

Timeline Japanese American Incarceration

March 26, 1790 - The Naturalization Act of 1790, also known as the Nationality Act, states that “any alien, being a free white person who shall have resided within the limits and under the jurisdiction of the United States for a term of two years, may be admitted to become a citizen thereof.”

May 6, 1882 - Congress passes the Chinese Exclusion Act, ending Chinese immigration for the next 60 years and establishing the first official racially restrictive immigration policy.

1885 - Japanese laborers begin arriving in Hawaii, recruited by plantation owners to work the sugarcane fields.

1891 – Japanese immigrants arrive on the mainland U.S. for work primarily as agricultural laborers.

1898 – United States annexes Hawaii; Hawaii is now a territory of the United States. The Supreme Court case *United States v Wong Kim Ark* establishes that a child born on U.S. soil is an American citizen regardless of race, nationality or parentage, consistent with the court’s reading of the Fourteenth Amendment.”

February 23, 1905 – “The Japanese Invasion: The Problem of the Hour,” reads the front page of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, helping to escalate racism towards the Japanese in the Bay Area.

October 11, 1906

The San Francisco Board of Education passes a resolution to segregate children of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean ancestry from the majority population.

1908 – Japan and the U.S. agree (Gentlemen's Agreement) to halt the migration of Japanese laborers in the United States. Japanese women are allowed to immigrate if they are wives of U.S. residents.

1913 – California passes the Alien Land Law, forbidding "all aliens ineligible for citizenship" from owning land.

1920 – Montana “Boycott” A general boycott against all Japanese and Chinese businesses is declared in Montana.

1920s – “Japs Keep Moving,” photo is one example of the Anti-Japanese sentiment in California.



1920 – “Arizona Farmers Protest Against the Competition of Aliens,”

November 13, 1922 –

The United States Supreme Court rules on the Ozawa case, reaffirming the ban on Japanese immigrants from becoming naturalized U.S. citizens. This ban would last until 1952.

1924 – Congress passes the Immigration Act of 1924 effectively ending all Japanese immigration to the U.S.

1941 - Before the war, the FBI monitored Japanese Fisherman on Terminal Island, in Los Angeles

November, 1941 – A U.S. Intelligence report known as the "Munson Report" concludes that the great majority of Japanese Americans are loyal to the U.S. and do not pose a threat to national security in the event of war with Japan.

December 7, 1941 - Japan bombs U.S. ships and planes at the Pearl Harbor military base in Hawaii. Over 3,500 servicemen are wounded or killed. Martial law is declared in Hawaii.

December 7, 1941 – The FBI begins arresting Japanese immigrants in Hawaii and on the mainland identified as community leaders. Within 48 hours, 1,291 are arrested. Most of these men would be incarcerated for the duration of the war. In Hawaii martial law is declared within hours of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

December 8, 1941 – A declaration of war against Japan is brought by the President and passed by Congress.

December, 1941 – After Pearl Harbor the head of the California Grower-Shipper Vegetable Association told the Saturday Evening Post: “If all of the Japs were removed tomorrow, we’d never miss them... because the white farmers can take over and produce everything the Jap grows. And we don’t want them back when the war ends, either.”

December 1941 to January 1942 – The FBI searches thousands of Japanese American homes on the West Coast for contraband. Short wave radios, cameras, heirloom swords, and explosives used for clearing stumps in agriculture are among the items confiscated.

February 19, 1942 – President Roosevelt signs Executive Order 9066 authorizing military authorities to exclude civilians from any area without trial or hearing. The order did not specify Japanese Americans--but they were the only group to be imprisoned as a result of it.

February 25, 1942 – The U.S. Navy orders all people of Japanese ancestry living on Terminal Island, CA, to leave within 48 hours.

March 24, 1942 - General DeWitt, commander of the Western Defense Command, issues Civilian Exclusion Order Public Proclamation No. 1, affecting residents of Bainbridge Island, Washington. Forty-five families are given one week to prepare to leave. By the end of October 1942, 108 exclusion orders would be issued.

March 28, 1942 – Minoru Yasui walks into a Portland police station to surrender himself for arrest in order to test the curfew regulations in court.

May 16, 1942 – University of Washington student Gordon Hirabayashi turns himself in to the authorities explaining he would not submit to the imprisonment on Constitutional grounds.

May 1, 1942 - The incarcerated begin transfer to permanent WRA incarceration facilities or "camps." They total ten: Manzanar, Poston, Gila River, Topaz, Granada, Heart Mountain, Minidoka, Tule Lake, Jerome, and Rohwer.

July 12, 1942 – Mitsuye Endo's attorney files a writ of habeas corpus on her behalf. The case is not decided upon until December 1944, but its ruling will bring the end of the incarceration camps.

January 1943 – The War Department announces the formation of a segregated unit of Japanese American soldiers, and calls for volunteers in Hawaii (where Japanese Americans were not incarcerated) and from among the men incarcerated in the camps.

February 1943 – Loyalty registration begins in all camps.

June 1943 – The U.S. Supreme Court upholds the constitutionality of the curfew order in *Hirabayashi v. U.S.* and *Yasui v. U.S.*

July 15, 1943 – Tule Lake is designated the Segregation Center for all camp internees who (1) failed to register; (2) registered “No-No;” (3) registered “No-Yes;” (4) had applied for repatriation to Japan; or (5) are otherwise deemed to be disloyal.

December 18, 1944 – WRA Director Myer announces closing of all centers before the end of 1945.

December 18, 1944 – U.S. Supreme Court decides on Endo case. The WRA cannot detain loyal citizens.

January 2, 1945 – The War Department announces that the exclusion orders are rescinded after the Supreme Court rules in the Endo case that "loyal" citizens could not be lawfully detained.

May 7, 1945 – Germany surrenders, ending the war in Europe.

August 6–14, 1945 – The U.S. drops the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Three days later, a second bomb is dropped on Nagasaki. Japan accepts terms for surrender on August 14.

August 1945 – Wayne Collins begins his decade-long struggle advising incarcerated or coerced into renouncing their American citizenship under the Renunciation Act of 1944 of their legal rights.

September 1, 1945 – Japan formally surrenders.

March 20, 1946 – Tule Lake "Segregation Center" closes. This is the last War Relocation Authority facility to close.

1952 -- The Immigration and Nationality Act, also known as the McCarran-Walter Act is signed into law, substantially revising immigration law. First generation immigrants from Japan were allowed to become U.S. citizens as a result.

1983 – Government report calls for presidential apology and redress.

1983 – 1988 – The wartime convictions of Gordon Hirabayashi, Minoru Yasui, and Fred Korematsu (the three men who protested the curfew and/or incarceration orders) are vacated (nullified) on the basis of newly discovered evidence that the U.S. military lied to the Supreme Court in the original proceedings.

August 10, 1988 – President Ronald Reagan signs HR 442 into law. It acknowledges that the incarceration of more than 110,000 individuals of Japanese descent was unjust and offers an apology and reparation payments of \$20,000 to each person incarcerated.

*Information retrieved Jan. 1, 2012 from: www.densho.org/resources/default.asp; www.njahs.org; www.campaignforjusticejla.org; *Second Kinenhi, Reflections on Tule Lake* (1997), <https://tulelake.files.wordpress.com/2007/08/legalizing-detention-compressed.pdf> *A Question of Loyalty: Internment at Tule Lake* (2003).*