

Japanese American Internment



Photo By:
<http://teachpol.tcnj.edu>

Introduction

- On December 7th 1941, The Japanese raided pearl harbor.
- This brought the United States into the second World War.
- This also caused paranoia about the Japanese race
- Paranoia led to action, as mass amounts of Japanese citizens were imprisoned.



Photo By: www.pearl-harbor.us

Background

- Nearly 120,000 Japanese citizens were placed in internment camps.
 - 2/3 of the citizens interned were American citizens.
- The U.S. Made claims about the Japanese, with no evidence at all.
- The Japanese citizens were only given 48 hours to evacuate their homes.



Photo By:
<http://www.twogypsies.com/assets/images/internment-notice.jpg>

Gen. John L. Dewitt

- General Dewitt was an important factor in many of the decisions made towards the Japanese citizens.
- From December 5, 1939 to June 15, 1943, DeWitt commanded Western Defense
- During this time, he administered the evacuation and Internment of Japanese citizens, as well as supervising the combat operations in the Aluetian Islands.

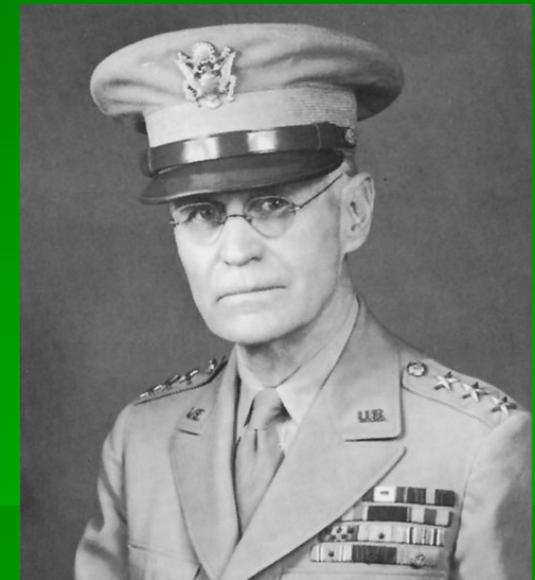


Photo By:
<http://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/USA/USA-WH-Guard/img/USA-WH-Guard-p21.jpg>

The Round-up

- February 16th 1942: President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which allowed local military commanders to designate "military areas" as "exclusion zones", from which "any or all persons may be excluded."
 - Twelve days later, this power was used, all people of Japanese ancestry were excluded from the entire
- March 11th, 1942: Executive order 9095 created The Office of The Alien Property Custodian, and gave it discretionary, plenary over all Alien property and interests

