombing on Pearl Harbor, and not the right president leadership of the military. Also, In the document *Personal Justice Denied: The Report of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians*, February 24, 1983 addresses that the choice to use internment happened to fast and executed in an atmosphere of fear and anger at Japan, saying we should have slowed down and thought more about the consequences of the idea of using internment. In addition, "*The Munson Report*, delivered to President Roosevelt by Special Representative of the State Department Curtis B. Munson, November 7, 1941" advocates the view that "only 50 or 60 in each district can be classed as really dangerous." To explain, this document states that in each district of Japanese Americans only 50 or 60 are dangerous, concluding that Japanese Internment was unnecessary. The point of this source was to investigate the loyalty of Japanese Americans.

That concludes some reasons for and against internment. For example, out of fear, responsibilities, race prejudice, and more. After reading this page I hope I have increased or changed your knowledge of Japanese Internment and World War 2.

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.

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

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