

Based on what we have learned so far, should  
the US enter or become involved in WWII?  
(Pearl Harbor has not yet occurred)

# PPT: From Neutrality to War

Reasons to  
Intervene

Remain Neutral

Read Should the United States Enter  
World War II to Aid Great Britain?

Describe what you see. Which country do you think will be the next one that Hitler will walk over? What is the message of cartoon?



## Neutrality Acts

- 2 days after war was declared on Germany, the US officially claimed its neutrality.
- 1935: illegal to sell arms to any country in war
- 1939: FDR asked Congress to revise these laws so that countries could buy arms if they paid in cash and carried the arms on their own ships.
- In 1940, the British asked FDR for old American destroyers. Again neutrality laws would be revised so that the US would exchange 50 destroyers for the right to build American bases on British-controlled land

# Lend-Lease Act

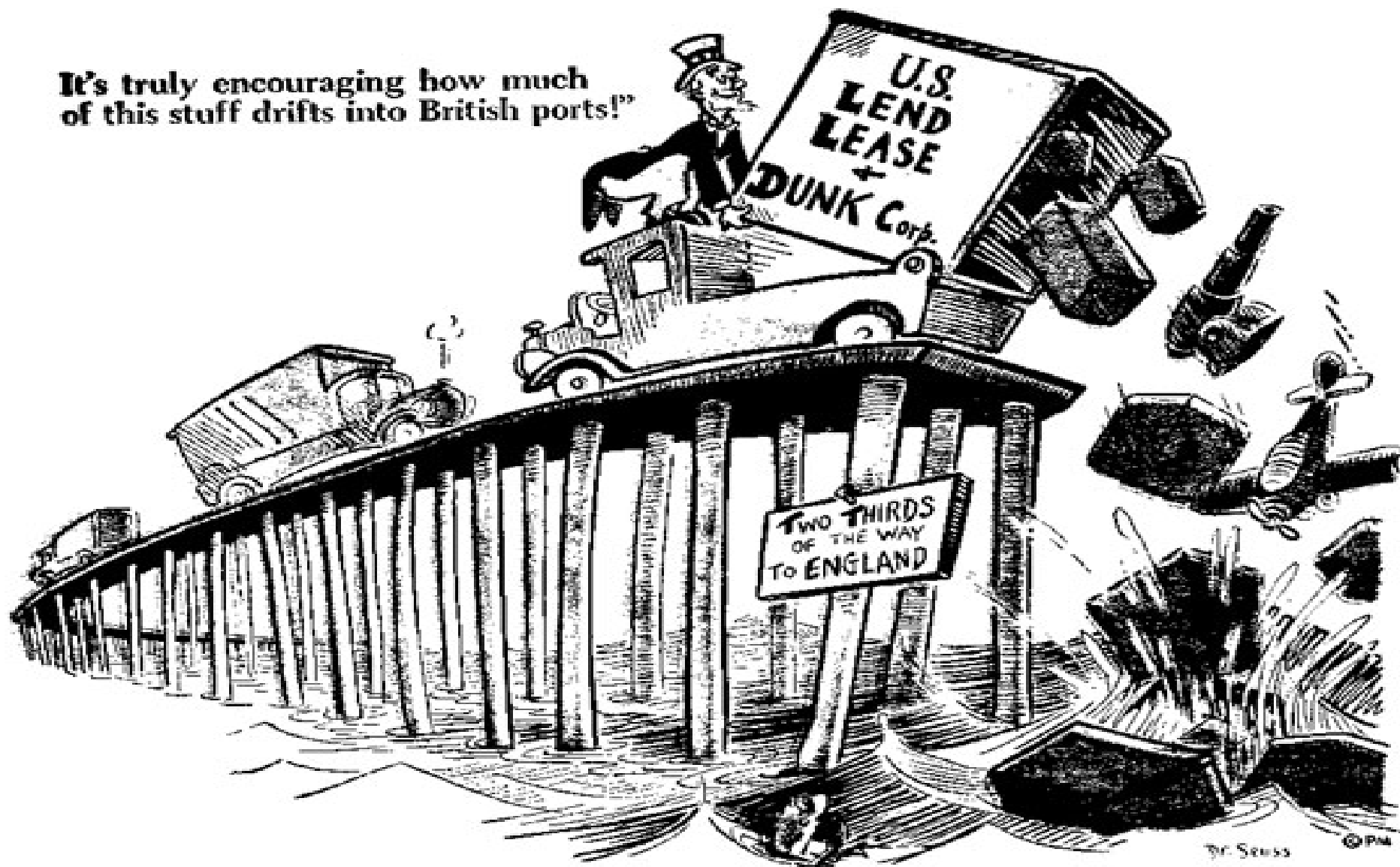
- By Dec 1940, Britain had run out of money. FDR warned that if Britain fell, Germany, Japan and Italy would conquer the world and then “all of us in the Americas would be living at the point of the gun.”