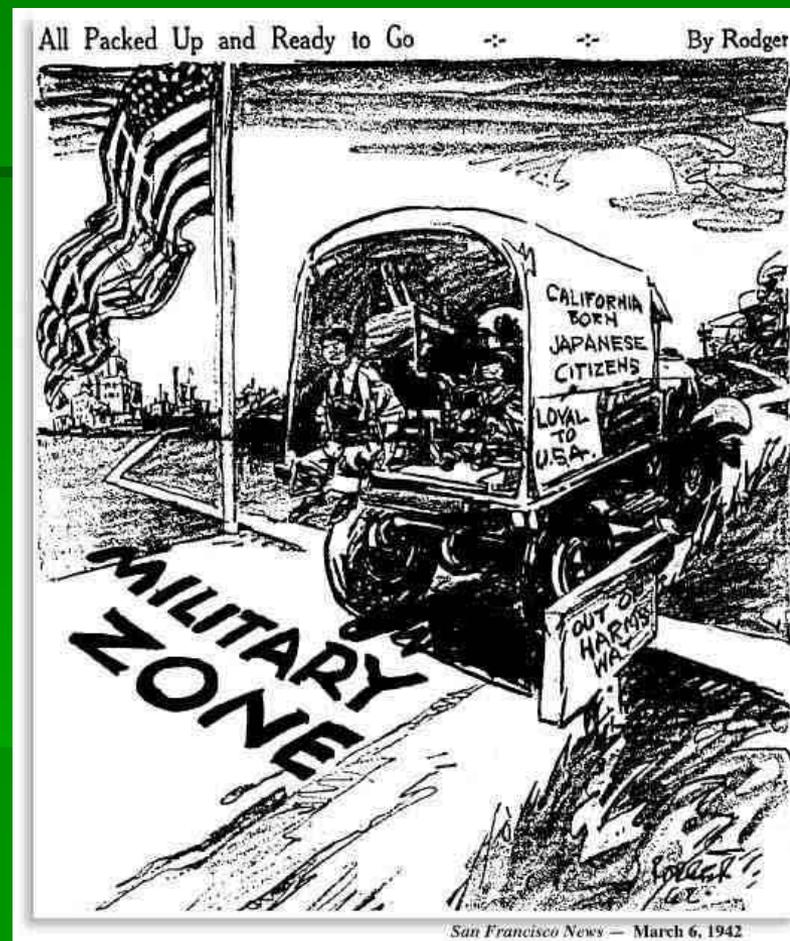


Photo By: www.sfmuseum.org

The Round-up (continued)

- March 24th, 1942: Dewitt began to issue Civilian Exclusion orders for Specific areas within “Military Area Number 1”. On that same day he issued an 8:00 pm to 6:00 am curfew for Japanese citizens.
- March 27th, 1942: Dewitt issued proclamation number 4, which prohibited any Japanese of leaving “Military Area Number 1”



Photo By:
<http://www.library.wvu.edu/ref/images/japanese-evacuation.jpg>

The Round-up (continued)

- Finally, on May 3rd, 1942, Dewitt issued civilian exclusion order Number 346, ordering all people of Japanese decent, citizens or not, to report to assembly centers
- Most of the citizens were taken from their homes in the west coast, with no idea of where they were going.
- Some Families were forced to take only the clothes on there backs.
- Since they were accustomed to a much warmer climate, they failed to pack for the harsh mid-west winters, which reached temperatures below zero degrees.



Photo By:
<http://www.library.wvu.edu/ref/images/japanese-evacuation.jpg>

Why Only the Japanese?

- American citizens of German and Italian ancestry were excluded from the classification of "enemy race", which was largely due to political concerns.
- The Japanese people represented only a small minority, making internment reasonable
- Although, the German and Italian communities represented a significant voting block, which made them more important to the American Culture
- Roosevelt praised them for their "loyalty", to relieve any anxiety that they may be interned



The Camps

- Typically, the camps opened sporadically through-out the spring, summer, and early fall of 1942
- Manzanar, CA. Opened: March 21 1942. Closed: November 21, 1945
- Poston, AZ. Opened: May 8, 1942. Closed: November 28, 1945.
- Tule Lake, CA. Opened: May 27, 1942. Closed: March 20, 1946. This camp had the highest peak population: 18,789
- Jerome, AR . Opened: October 6, 1942. Closed: June 30, 1944.



Photo By:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_American_internment

The Camps (continued)

- Gila River, AZ. Opened: July 20, 1942. Closed: November 10, 1945.
- Minidoka, ID. Opened: August 10, 1942. Closed: October 28, 1945.
- Heart Mountain, WY. Opened: August 12, 1942. Closed: November 10, 1945.
- Granada, CO. Opened: August 24, 1942. Closed: October 15, 1945.
- Rohwer, AR. Opened: September 18, 1942. Closed: November 28, 1945.
- Topaz, UT. Opened: September 11, 1942. Closed: October 31, 1945.

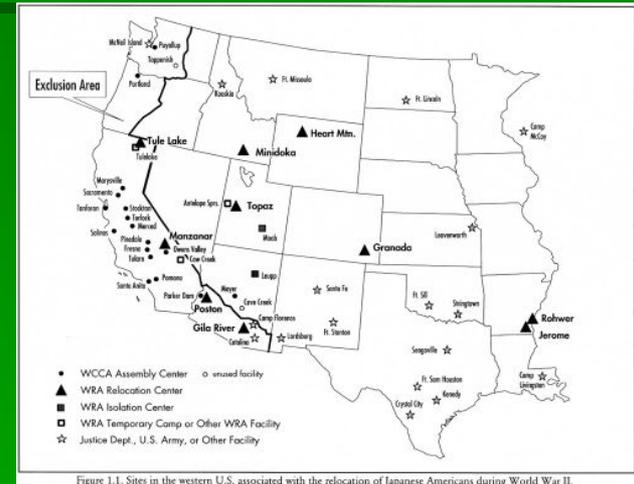


Figure 1.1. Sites in the western U.S. associated with the relocation of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Photo By:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_American_internment

