Incarcerating Aliens and Citizens

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What happened to Japanese Americans during World War II? Why?
Lothrop Stoddard
Eugenics
Social traits inherited.

“Positive” Eugenics
Encourage the reproduction of the “fit.”

“Negative” Eugenics
Discourage and prohibit the “unfit” from immigration and reproduction (including through forced sterilization).
Lothrop Stoddard
The Rising Tide of Color Against White World-Supremacy (1920)
“Mongolian Asiatics,” Japan, and Japanese represented as leading threats to white supremacy.

Inferior to “Nordics,” but “gifted peoples who have profoundly influenced human progress in the past and who undoubtedly will contribute much to world-civilization.”
1909 Oʻahu Sugar Plantation Strike
Hawaiian Sugar Planters’ Association (HSPA)
1920 Sugar Plantation Strike
Federation of Japanese Labor to Hawaii Laborers’ Association

American Federation of Labor (no reply)
Hawaii Emergency Labor Commission (HELC)

- Lobby for Hawaii’s exemption from Chinese exclusion.
- Argument 1: Labor shortage in Hawai‘i.
- Argument 2: Japanese workers posed a threat to U.S. national security.
John L. DeWitt
Military Strategy in Hawai‘i (developed 1920s and 1930s)

- Martial law.
- Internment of Japanese community leaders, including *Issei* (Japan-born aliens) and *Nisei* (U.S.-born citizens).
- Surveillance of all Japanese Americans.
Sand Island Concentration Camp
Alien Registration Act (1940)

Registration of all aliens over the age of 14 with the Justice Department.
Within one week of Pearl Harbor, about 3,000 “enemy aliens” (Japanese, Italians, and Germans) were rounded up and interned.

About half were Japanese Issei.
Justice Owen Roberts  

General John L. DeWitt  
Western Defense Command  
In February 1942, began prohibiting “enemy aliens” from designated military areas.  
Referred to Japanese Americans as an “enemy race.”
Assistant Secretary of War John J. McCloy
Executive Order 9066
February 19, 1942

Authorized the Secretary of War and military commanders to designate “military areas” from which “any or all persons may be excluded” as a “military necessity.”
INSTRUCTIONS
TO ALL PERSONS OF
JAPANESE
ANCESTRY

Living in the Following Area:

All of that parcel of the County of Alameda, State of California, within the boundary beginning at
the point where the westerly limits of the City of Oakland meet San Francisco Bay, thence easterly
and following the westerly limits of said city to U.S. Highway No. 80, thence southerly and easterly
on said Highway No. 80 to its intersection with California State Highway No. 11; thence northerly on
said Highway No. 11 to its intersection with U.S. Highway No. 80, thence easterly and following said
highway to the easterly limits of the City of Alameda, thence southerly and following the shoreline
of Alameda Bay to the point of beginning.

Pursuant to the provisions of Civilian Exclusion Order No. 34, this Headquarters, dated May 3, 1942, all
persons of Japanese ancestry, both alien and non-alien, will be evacuated from the above area by 12:00 noon,
P.W.T., Saturday, May 9, 1942.

No Japanese person living in the above area will be permitted to change residence after 12:00 noon, P.W.T.,
Monday, May 8, 1942, without obtaining special permission from the representative of the Commanding
General, Northern California Sector, at the Civil Control Station located at

920 ‘C’ Street,
Hayward, California.

Such permits will only be granted for the purpose of uniting members of a family, or in cases of grave
emergency.

The Civil Control Station is equipped to assist the Japanese population affected by this evacuation in the fol-
lowing ways:
1. Give advice and instructions on the evacuation.
2. Provide services with respect to the management, leasing, sale, storage or other disposition of real
property, such as real estate, business and professional equipment, household goods, boats, automobiles and
livestock.
3. Provide temporary residence elsewhere for all Japanese in family groups.
4. Transport persons and a limited amount of clothing and equipment to their new residence.

The following Instructions Must Be Observed:
1. A responsible member of each family, preferably the head of the family, or the person in whose name most
of the property is held, and each individual living above, will report to the Civil Control Station to receive
further instructions. This must be done between 8:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. on Sunday, May 4, 1942, or between
8:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. on Tuesday, May 6, 1942.
2. Evacuees must carry with them on departure for the Assembly Center, the following property:
(a) Bedding and linens (no mattress) for each member of the family;
(b) Toilet articles for each member of the family;
(c) Extra clothing for each member of the family;
(d) Sufficient knives, forks, spoons, plates, bowls and cups for each member of the family;
(e) Essential personal effects for each member of the family.

All items carried will be securely packaged, tied and plainly marked with the name of the owner and numbered
in accordance with instructions obtained at the Civil Control Station. The size and number of packages is
limited to that which can be marked by the individual or family group.
3. No pets of any kind will be permitted.
4. No personal items and no household goods will be shipped to the Assembly Center.
5. The United States Government through its agencies will provide for the storage, at the sole risk of the owner,
of the more substantial household items, such as ovens, washing machines, pianos and other heavy furniture.
Cooking utensils and other small items will be accepted for storage if crated, packed and plainly marked with the
name and address of the owner. Only one name and address will be used by a given family.
6. Each family, and individual living alone, will be furnished transportation to the Assembly Center or will
be authorized to travel by private automobiles in a supervised group. All instructions pertaining to the movement
will be obtained at the Civil Control Station.

Go to the Civil Control Station between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.,
Monday, May 4, 1942, or between the hours of 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.,
Tuesday, May 5, 1942, to receive further instructions.

J.L. DeWitt
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
Commanding
Concentration Camps
(“Relocation Centers”)

[Map showing locations of various concentration camps across the United States]
War Relocation Authority (WRA)

Yasui (1943)
Hirabayashi (1943)
Korematsu (1944)
Japanese American Citizens League
“Loyalty” Questionnaire (1943)

Question 27: Are you willing to serve in the armed forces of the United States on combat duty, wherever ordered?

Question 28: Will you swear unqualified allegiance to the United States of America and faithfully defend the United States from any or all attack by foreign or domestic forces, and forswear any form of allegiance or obedience to the Japanese emperor, or any other foreign government, power or organization?