It's truly encouraging how much of this stuff drifts into British ports!"

- In response, under this act, the US would lend or lease arms to any countries considered, “vital to the defense of the United States.”
- This meant the US could send weapons to British if they promised to pay the US back after the war.

**It's truly encouraging how much  
of this stuff drifts into British ports!"**



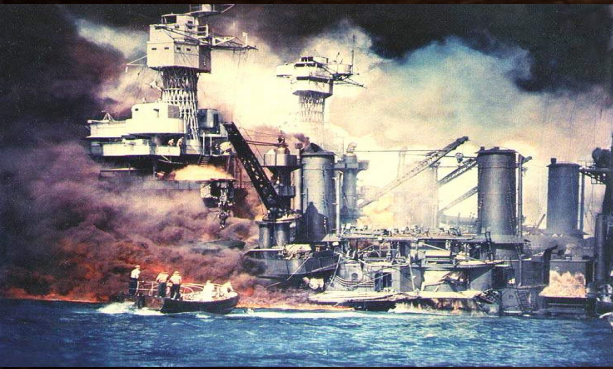


## Export Control Act

- During the war, British felt pressure to keep their navy in Asia to protect its territories from a Japanese attack.
- In 1940, Congress passed this Act, which restricted the sale of materials to other nations. Japan heavily relied on the US for iron, steel, and oil. Furious, Japan signs an alliance with Germany and Italy.
- In 1941, the US began to extend the lend-lease aid to China who was fighting its own war with the Japanese.

Did the US remain neutral?

# Pearl Harbor Attack



# The Fall of the Philippines

- On Dec 7, 1941, Japan attacked the US.
  - 21 ships were either sank or destroyed.
  - 188 airplanes destroyed
  - 2,403 Americans killed
- The day after the attack, FDR asked Congress to declare war. On Dec 11, Germany and Italy declared war on the US.
- A few hours after Pearl Harbor was bombed, the Japanese attacked the airfields located in the Philippines. In May of 1942, the Philippines had fallen.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3e99lfmmDN0>

Pearl Harbor - Dec. 7, 1941 - The only color film of the attack



0:35 / 6:26

CVL23



# “A Date Which Will Live in Infamy” FDR Asks for a Declaration of War

- What reasons does FDR give for going to war?
- Do you agree? Why or why not?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lK8gYGg0dkE>

America Declares War on Japan - President Roosevelt Speech



0:33 / 4:47



## “A Date Which Will Live in Infamy” FDR Asks for a Declaration of War

Yesterday, December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

The United States was at peace with that nation, and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its government and its emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in the American island of Oahu, the Japanese ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to our secretary of state a formal reply to a recent American message. While this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or armed attack.

It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time the Japanese government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. I regret to tell you that very many American lives have been lost. In addition, American ships have been reported torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.



Yesterday the Japanese government also launched an attack against Malaya.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Guam.

Last night Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Islands.

