

Japanese Internment



<http://memory.loc.gov/learn/lessons/99/fear/gallery.html>

The Early Japanese in America

- majority were young men-saw America as a land of opportunity
- 1880s-West Coast: r.r. workers/seasonal agricultural workers
- most Issei did not plan to stay, but most did
- Anti-Asian racism, but many established themselves
 - children:Nisei



EXECUTIVE ORDERS

[No. 9066]

AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY OF WAR TO PRESCRIBE MILITARY AREAS

WHEREAS the successful prosecution of the war requires every possible protection against espionage and against sabotage to national-defense material, national-defense premises, and national-defense utilities as defined in Section 4, Act of April 20, 1918, 40 Stat. 533, as amended by the Act of November 30, 1940, 54 Stat. 1220, and the Act of August 21, 1941, 55 Stat. 655 (U.S.C., Title 50, Sec. 104):¹¹

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States, and Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy, I hereby authorize and direct the Secretary of War, and the Military Commanders whom he may from time to time designate, whenever he or any designated Commander deems such action necessary or desirable, to prescribe military areas in such places and of such extent as he or the appropriate Military Commander may determine, from which any or all persons may be excluded, and with respect to which, the right of any person to enter, remain in, or leave shall be subject to whatever restrictions the Secretary of War or the appropriate Military Commander may impose in his discretion. The Secretary of War is hereby authorized to provide for residents of any such area who are excluded therefrom, such transportation, food, shelter, and other accommodations as may be necessary, in the judgment of the Secretary of War or the said Military Commander, and until other arrangements are made, to accomplish the purpose of this order. The designation of military areas in any region or locality shall supersede designations of prohibited and restricted areas by the Attorney General under the Proclamations of December 7 and 8, 1941,¹² and shall supersede the responsibility and authority of the Attorney General under the said Proclamations in respect of such prohibited and restricted areas.

I hereby further authorize and direct the Secretary of War and the said Military Commanders to take such other steps as he or the appropriate Military Commander may deem advisable to enforce compliance with the restrictions applicable to each Military area hereinabove authorized to be designated, including the use of Federal troops and other Federal Agencies, with authority to accept assistance of state and local agencies.

I hereby further authorize and direct all Executive Departments, independent establishments and other Federal Agencies, to assist the Secretary of War or the said Military Commanders in carrying out this Executive Order, including the furnishing of medical aid, hospitalization, food, clothing, transportation, use of land, shelter, and other supplies, equipment, utilities, facilities, and services.

This order shall not be construed as modifying or limiting in any way the authority heretofore granted under Executive Order No. 3972, dated December 12, 1941, nor shall it be construed as limiting or modifying the duty and responsibility of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, with respect to the investigation of alleged acts of sabotage or the duty and responsibility of the Attorney General and the Department of Justice under the Proclamations of December 7 and 8, 1941,¹² prescribing regulations for the conduct and control of alien enemies, except as such duty and responsibility is superseded by the designation of military areas hereunder.

FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT

THE WHITE HOUSE,
February 19, 1942.

¹¹ 50 U.S.C.A. § 104.

¹² U.S.Code Cong.Service 1941, pp. 885, 889, 891.

- President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order No. 9066 in February of 1942.
- Executive Order No. 9066 empowered the U.S. Army to designate areas from which "any or all persons may be excluded."
- The attack of Pearl Harbor shocked the American public, resulting in widespread hysteria and paranoia.

Evacuation

- Those of Japanese ancestry living on the West Coast were to be relocated.
- Internment refers to the forced imprisonment and relocation of a group of people.



Internment

- Fear of disloyalty on the part of any Nikkei was common among many Americans.
- 1/3 of the population of Hawaii was comprised of those of Japanese descent, thus many of them were not interned, however the islands were placed under martial law.
- War Relocation Authority (WRA) in charge of internment
- Phase One: Nikkei transported by trains or buses to one of 18 quickly constructed assembly centers (hastily converted fairgrounds & racetracks)

-housed in horse stalls



<http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/images/photodb/23-0306a.gif>
Japanese near trains during Relocation



<http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/images/photodb/23-0307a.gif>
Housing in a Japanese Relocation camp

Internment

<http://www.bookmice.net/darkchilde/japan/japan/map4.jpg>
Japanese Internment Camp Locations

Phase Two: transported to one of 10 permanent internment camps that were built further inland

-like the assembly centers, surrounded by barbed wire fences with armed guards at the gates & in the watch towers



Internment

- Nikkei were once again housed in barracks
 - barracks grouped together in blocks which were to serve as the physical & social focus for the Nikkei
 - each block consisted of 14 barracks, one male lavatory and showers, one female lavatory & showers, a laundry room, an ironing facility, one mess hall, and a recreation hall
 - b/c of the monotony of living in the camps, the administration made an effort to provide organized activities

War Relocation Authority(WRA) Centers

Table 3.2.
WRA Relocation Centers (Daniels 1993:131; Thomas 1952:88).

