

HISTORICAL WITNESS

★ SOCIAL MESSAGING ★

TIMELINE

1882

The Chinese Exclusion Act is passed, allowing the United States to suspend Chinese immigration, a ban that lasts well over sixty years.

1885

San Francisco builds the segregated Oriental School.

The first group of Japanese contract laborers is permitted in Hawaii under the Irwin Convention.

1887

The U.S. Senate approves an agreement to lease Pearl Harbor in Hawaii as a naval base.

1902

The Chinese Exclusion Act comes up for renewal, and efforts are made to exclude Japanese as well.

1903

The Japanese-Mexican Labor Association sugar beet strike occurs in Oxnard, California. The American Federation of Labor (AFL) refuses to let the Japanese-Mexican Labor Association join its membership as long as it accepts Japanese or Chinese members.

1905

William Randolph Hearst's *San Francisco Chronicle* publishes articles on the menace of Japanese laborers.

1906

All Japanese children are ordered to join Chinese children in the racially segregated Oriental School in San Francisco.

1913

The Alien Land Act is passed in California, restricting "alien land purchases" to keep Asians and other nonwhites from buying property.

1919

Race riots spread across the United States.

Government-sanctioned persecutions of immigrants, anarchists, and communists begin during the Red Scare.

1924

The Immigration Act of 1924 limits the amount of immigrants allowed to enter the United States and completely excludes immigrants from Asia (except for the Philippines, which was a U.S. colony).

All native-born American Indians are given U.S. citizenship.

1929

The stock market crashes, and the Great Depression begins.

1941

Japan bombs Pearl Harbor, and the United States enters World War II.

Local authorities and the F.B.I. begin to round up the leadership of the Japanese American communities.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt identifies "Four Freedoms" as essential for all people: freedom of speech and worship, and freedom from want and fear.



1942

The War Relocation Authority (WRA) is created to "take all people of Japanese descent into custody, surround them with troops, prevent them from buying land, and return them to their former homes at the close of the war."

The photographer Dorothea Lange begins documentary work for the WRA. She photographs *Display of Flag and Japanese Family Photographs* at the Tanforan Assembly Center in San Mateo, California, and *Pledge of Allegiance* at Rafael Weill Elementary School in San Francisco.

President Roosevelt orders the re-registration of suspected "enemy" aliens in the West and signs Executive Order No. 9066, which authorizes the evacuation of all persons from the West Coast who are considered a threat to national security.

In Terminal Island in San Pedro, California, residents of Japanese ancestry are given forty-eight hours to leave their residences. The first large groups of Japanese ancestry move from Los Angeles to the Manzanar War Relocation Center in the Owens Valley, two hundred miles northeast of Los Angeles.

1943

Race riots occur in Detroit and Los Angeles.

1944

The all-Japanese American 442nd Regimental Combat Team is sent to the Italian front.

1945

The United States drops two atomic bombs on Japan, ending the war in the Pacific.

The WRA announces that all internment camps will be closed before the end of 1945.

1946

The WRA program and the Japanese American internment program officially end.

1952

The Immigration and Nationality Act is signed, ending the exclusion of Asian immigrants.

1965

The Immigration and Naturalization Act of 1965 repeals a prior law limiting U.S. immigration to 2 percent per foreign country and establishes an immigration system based on needed skills and reunifying families.

1976

President Gerald Ford signs "An American Promise," which formally rescinds Executive Order No. 9066.

1995

Apple Orchard, Manzanar Japanese-American Relocation Camp, Owens Valley, California is photographed by Virginia Beahan and Laura McPhee.

1998

President Ronald Reagan signs legislation that formally apologizes on behalf of the U.S. government for the internment of Japanese Americans.

2001

The USA PATRIOT Act is signed into law on October 26 in response to the terrorist acts in New York and Washington, D.C., on September 11. The act eliminates checks and balances that previously ensured government accountability and gives the government broad new legal and investigative authority to use surveillance techniques such as wiretapping.

2005

Amnesty International releases its annual report characterizing the detention camp at the U.S. Guantanamo Bay Naval Base as a "human rights failure" for its physical conditions, use of torture, and detention of prisoners held for years without being charged with a crime.