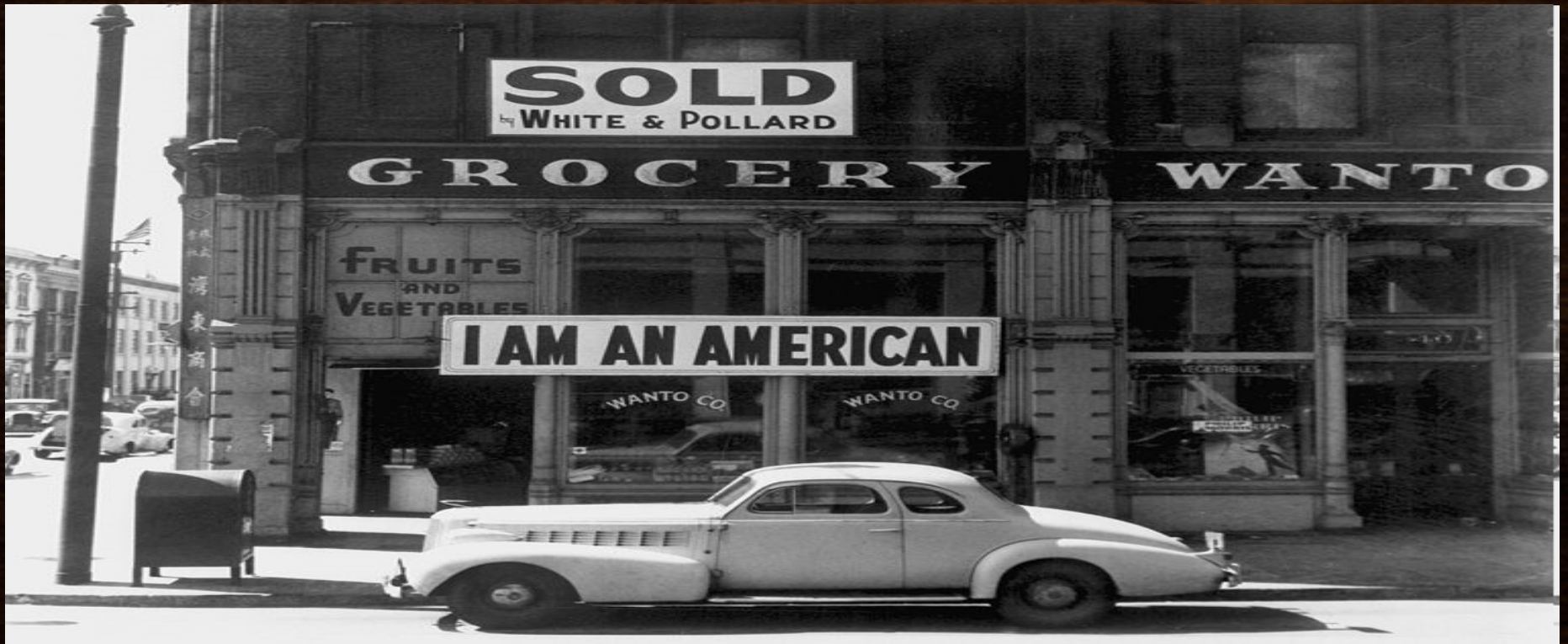
Last night Japanese forces attacked Wake Island.

And this morning the Japanese attacked Midway Island.

Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday and today speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications to the very life and safety of our nation.

As commander in chief of the Army and Navy I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense. But always will our whole nation remember the character of the onslaught against us. . .

The day after the Pearl Harbor attack, a Japanese American placed this banner in front of this store, why do you think he did this?



(Dorothea Lange, March 1942)

## Executive Order 9066

- On Feb 19, 1942, President Roosevelt authorized the War Department to designate “military areas” and to remove people considered to be a danger to the US.

## War Relocation Centers

- Approx. 110,000 Japanese Americans living along the West Coast were moved to these centers, where many would spend 3 years living under armed guards and behind barbed wire

This is a portion of Lt. Gen. J.L. DeWitt's letter of transmittal to the Chief of Staff, U.S. Army, June 5, 1943, of his *Final Report; Japanese Evacuation from the West Coast 1942*.

The evacuation was impelled by military necessity. The security of the Pacific Coast continues to require the exclusion of Japanese from the area now prohibited to them and will so continue as long as that military necessity exists. The surprise attack at Pearl Harbor by the enemy crippled a major portion of the Pacific Fleet and exposed the West Coast to an attack which could not have been substantially impeded by defensive fleet operations. More than 115,000 persons of Japanese ancestry resided along the coast and were significantly concentrated near many highly sensitive installations essential to the war effort..... The continued presence of a large, unassimilated, tightly knit and racial group, bound to an enemy nation by strong ties of race, culture, custom and religion along a frontier vulnerable to attack constituted a menace which had to be dealt with. Their loyalties were unknown and time was of the essence.... It is better to have had this protection and not to have needed it than to have needed it and not to have had it – as we have learned to our sorrow.