Center	Date of first arrival	Peak population	Date of peak population	Date of last departure
Gila River	7-20-42	13,348	12-30-42	11-10-45
Granada	8-27-42	7,318	2-1-43	10-15-45
Heart Mountain	8-12-42	10,767	1-1-43	11-10-45
Jerome	10-6-42	8,497	2-11-43	6-30-44
Manzanar	3-21-42	10,046	9-22-42	11-21-45
Minidoka	8-10-42	9,397	3-1-43	10-28-45
Poston	5-8-42	17,814	9-2-42	11-28-45
Rohwer	9-18-42	8,475	3-11-43	11-30-45
Topaz	9-11-42	8,130	3-17-43	10-31-45
Tule Lake	5-27-42	18,789	12-25-44	3-20-46

Life in Internment Camps

- **"In the detention centers, families lived in substandard housing, had inadequate nutrition and health care, and had their livelihoods destroyed: many continued to suffer psychologically long after their release"**
 - "Personal Justice Denied: Report of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians"

(<http://www.pbs.org/childofcamp/history/index.html>)



(www.trumanlibrary.org/.../20-2311a.htm)

- **"In desert camps, the evacuees met severe extremes of temperature. In winter it reached 35 degrees below zero, and summer brought temperatures as high as 115 degrees. Rattlesnakes and desert wildlife added danger to discomfort."**

- Personal Justice Denied:
Report of the Commission on
Wartime Relocation and
Internment of Civilians.

(<http://www.pbs.org/childofcamp/history/camps.html>)



(<http://www.nps.gov/manz/hrs/hrst.htm>)

Life in Manzanar

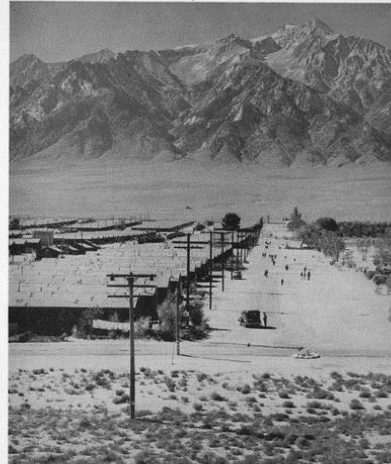


A MANZANAR HOUSEHOLD. Mrs. Tejo Miyatake and family.

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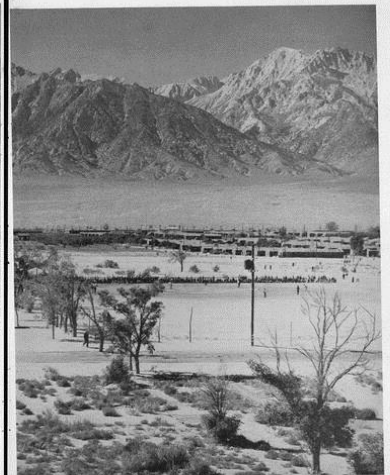


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IT LIES ON THE BRONZE SAGE-COVERED PLAIN, A CITY BUILT OF SHACKS AND PATIENCE.

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27



THE YOUNG PEOPLE RECEIVE EXTENSIVE VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

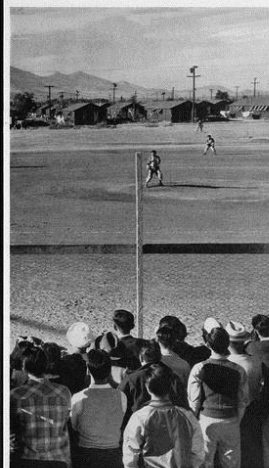
termined look of one who knows what the earth can yield and how to get it. Ryohar was born in Los Angeles, majored in industrial training at Venice High School, and has ambitions to work on tractors in farming; his hobbies are fishing and hunting. He says his life prior to the war was "all right." He has no definite plans for relocation, and his comment on the combat team is "they're doing all right." With him in the fields was Richard Kobayashi, begrimed and happy. Born in Florin, California, in 1924, he attended the Elk Grove High School for four years, majoring in agriculture. He is interested in arts and crafts, football and wrestling. He has no definite plans for relocation, but when he does go out he will choose farming. As for opinions on politics—"I think it should go on as it is," and on society—"There should be no discrimination of race, especially of those who are citizens of the United States." And he thinks that the service of the combat team is lessening the feeling of discrimination.

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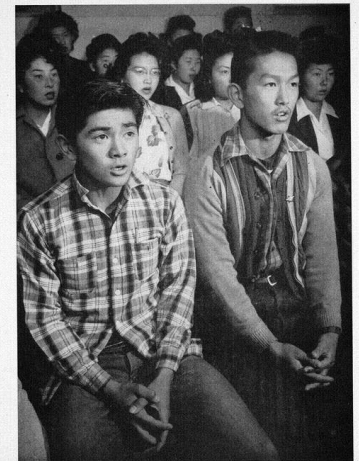


ALL LIKE BASEBALL AND OTHER SPORTS.

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MANY SING IN THE MANZANAR HIGH SCHOOL CHOR.

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An Apology

- In 1988, Congress implemented the Civil Liberties Act, apologizing on behalf of the nation for the "grave injustice" done to persons of Japanese ancestry. Congress declared that the internments had been "motivated largely by racial prejudice, wartime hysteria, and a failure of political leadership" and authorized \$20,000 payments to Japanese Americans who had suffered injustices during World War II.

(<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/aamhtml/aamabout.html>)