The Camps (continued)

- During the summer of 1942, most of the camps were built by civilian contractors
- Because they were built so quickly, many things were left to be desired.
- The Spartan facilities, as the government called them, did meet international laws, but again left much to be desired



Photo By: www.bookwright.com

Camp Conditions

- Poor conditions led to high emotional stress and sickness, which took the lives of many internees.
- The barracks style buildings were horrible unequipped for family living.
- Citizens had to use Communal areas for washing themselves.
- Sleeping was hard for the internees, considering coal was very hard to come by, most internees gathered together as many blankets as they were allowed to have to stay warm at night



Photo By:
www.learnersonline.com

Camp Conditions (continued)

- Food was served by other internees, in a mess hall.
- Food was rationed out at 48 cents per camper.
- Campers were given the opportunity to enlist in the military.
 - Most campers chose not to enlist
- Eventually campers were allowed to leave the camp site to work, however, they had to return at night.



Photos By: www.ohs.org

Authority

- Rather than military police, the camps were guarded by patrol agents.
- The guards at these camps were in fact armed, yet the guards and the campers got along fairly well.
- However, there were a few instances, where internees were shot for trying to escape the camp



Photo By: www.bcc.ctc.edu

Reparations

- During WW2, Colorado's Governor, Ralph Carr, was the only elected official at that time to apologize for the internment.
- Beginning in the 1960s, a younger generation of Japanese Americans who were inspired by the Civil Rights movement began what is known as the "Redress Movement"
- In 1980, Congress established the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) in attempt to study the matter



Photo By:
www.japanesecanadianhistory.net

Reparations (continued)

- On February 24, 1983, the commission issued a report entitled *Personal Justice Denied*, condemned the internment.
- In 1988, U.S. President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which provided redress of \$20,000 for each surviving internee
- Finally, on September 27th 1992, President George H. W. Bush, amended the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, to make sure that the remaining internees received the \$20,000 redress payments.

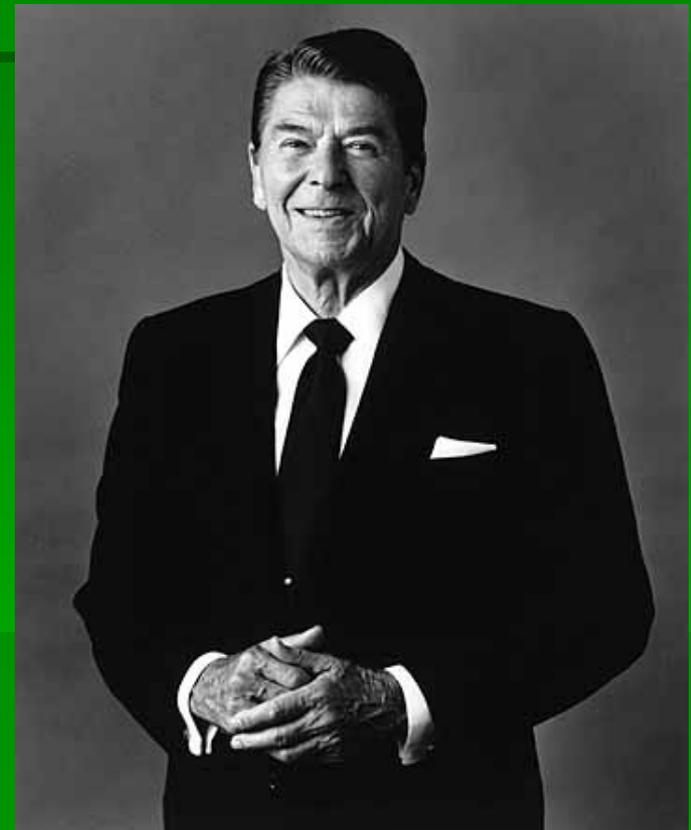


Photo By: www.horaz.com

Conclusion

- It is evident that the actions taken, by the U.S., were racially biased.
- A less drastic approach to the problem could have spared the loyalty of some Citizens.
- If it was military necessity to put the citizens in camps, why did the conditions have to be so poor?
- Giving them the monetary gift was a gracious move by the U.S.