Was the government justified in sending Japanese Americans to relocation camps purely on the basis of ethnicity? Why or why not? What would other options have been?

**WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY  
WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION**  
Presidio of San Francisco, California  
April 1, 1942

**INSTRUCTIONS  
TO ALL PERSONS OF  
JAPANESE  
ANCESTRY**

**Living in the Following Area:**

All that portion of the City and County of San Francisco, State of California, lying generally west of the north-south line established by Junipero Serra Boulevard, Worcester Avenue, and Nineteenth Avenue, and lying generally north of the east-west line established by California Street, to the intersection of Market Street, and thence on Market Street to San Francisco Bay.

All Japanese persons, both alien and non-alien, will be evacuated from the above designated area by 12:00 o'clock noon Tuesday, April 7, 1942.

No Japanese person will be permitted to enter or leave the above described area after 8:00 a. m., Thursday, April 2, 1942, without obtaining special permission from the Provost Marshal at the Civil Control Station located at:

1701 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, California

The Civil Control Station is equipped to assist the Japanese population affected by this evacuation in the following ways:

1. Give advice and instructions on the evacuation.
2. Provide services with respect to the management, leasing, sale, storage or other disposition of most kinds of property including: real estate, business and professional equipment, buildings, household goods, boats, automobiles, livestock, etc.
3. Provide temporary residence elsewhere for all Japanese in family groups.
4. Transport persons and a limited amount of clothing and equipment to their new residence, as specified below.

**The Following Instructions Must Be Observed:**

1. A responsible member of each family, preferably the head of the family, or the person in whose name most of the property is held, and each individual living alone, will report to the Civil Control Station to receive further instructions. This must be done between 8:00 a. m. and 5:00 p. m., Thursday, April 2, 1942, or between 8:00 a. m. and 5:00 p. m., Friday, April 3, 1942.

**WESTERN DEFENSE COMMAND AND FOURTH ARMY  
WARTIME CIVIL CONTROL ADMINISTRATION**  
Presidio of San Francisco, California  
May 23, 1942

**INSTRUCTIONS  
TO ALL PERSONS OF  
JAPANESE  
ANCESTRY**  
Living in the Following Area:

All of that portion of the County of Santa Clara, State of California, lying generally north and westward of the following boundary: Beginning at the point on the Santa Clara-Santa Cruz County line, the west end of a line drawn through the peak of Santa Rita; thence due east along said line through said peak to its intersection with Laguna Vista; thence due west along said road toward Hamilton to the point where it is crossed by Laguna Avenue; thence northwesterly on Laguna Avenue to U. S. Highway No. 85; thence westerly on said Highway No. 85 to Laguna Road; thence northwesterly on Laguna Road to its junction with Hamilton Road; thence westerly on Hamilton Road to Hamilton Springs; thence along a line connecting the east corner Hamilton Springs to its intersection with the Santa Clara-Santa Cruz County line, together with all portions of Santa Clara County not previously covered by this description.

- On April 30, 1942, relocation notices were posted, giving all people of Japanese ancestry - including those with only 1/16th Japanese blood –as little as one week to prepare to move.

Families lost everything, were forced to sell off homes, shops, furnishings, even the clothes they couldn't carry with them, to buyers paid next to nothing.









