



# Japanese American Internment during World War II: A History and Reference Guide

*By Wendy Ng*

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## **Japanese American Internment during World War II: A History and Reference Guide** By Wendy Ng

The internment of thousands of Japanese Americans during World War II is one of the most shameful episodes in American history. This history and reference guide will help students and other interested readers to understand the history of this action and its reinterpretation in recent years, but it will also help readers to understand the Japanese American wartime experience through the words of those who were interned. Why did the U.S. government take this extraordinary action? How was the evacuation and resettlement handled? How did Japanese Americans feel on being asked to leave their homes and live in what amounted to concentration camps? How did they respond, and did they resist? What developments have taken place in the last twenty years that have reevaluated this wartime action?

A variety of materials is provided to assist readers in understanding the internment experience. Six interpretive essays examine key aspects of the event and provide new interpretations based on the most recent scholarship. Essays include:

- A short narrative history of the Japanese in America before World War II
- The evacuation
- Life within barbed wire--the assembly and relocation centers
- The question of loyalty--Japanese Americans in the military and draft resisters
- Legal challenges to the evacuation and internment
- After the war--resettlement and redress

A chronology of events, 26 biographical profiles of important figures, the text of 10 key primary documents--from Executive Order 9066, which authorized the internment camps, to first-person accounts of the internment experience--a glossary of terms, and an annotative bibliography of recommended print sources

and web sites provide ready reference value. Every library should update its resources on World War II with this history and reference guide.

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### Editorial Review

From Library Journal

Among the several books about the Japanese American internment published in the past year (e.g., *Last Witnesses, By Order of the President*), this book is the most general. Ng (sociology, San Jose State Univ.), herself a Japanese American, has written six thematic essays: "The Japanese in America Before World War II," "Evacuation," "Life Within Barbed Wire," "The Question of Loyalty: Japanese Americans in the Military and Draft Resisters," "Legal Challenges to the Evacuation and Internment," and "After the War: Resettlement and Redress." She also offers a brief photographic essay, short biographies of major personalities in the internment, and a selection of primary documents. Using first-person accounts and government reports, Ng presents a concise overview of events relating to Japanese Americans from the late 19th century through 2000. While the coverage in so few pages cannot be very in depth, the book does give the reader a good sense of the effects of the racial discrimination, incarceration, and shame so many Japanese Americans have experienced. Ng's approachable writing style makes this book accessible to all readers and would be valuable in high school, public, and academic libraries. Katharine L. Kan, Allen Cty. P.L., Fort Wayne, IN  
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### Review

"The combination of historical facts as presented in the essays and the ideas and sentiments expressed in the primary documents gives the readers a vivid sense of this period in history. This readable book would be a solid addition to high school, public, and academic libraries."-VOYA

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"Thoroughly researched and documented, this book is a welcome addition to the wealth of material about Japanese Americans during WW II..."-CHOICE

"Ng's approachable writing style makes this book accessible to all readers and would be valuable in high school, public, and academic libraries."-Library Journal

"It is unbelievable that an executive order could uproot U.S. citizens and send them away from jobs and homes for national security...Recommended."-Gale Reference for Students

"All Americans need to understand this dark event in our history, and this book helps fill that need. It would be a vital part of any school's collection. Highly Recommended. Starred Review."-The Book Report

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About the Author

WENDY NG is Associate Professor of Sociology at San Jose State University. /e

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