The Long Afterlife of Nikkei Wartime Incarceration

Between 1942 and 1945, the U.S. government wrongfully imprisoned thousands of Japanese American citizens and profited from their labor. Japanese American incarceration forced families to flee their homes and forced some to leave behind relatives and friends. After the war, many of those who were incarcerated returned to find that nothing was the same. The Long Afterlife of Nikkei Wartime Incarceration examines the history of imprisonment of U.S. and Canadian citizens of Japanese descent during World War II. It explores the experiences of former wartime internees, as well as their families and communities, to uncover the lasting effects of incarceration on individuals and society. The book highlights the ways in which the experiences of incarceration were shaped by broader political and social contexts, and how these experiences continue to influence the lives of Nikkei Americans today. It also provides important insights into the effects of incarceration on individuals and society, and how we can learn from these experiences to better understand the impact of incarceration on future generations.

Japanese American incarceration occurred when thousands of Japanese American citizens were forced into hastily built concentration camps after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. As a result, many Japanese Americans lost their homes and their freedom for years. The government used these camps to house the internees, and they were subjected to harsh living conditions and frequent discrimination. The incarceration was a form of collective punishment that targeted the entire Japanese American community, regardless of their patriotism or loyalty to the United States. The time of crisis has ended, but the legacy of the incarceration lives on. This book revisits the incarceration and provides new insights into the experiences of the internees and their families. It also explores the impact of the incarceration on the broader society and provides important lessons for the future.

In summary, The Long Afterlife of Nikkei Wartime Incarceration is a must-read for anyone interested in the history of the incarceration of Japanese Americans, the impact of the incarceration on society, and the ongoing need for reconciliation and justice.

Executive Order 9066: The Incarceration of Japanese Americans During World War II

Executive Order 9066 was an executive order signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on February 19, 1942. It authorized the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Interior to order the removal of Japanese Americans from military areas and to establish internment camps for them. The order was based on the premise that Japanese American residents were a threat to national security, and that they posed a danger to the military because of their race and ancestry. The order was signed in response to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, and it was intended to strengthen the country's military defenses. The order was later extended to cover all Japanese American residents, regardless of whether they were American citizens or not. The order led to the internment of over 120,000 Japanese Americans, mostly of Japanese ancestry, who were removed from their homes and placed in internment camps across the United States. The order was based on a flawed understanding of Japanese American patriotism and loyalty, and it was later recognized as an act of discrimination and injustice.

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Shirley Ann Higuchi

As a young child, Shirley Ann Higuchi lived in the Heart Mountain internment camp in Wyoming, where her family was sent under the provisions of Executive Order 9066. The camp was one of ten that were established across the country in response to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. The camp was located in the heart of the American West, and it was surrounded by a barbed-wire fence and a guard tower. The conditions in the camp were terrible, and the internees were forced to live in cramped quarters and work long hours in the fields. Despite these hardships, Shirley and her family remained loyal to the United States and hoped for the day when they could return to their homes. After the war, Shirley and her family were finally able to return to their homes, but they never forgot the experiences they had in the internment camp. Shirley's story is one of perseverance and resilience, and it serves as a powerful reminder of the impact of the internment on the lives of Japanese Americans.

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In 1942, Executive Order 9066 mandated the incarceration of 110,000 Japanese Americans, including men, women, children, the elderly, and the infirm, for the duration of the war. Although only what they could carry, they were given just a few days to settle their affairs and report to assembly centers. Businesses were lost, personal property was stolen or vandalized, and lives were shattered. The Japanese word gezan means “enduring what seems unbearable with dignity and grace.”

The war ended in 1945. In 1983, a federal court found the government process for the incarceration of Japanese Americans to be unconstitutional and ordered reparations to the Japanese American who were incarcerated and apologized for the nation had said three things led the to internment, racism and prejudice, wartime significance, which led to the incarceration of nearly 120,000 Japanese Americans. Reparations are a legal and ethical concept that refers to the payment of compensation for past wrongs, injuries, or losses. They are a way to acknowledge the harm that has been done and to offer some form of redress.