Photos By: www.ohs.org

The Camps (continued)

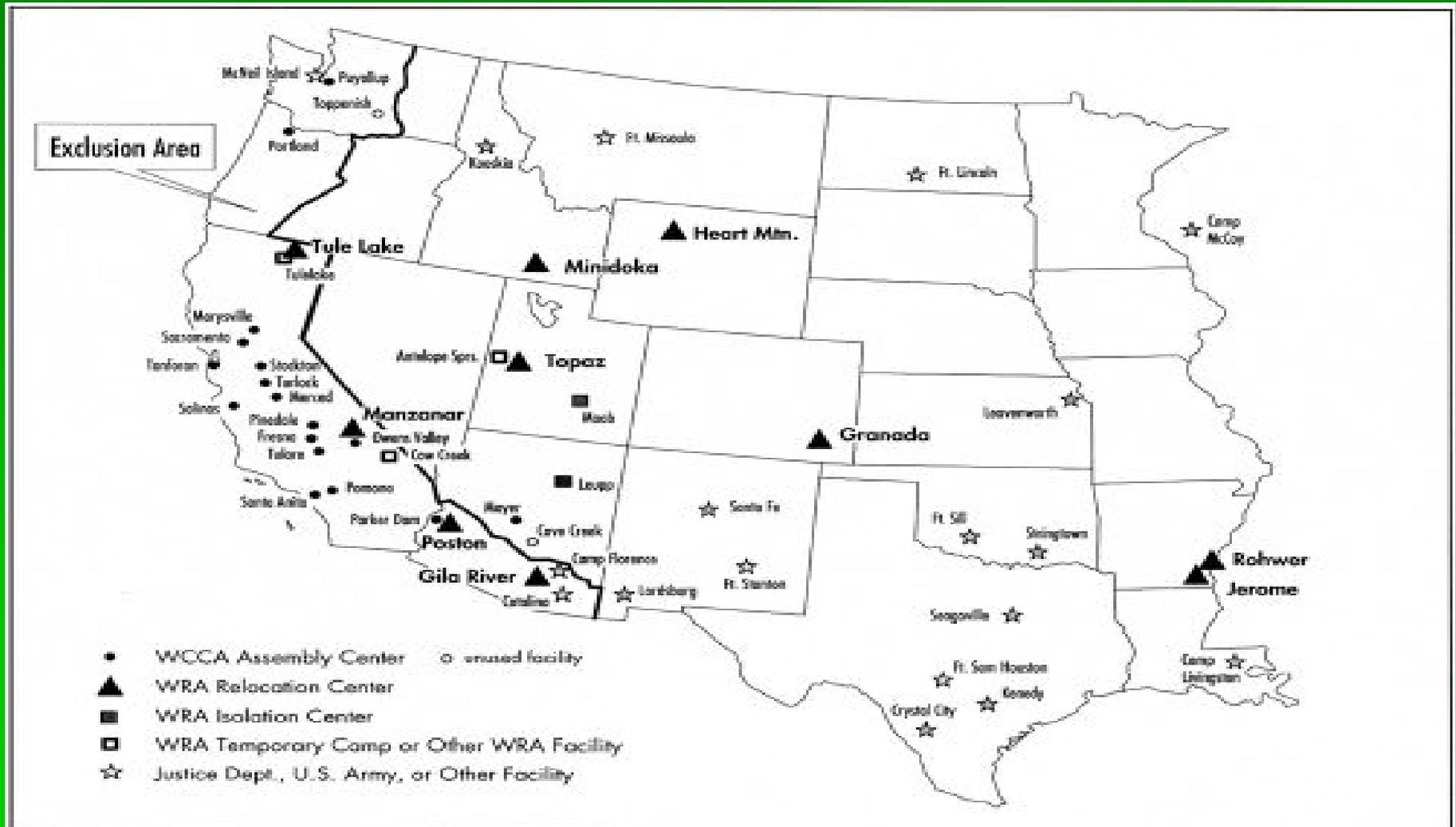


Figure 1.1. Sites in the western U.S. associated with the relocation of Japanese Americans during World War II.