

HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY of JAPANESE AMERICANS and THEIR WW2 INCARCERATION

- 1790** – Naturalization Act of 1790 limits citizenship “to any alien being a free white person.”
- 1834** – Three fishermen shipwrecked near Cape Flattery are first Japanese to reach Washington State.
- 1870** – African Americans granted citizenship. Asians remain ineligible as “non white.”
- 1882** – Chinese Exclusionary Act halts unrestricted immigration of Chinese.
- 1890** – First Japanese immigrants arrive in Hawaii and US.
- 1907** – Japan stops issuing visas to US but Japanese continue to enter US through Canada and Mexico.
- 1913** – California passes first Alien Land Law. Other states, including Washington, adopt similar laws.
- 1924** – Immigration Act of 1924. Japanese immigration halted.
- 1941** – December 7, Japanese military forces attack US naval base at Pearl Harbor. President Roosevelt and congress declare war on Japan. FBI conducts round up of Japanese community leaders all suspected of disloyalty.
- 1942** – President Franklin D. Roosevelt issues Executive Order 9066, authorizing the Secretary of War to Prescribe Military Areas “from which any or all persons may be excluded.
- 1942** – Spring – People of Japanese ancestry are removed from their West Coast (restricted area) homes and incarcerated in temporary “assembly centers”. About 110,000 are moved and another 10,000 voluntarily relocated. About 67 percent of the 120,000 affected are American citizens. Some adults and families suspected of being national security threats are placed in Department of Justice Detention Camps.
- 1942** – Late summer – The War Relocation Authority (WRA) opens “relocation camps” to take custody of the prisoners from the assembly centers. The WRA’s mission is to move Japanese to areas outside the restricted zone.
- 1945** – War ends. Relocation and detention camps begin closing in late fall and early winter. Japanese are allowed to return to the west coast.
- 1946** – Last camp closes.
- 1952** – McCarran Act permits all aliens to become US citizens through naturalization process.
- 1965** – Immigration and Nationality Act removes immigration quotas.
- 1970** – Redress movement begins in Seattle, seeking to obtain apology and compensation.
- 1980** – Redress campaign gains momentum, reinforced by Federal district court decision and nation-wide congressional hearings.
- 1988** – US Congress passes the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 in August, signed by President Reagan. The Act provides a formal apology (signed by the President George Bush) and \$20,000 for each survivor.

Resource: Japanese American National Museum <http://www.janm.org/>