

Resources on Japanese American Internment Camps

Armor, John and Peter Wright, photographs by Ansel Adams: **Manzanar**
Manzanar was one of two "relocation centers" in California where Japanese Americans were incarcerated on racial grounds and false evidence of military necessity during WW II. Peter Wright calls the 100 photos presented here "memorable for their straightforward depiction of the conditions under which the detainees lived out their spartan existence in stoic dignity."

Brimner, Larry Dane: *Voices from the Camps: Internment of Japanese Americans During World War II*

The personal testimony of Japanese American survivors is woven into this history of their experience in California during World War II, when racist hysteria led to their forced evacuation and imprisonment. Brimner describes the roundups; the journey to "relocation" camps; the daily life in the camps; the bitter return after the war, often to homes and businesses that were gone; the enduring burden of shame that kept many survivors heartbroken and silent; and, finally, the campaign for redress and reparation. Without rhetoric, he documents the cruelty done here in the U.S. when individual rights were trampled in the name of national security.

Burton, Jeffery F., Mary M. Farrell, Florence B. Lord, and Richard W. Lord: *Confinement and Ethnicity: An Overview of World War II Japanese American Relocation Sites*

Based on archival research, field visits, and interviews with former residents, *Confinement and Ethnicity* provides an overview of the architectural remnants, archeological features, and artifacts remaining at the various sites. Included are numerous maps, diagrams, charts, and photographs. Historic photographs of the sites and their inhabitants are combined with images of present-day settings, showing concrete foundations, fence posts, inmate-constructed drainage ditches, and foundations and parts of buildings, as well as inscription in Japanese and English written or scratched on walls and rocks. The result is a unique and poignant treasure house of information for former residents and their descendants, for Asian American and WWII historians, and for anyone interested in the facts about what the authors call "sites of shame."

Chin, Frank: *Born in the USA: A Story of Japanese America 1889-1947*

This unique oral history presents the Japanese American saga as told by those who lived through it. The author draws from a rich kaleidoscope of images compiled through personal interviews, popular songs, novels and newspaper articles to create an in-depth history of one of the most shameful episodes in American history – the incarceration of the Japanese Americans during World War II.

Dempster, Brian Kjomei, Ed.: *From our Side of the Fence: Growing up in America's Concentration Camps*

From Our Side of the Fence contains the first-person accounts of eleven former internees who recall their memories of youth in America's concentration camps. This collection traces each author's personal journey through war, giving voice to a history that has been silenced. This book also offers lesson plans for use by educators and students and for internees who wish to tell their own stories. The anthology is comprised of eleven student writers who before World War II lived in locations spanning the entire West Coast, including Washington, Oregon, the San Francisco Bay Area, the San Joaquin Valley, the Sacramento Valley, and Southern California. Ranging in age from four to nineteen at the outset of their incarceration, they were interned in six of the ten camps created by the War Relocation Authority: Amache, Heart Mountain, Minidoka, Poston, Topaz, and Tule Lake.

Gesensway, Deborah and Mindy Roseman: **Beyond Words: Images from America's Concentration Camps**

During World War II, tens of thousands of Japanese Americans were incarcerated in relocation centers. Forced to leave behind almost everything they possessed, the detainees spent up to four years in barren, overcrowded camps. On canvases and drawing pads many expressed what words perhaps could not convey – the shock and sorrow that came from being forced out of their homes to live in inhospitable and sometimes nearly inhabitable places. The authors have collected from attics, basements and college libraries, prison paintings by internees. The paintings range from comic caricatures to desolate landscapes to present verbal memories and clear visual recordings of that sad chapter in America's life.

Inada, Lawson Fusao: **Only What We Could Carry: The Japanese American Internment Experience**

The editor of this unusual anthology has drawn from a wealth of material: poetry, prose, biography, news accounts, formal government declarations, letters, and autobiography along with photographs, sketches, and cartoons that reflect the tragedy of the internment. Taken as a whole, it conveys the deep anguish felt by Japanese who defined themselves as citizens of the United States and yet lost their rights as citizens during a time of national fear.

Iritani, Frank and Joanne: **Ten Visits – Revisited**

In its second printing, this personal account of the authors' visits to the sites of ten Japanese American concentration camps from World War II, contains many photos, maps, recollections and essays on the struggle for redress.

Maki, Mitchell T., Harry H.L. Kitano, and Megan Berthold: **Achieving the Impossible Dream: How Japanese Americans Obtained Redress.**

A study of how various factions of the Japanese American community unified and organized themselves at the grassroots level, successfully obtaining a written apology from the President of the United States and monetary compensation in accordance with the provisions of the 1988 Civil Liberties Act.

Minoru Hohri, William: **Resistance: Challenging America's Wartime Internment of Japanese Americans**

The subject of this book is the organized draft resistance mounted by the Fair Play Committee (FPC) at the Heart Mountain Relocation Center in Wyoming in 1944. But it is a work encompassing far more than the momentous constitutional challenge that led to the arrest and imprisonment in federal penitentiaries of eighty-five young American draft resisters of Japanese ancestry and their FPC leaders. This beautifully crafted volume goes to the heart of the relationship between principled legal and moral resistance and illuminates the true meaning of American patriotism and the U.S. democratic polity...Through blending the precise and bold editorial genius of William Minoru Hohri, a former internee and redress leader, with the diversely chorused voices of three onetime draft resisters (Mits Koshiyama, Yosh Kuromiya, and Takashi Hoshizaki) plus a n FPC leader (Frank Emi), this trenchant book promises a species of historical redemption for a nation and a community.

