

As Germany was rapidly invading its neighboring countries, Japan was doing the same thing in Asia and started to attack China and the surrounding areas. Our president, Franklin D. Roosevelt, didn't like that so he declared an oil embargo to Japan. Japan got mad so they bombed Pearl Harbor, a Hawaiian naval base. After that, our president declared war on Japan and became concerned about saboteurs, espionage, the loyalties of Japanese-Americans living the west coast, in the event of a Japanese land attack. In this essay, I will answer the question "Why were Japanese-Americans sent to internment camps in WWII?".

The main reasons for detention, the ones that the government told US citizens, are that Japanese-Americans could be unpredictable in a ground attack and that they can track boats and planes and send information to Japan. I got this information from source A: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-FXzyYPi6fo>. This was the video that the US government showed to American citizens to convince them the EO 9066 was ok. Another reason why this was the appropriate course of action, was that everyone was feeling the hardships of war anyway and when in times of war our power to protect proportionate to the power of our threatening enemies. I learned this from source D: The Korematsu Supreme Court Ruling. This source was created when Fred Korematsu was convicted of avoiding internment and brought his case all the way to supreme court. This an excerpt from the president created from that court ruling, this president wasn't overturned until the recent case of Trump v. Hawaii.

Though the government tried to reassure the citizens, several still had doubts, for example, Harry Paxton Howard, he wrote an article about how no actions similar to thoughts taken against Japanese-Americans have been taken against German and Italian Americans. The latter two groups are white. This suggests racial prejudice plays a part in the decision to intern these Americans rather than security. I found this information from, source C: *The Crisis*, is the official magazine of NAACP, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, an organization that promotes civil rights. Another opinion, Source B: The Munison Report, was written before pearl harbor, advising President Rosevelt not to intern Japanese-Americans. The report says that there is very little risk from Japanese-Americans on the west coast and that because of their appearance they couldn't get into plants or interact machinery anyway. The report also says, that there is far more danger from communists and people of the bridges type than Japanese-Americans. This document was created when President Rosevelt demanded that the State Department investigate the loyalty of Japanese-Americans on the west coast. So Curtis B. Munison the Special Representative of the State Department wrote a 25-page report that was dubbed "The Munson Report" and presented it to the president.

Those are the reasons why President Roosevelt interned Japanese-Americans in WWII. Many people supported the decision and many people didn't. Now you see why it was considered ok then, but thankfully since then our ethics have improved so it is unlikely to happen ever again.

*United States Government. Japanese Relocation. Newsreel. Distributed by Office of War Information - Bureau of Motion Picture*

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

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

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