



EXCLUSION & FORCED REMOVAL

LATE 1800s - 1940s

SUMMARY: Despite facing racism and hate, Japanese immigrants and their American-born children settle down and establish communities in the US.

LATE 1800s: Japanese immigration begins to increase in the Kingdom of Hawaii and the United States. As early as 1869, Japanese American families establish farms, businesses, and communities in the West.

1882 - MAY 6: Congress passes the Chinese Exclusion Act, shutting off Chinese immigration, setting the precedent for laws excluding Asians in the US.

1900s - 1924: Anti-Asian sentiment grows as various discriminatory laws are passed. The Immigration Act of 1924 halts all immigration from Japan.



IMMIGRATION & ANTI-ASIAN SENTIMENT

1941 - 1942

SUMMARY: Over 120,000 Japanese Americans, two-thirds of them American citizens, are forcibly removed from their homes and imprisoned in incarceration centers without due process of the law.

1941 - DECEMBER 7: Pearl Harbor is attacked by Imperial Japan, bringing the US into WWII.

1942 - FEBRUARY 19: President Roosevelt signs Executive Order 9066, which results in the exclusion and forced removal of all Japanese Americans from the West Coast.

1942 - MARCH 30: The forced removal of Japanese Americans begins with the Army's first Civilian Exclusion Order targeting Bainbridge Island, Washington. Families are assigned numbers and instructed to bring only what they can carry.



INCARCERATION

1942 - 1945

SUMMARY: Over 13,000 Japanese Americans from Washington, Oregon, California, and Alaska are incarcerated at Minidoka during WWII. Surrounded by barbed wire and guard towers, the incarcerated build a community in the desert of Idaho.

1942 - SUMMER: Fifteen temporary detention centers are established in fairgrounds, racetracks, and livestock yards. People from the Pacific Northwest are sent to Puyallup and Portland Assembly Centers.

1942 - AUGUST 10: Minidoka Relocation Center opens.

1943 - IN MARCH: A segregated Japanese American army unit, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, is formed. During the summer, a "loyalty questionnaire" is administered to those in camp.

1945 - SEPTEMBER 2: WWII officially ends, after the US detonates atomic bombs over Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan.



RESETTLEMENT & REDRESS

1945 - 1990

SUMMARY: After the closing of the camps, Japanese Americans are forced to rebuild their lives while carrying the trauma of the incarceration. Inspired by the civil rights movement of the 1960s, the Japanese American community organizes to demand an apology from the US government.

● **1945 - OCTOBER:** Minidoka Relocation Center is officially closed. Over 13,000 Japanese Americans were incarcerated at Minidoka.

● **1980 - 1983:** The bipartisan Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians finds that there was no military necessity for the incarceration of Japanese Americans.

● **1988 - AUGUST 10:** The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 is signed by President Reagan, offering redress and reparations for the injustice of the incarceration. Each incarceration survivor received an apology letter and a payment of \$20,000.



REMEMBRANCE & COMMUNITY

1990 - TODAY

SUMMARY: Japanese Americans honor the legacy of the camps by preserving and returning to these sites of confinement. Carrying the wish of “let it not happen again,” Japanese Americans speak out in support of other marginalized communities today.

● **2001 - JANUARY 17:** Minidoka Internment National Monument is established. In 2008, Minidoka National Historic Site is expanded to include Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial in Washington State.

● **2001 - SEPTEMBER 11:** The US comes under attack when four airplanes are hijacked by terrorists, killing nearly 3,000 people. Japanese American groups speak out against the discrimination that Arab Americans and Muslims face in response to the 9/11 attacks.

● **2019 - SUMMER:** Japanese American incarceration survivors, descendants, and allies protest the incarceration of asylum-seeking migrant children.