

Alice Yang Murray, ed. *What Did the Internment of Japanese Americans Mean?* Boston and New York: Bedford/St. Martin's, 2000. Pp. xii, 163. Cloth, \$35.00; ISBN 0-312-22816-3. Paper, \$14.20; ISBN 0-312-20829-4.

In the wake of the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, the Federal Bureau of Investigation arrested more than 2000 Japanese "enemy aliens" on the U.S. West coast and in Hawai'i, most of them male immigrants. These arrests were followed in February 1942 by President Franklin Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066, which authorized the removal of ethnic Japanese from the West coast. As a result, the government incarcerated 120,000 people, two-thirds of whom were American citizens. *What Did the Internment of Japanese Americans Mean?* examines this unfortunate episode in American history.

The book opens with an introduction that provides readers with an overview of the sweep of events that led to the mass incarceration, a discussion of the camps themselves, and a survey of the evolving scholarship on the subject. Five well-chosen, unabridged secondary source readings, written by eminent scholars—Roger Daniels, Peter Irons, Michi Weglyn, Gary Okihiro, and Valerie Matsumoto—form the core of the book. Each of the readings is headed by one of five questions: Why were Japanese Americans interned during World War II? What caused the Supreme Court to affirm the constitutionality of internment? Why did U.S. officials intern people of Japanese ancestry from Central and South America? How did some Japanese Americans resist internment? What was the impact of internment on Japanese American families and communities?

I found the scholar profiles particularly appealing. By introducing each selection with a "headnote" that discusses the authors in relation to their research, Murray—who had interviewed the scholars on their background and research experiences—underscores the humanness of the historical research process, the importance of persistence, and the role of serendipity.

Although the book uses the term internment to describe what happened, many scholars today prefer the words incarceration and imprisonment. Those who were "interned" were non-citizen "enemy aliens" who had been selected individually for Internment Camps, which were distinguished from the euphemistically called Relocation Centers. The latter imprisoned ethnic Japanese, citizen and non-citizen alike, who had been removed en masse from their homes on the West coast.

The September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon have made this volume especially timely. For example, based on Daniels's essay on the decision to incarcerate Japanese Americans and on Irons's essay on the Supreme Court's decision to affirm the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans, students can compare the situation during World War II with the situation after the attacks.

Questions for consideration and discussion are suggested for each reading, and final questions at the end of the book serve to bring all of the selections together. As part of a new "Historians at Work" series, Murray's user-friendly and highly readable volume serves as an ideal college text. It should generate lively class discussions.

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