In the years following the war, Japanese Americans faced obstacles in their lives, including discrimination and prejudice. Despite these challenges, they continued to strive for success and contribute to the betterment of society. Today, their contributions and legacies are celebrated by many, and efforts are made to ensure that their stories are remembered and preserved for future generations.
**Executive Order 9066**

Signed Executive Order 9066 in early 1942. Paul Kitagaki’s parents and grandparents were part of that group, but they never talked about their experience. To better understand, Kitagaki tracked down the subjects of more than sixty photographs taken by Dorothy Lange, Ansel Adams and other photographers. This book is a result of that work, which took Kitagaki on a ten-year pilgrimage around the country photographing survivors of camps. Using black-and-white film and a large-format camera similar to the equipment of photographers in the 1940s, Kitagaki sought to mirror and complement photographs taken during World War II—while revealing the strength and perseverance of the subjects. He photographed and interviewed the subjects or their children to discover who was in the pictures. Some wanted to forget; some wanted to remember. Some lost everything; some found new direction. He heard stories about heroic soldiers and those unwilling to fight for a country that put thousands of Japanese American internees. One of the first families to arrive was the Wakatsukis, who were ordered to leave their fishing business in Long Beach and were taken to the Manzanar Relocation Center in California. The book includes interviews with the Wakatsuki family as well as other internees who spoke on both sides of the stories. Some wanted to remember. Some wanted to forget. It is a story of resilience and strength, and it is a story of hope.

**Behind Barbed Wire**

Behind Barbed Wire is the first sustained treatment addressing questions directly related to official WRA photographs. How and under what conditions were they taken? Where were they developed, selected, and stored? How were they used during the 1940s? What impact did they have during and following the war? This book offers a unique collection of photographs by War Relocation Authority photographer Hikaru Iwasaki, the only full-time WRA photographer from the period still living. With photographs of Japanese American families photographed from 1942-1945, the book explores the WRA’s use of photography in its mission not only to encourage “loyal” Japanese Americans to return to society at large as quickly as possible but also to convince Euro-Americans this was safe and advantageous. Hirabayashi also analyzes the relative success of the WRA project, as well as the multiple uses of the photographs over the years. As a result, this book is a must-read for anyone interested in understanding the history of photography, the Japanese American internment, and the struggle for civil rights.

**Japanese American Resettlement through the Lens**

Japanese American Resettlement through the Lens is a new edition of the classic memoir of a devastating Japanese American experience. It includes an inspiring afterword by the authors.

**Sylvia & Aki**

The book is based on true events and on the California court case that desegregated schools for Latino children and set the stage for Brown v. Board of Education. The memoir is told by Fred Korematsu, who was convicted of obstructing justice for refusing to participate in the evacuation of Japanese Americans from the West Coast during World War II. The book is an inspiring account of his battle for justice, his contribution to civil rights, and his enduring legacy.

**Zealot**

Zealot is a memoir that reconstructs the life of a young Japanese American man who was interned during World War II. The author, Fred Korematsu, recounts his childhood in California, his family’s history, and his own experiences as a interned Japanese American. The book is an inspiring account of his battle for justice, his contribution to civil rights, and his enduring legacy.
Fred Korematsu’s decision to resist F.D.R.’s Executive Order 9066, which provided authority for the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, was initially the case of a young man following his heart: he wanted to remain in California with his white fiancée. However, he quickly came to realize that it was more than just a personal choice; it was a matter of basic human rights. After refusing to leave for incarceration when ordered, Korematsu was eventually arrested and convicted of a federal crime before being sent to the internment camp at Topaz, Utah. He appealed his conviction to the Supreme Court, which, in one of the most infamous cases in American legal history, upheld the wartime orders. Forty years later, in the early 1980s, a team of young attorneys resurrected Korematsu’s case. This time, Korematsu was victorious, and his conviction was overturned, helping to pave the way for Japanese American redress. Lorraine Bannai, who was a young attorney on that legal team, combines insider knowledge of the case with extensive archival research, personal letters, and unprecedented access to Korematsu’s family, and close friends. She uncovers the inspiring story of a humble, soft-spoken man who fought tirelessly against human rights abuses long after he was exonerated. In 1998, President Bill Clinton awarded Korematsu the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

I Am an American - Jerry Stanley - 1996
Tells the story of the Japanese American internment during World War II as seen through the eyes of a teenager