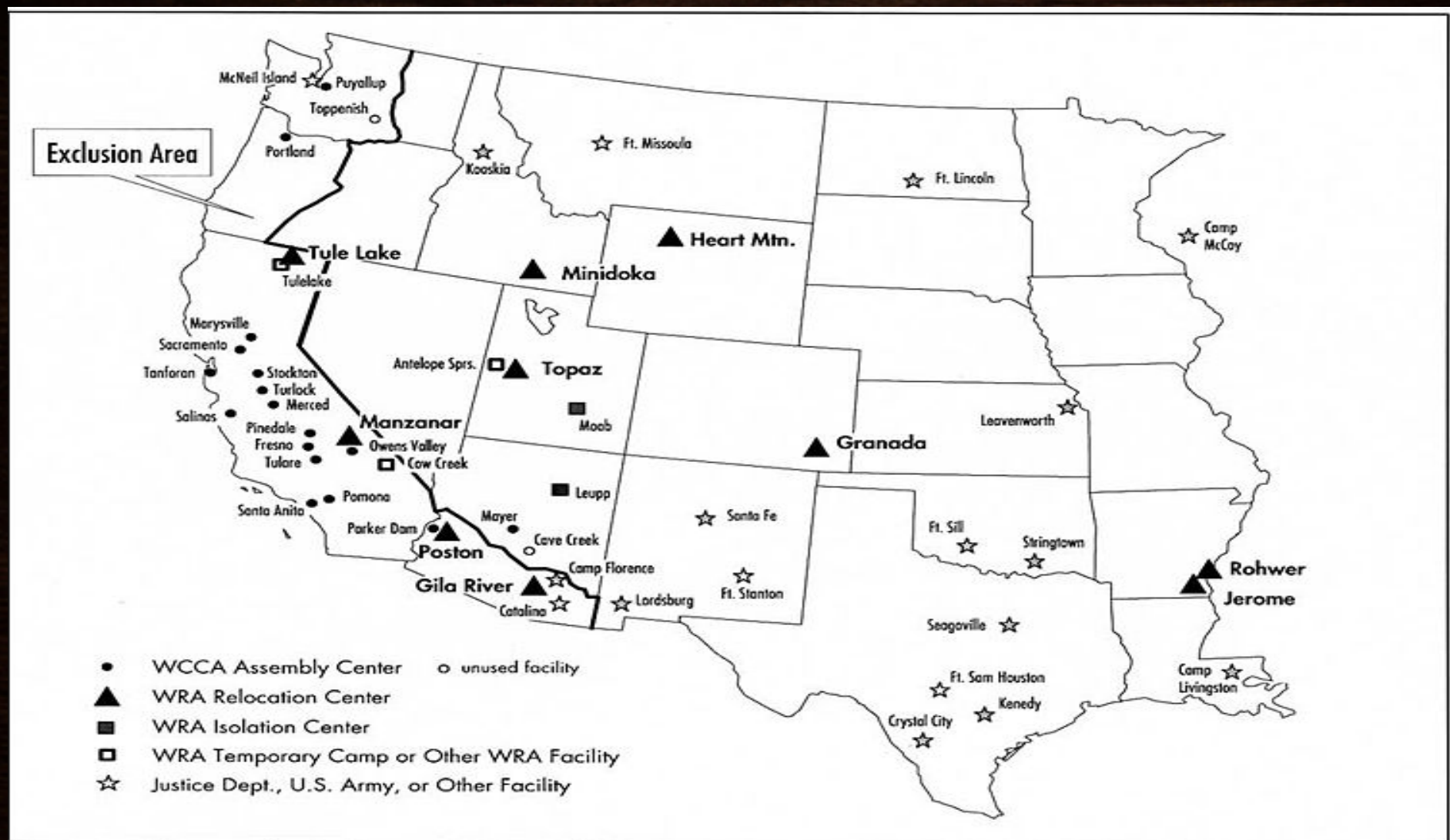
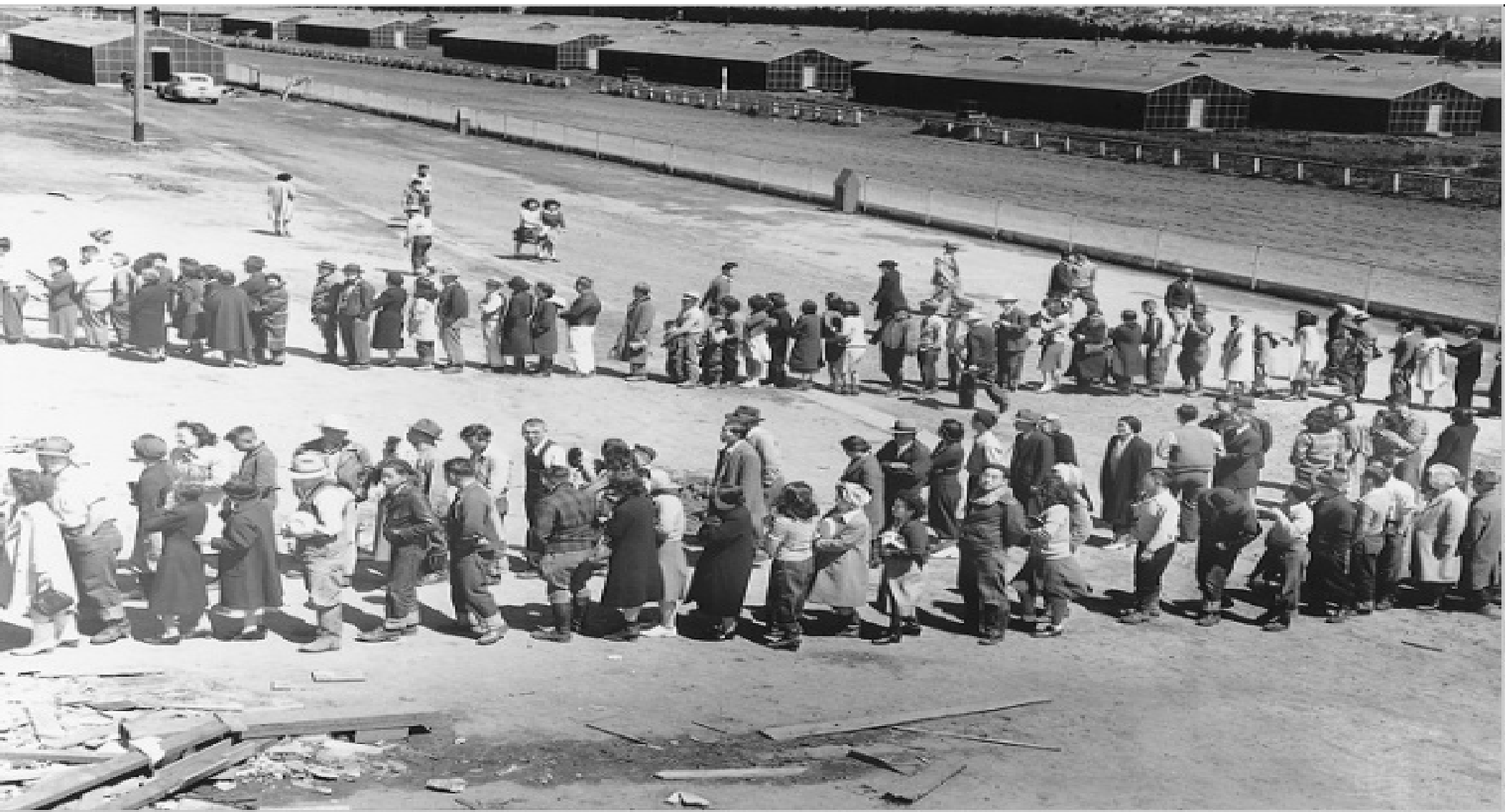


Figure 1.1. Sites in the western U.S. associated with the relocation of Japanese Americans during World War II.



*John J. ...*





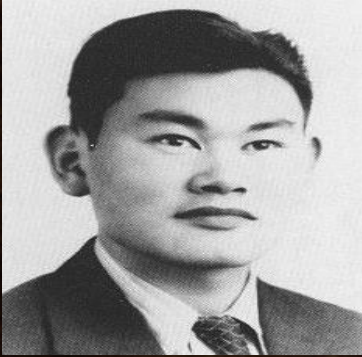
Amache Japanese Internment Camp (Colorado)





*Amey*

Korematsu v.  
the United States  
1944



Release

- Fred Korematsu argued the rights of Japanese Americans had been violated and took his case to the Supreme Court
- It was ruled that the relocation was constitutional because it was not based on race but rather on “military urgency.”
- In 1945, the government began to release Japanese Americans from the camps.
- Despite the fears and rumors, no Japanese American was ever tried for espionage or sabotage.
- Japanese American served as translators and soldiers in an all Japanese Battalion.



How did internment affect the lives of  
Japanese Americans?