Mochizuki, Ken: **Baseball Saved Us**

Drawing on his Japanese-American parents' experiences, the author uses his narrator's struggle to become a better, and more accepted, ballplayer to portray a WW II internment camp. "Shorty" describes his family's sudden removal to the camp in 1942, the grim surroundings, and the restlessness his dad hopes to counter by building a baseball diamond.

Modell, John: **Kikuchi Diary: Chronicle from an American Concentration Camp**

The journal of a social worker, Kikuchi, this intensely lively and human work superbly defines the generation gap of Japanese-Americans during the 1940's. In addition, this book demonstrates what happened to the Japanese living in the United States during World War II.

Muller, Eric: Free to Die for Their Country: **The Story of the Japanese American Draft Resisters in WWII**

After imprisoning them in 1942, the U.S. government began drafting Japanese-Americans for military service two years later. In Free to Die for Their Country: The Story of the Japanese American Draft Resisters in World War II, University of North Carolina law professor Eric L. Muller details a group of men caught in a horrific catch-22: ostracized by the Japanese-American community for not complying with Uncle Sam's call, yet without rights as citizens. The book is backed by years of research and personal interviews, and fills in an important chapter of United States history.

Nakano, Mei: **Japanese American Women: Three Generations 1890-1990**

Nakano describes each generation of Japanese American women by combining personal narratives with historical data. The author demonstrates the deep relationships between the generations and provides an analysis of how each generation has impacted the next. This collection of intimate, telling incidents

that make up the fabric of everyday life of Japanese American women lends substance and texture to the historical events that many have studied from the outside, but few know or have articulated from the inside.

Okiihiro, Gary Y.: **Storied Lives: Japanese American Students and World War II**

This book is the study of the 5,500 Japanese American students who left the concentration camps of World War II to attend college outside the West Coast. The study looks at the relations between white and Japanese American students and their partnered efforts against racism.

Soentpiet, Chris K. and Eve Bunting: **So Far From the Sea**

Laura Iwasaki and her family are paying what may be their last visit to Laura's grandfather's grave. The grave is at Manzanar, where thousands of Americans of Japanese heritage were interned during World War II. Among those rounded up and taken to the internment camp were Laura's father, then a small boy, and his parents. Now Laura says goodbye to Grandfather in her own special way, with a gesture that crosses generational lines and bears witness to the patriotism that survived a shameful episode in America's history.

Stanley, Jerry: **I Am an American: A True Story of Japanese Internment**

this photo-essay humanizes the Japanese American experience during World War II. Stanley focuses on what happened to one high-school boy, Shi Nomura, and relates it to the general events: the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the rising tide of war hysteria, the forced removals and the internment in camps such as Manzanar, the painful return to devastated homes, and the recent official apology. Drawing on interviews and memories of Shi and other internees, the author analyzes the racism that imprisoned Japanese but not Germans or Italians, and the inconsistency that allowed Japanese to serve in the army while their relatives were imprisoned without trial.

Tunnell, Michael O. and George W. Chilcoat: **The Children of Topaz: The Story of a Japanese Internment Camp Based on a Classroom Diary**

Interned behind barbed wire in a desert relocation camp in Topaz, Utah, Japanese American teacher Lillian "Anne" Yamauchi Hori kept a classroom diary with her third-grade class from May to August 1943. In simple sentences, she recorded what the children thought important; they took turns illustrating each page. Twenty of the small diary entries appear in this book, together with several black-and-white archival photos of the camps.

Uchida, Yoshiko: **The Bracelet**

Emi, a young Japanese-American whose family leaves Berkeley to be interned at the beginning of WW II, receives a bracelet as a parting gift from her best friend, but it's lost on the first day at the camp. Emi is desolate, but soon realizes she won't need a keepsake to remember her friend--the memories that fill her heart will always be with her. This account of injustice and dislocation- based on the

author's own experiences and previously published as a short story—achieves its wrenching effect by the accumulation of details: a beloved garden left untended, matching registration tags attached to family members and their belongings, the squalid “apartment” in a horse stall at an abandoned racetrack.

Uchida, Yoshiko: **Desert Exile: The Uprooting of a Japanese American Family**

Uchida tells the story of her family who, after the attack on Pearl Harbor by Japan and the outbreak of World War II, endures the fate suffered by many other Japanese-Americans: they are forced to abandon their home and are relocated to an internment camp in Utah.

Yamamoto, Hisaye: **Seventeen Syllables and Other Stories**

A collection of stories that deal with the experience of Japanese-Americans who were incarcerated in concentration camps by their own government during World War II. Other important themes include the human toll of World War II on those Japanese Americans who lost family members in the war, and the cultural shift among generations in Japanese-American families.

Burton, Jeffery F., Mary M. Farrell, Florence B. Lord, and Richard W. Lord: **Confinement and Ethnicity: An Overview of World War II Japanese American Relocation Sites**

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