

Abstract: The history of Japanese Canadians in Canada began when Manzo Nagano was the first Japanese to arrive in British Columbia in 1877. Since their arrival in Canada, they have been openly discriminated against by the government, by the public and by the press. Yet, the hostility towards them increased when Canada joined WWII against Japanese Imperial Forces and the hostility against them reached its apex, when Japanese forces attacked Pear Harbor. With this attack from Japan, President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 on February, 19, 1942 and this order was to exempt ANYONE from American society. But it was virtually applied to the entire Japanese American population on the West Coast. Then PM William Lyon Mackenzie issued a similar order titled Order-in-Council P.C 1486, which was passed under the Defence of Canada Regulations of the War Measures Act on February, 24, 1942. Canada seized all of Japanese Canadians' assets through Order-in-Council P.C 469, which established Custodian of Enemy Property Office. This office seized and sold all of Japanese Canadians' assets below market value to deter them from re-settling in Canada. Upon their release, some Japanese Canadians were forced to go back to Japan, while some were forced to resettle eastward. Nevertheless, through social unity and intense lobbying they were able to re-establish themselves and get ALL of their redress demands fulfilled.



Thesis:

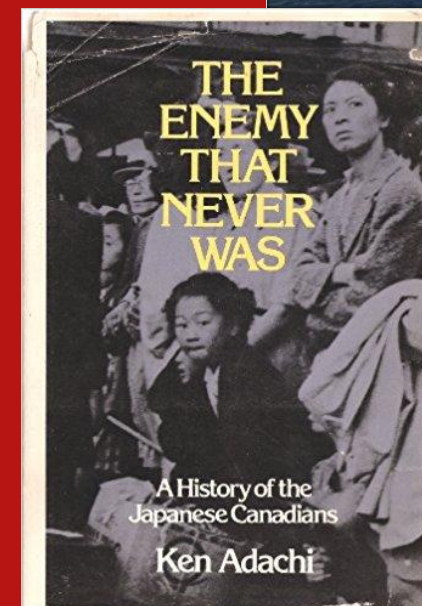
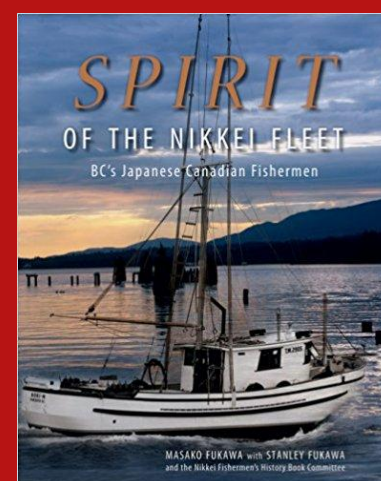
The purpose of this paper is to thoroughly examine the reasons for Japanese internment camps, the conditions of Japanese internment camp, the process of seizing Japanese Canadians' assets by the Canadian government and the reasons for their release from internment camps. Also, this paper will cover the mechanisms of social unity, committees and intense lobbying, which was conducted to force the government to uphold all redress demands by Japanese Canadians. In order to create a richer paper, I will discuss the differences between Canada and United States in how they justified creating and terminating Japanese internment camps.

The **BIGGER PICTURE** of this paper is to exhibit the resilience and adaptability skills of Japanese Canadians after WWII. Also, the **BIGGER PICTURE** of this paper is to exhibit their arduous journey to re-establish themselves from complete financial insolvency with little to no government support.

Methodology:

I have utilized a qualitative and a quantitative approach for this research topic. I have analyzed the following resources to attain my information:

- Historica Canada
- York University's Library E-collections
- Library & Archives Canada
- The Canadian Encyclopedia
- CBC Archives for video/audio recordings & Images
- RCMP records
- Japanese American/Canadian memorial websites and organization
- House of Commons speech transcripts, Parliament
- Records & American Congress records
- Memoirs & autobiographies from survivors such as The enemy that never was by Ken Adachi and Spirit of the Nikkei Fleet: BC's Japanese Canadian Fishermen by Masako Fukawa.



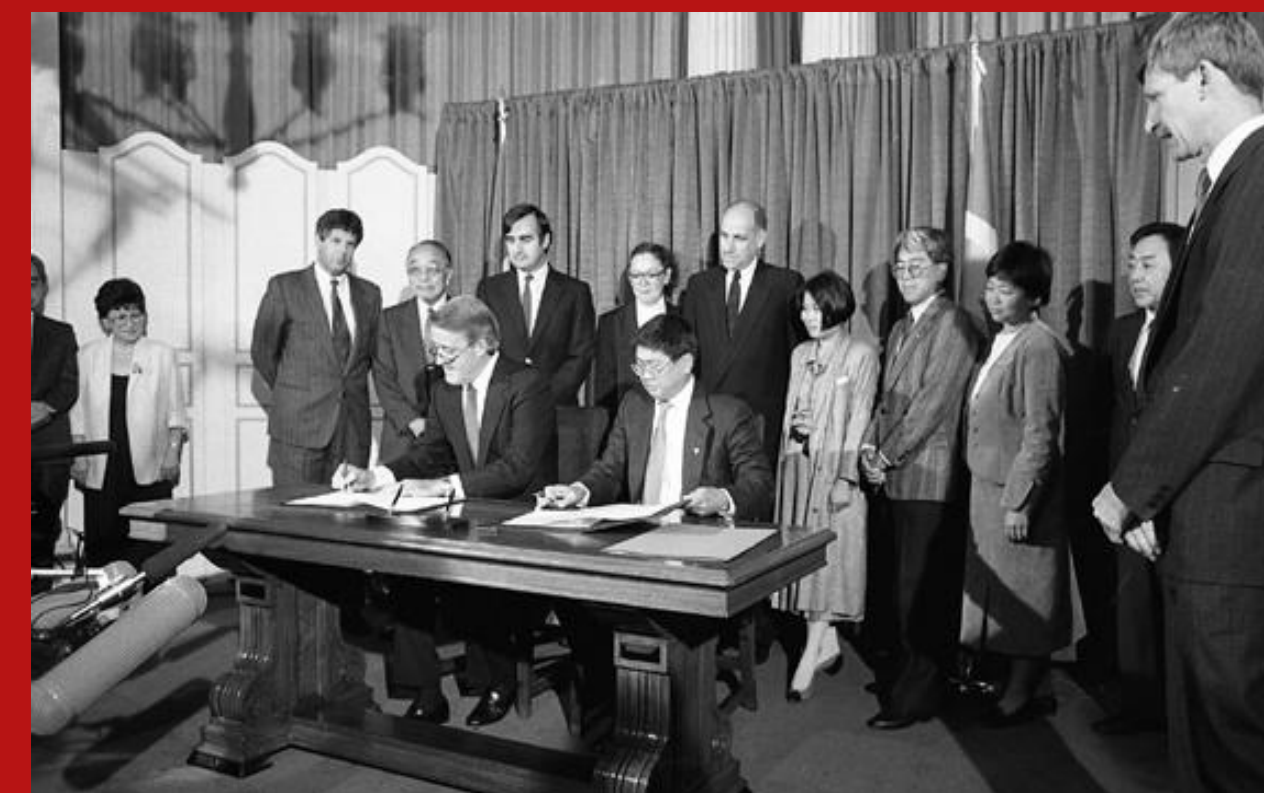
Immigration History:

Japanese Canadians are individuals, who are from Japanese heritage and ancestry. Manzo Nagano was the first Japanese to arrive in British Columbia in 1877. Despite, their extensive presence in Canada, they had been discriminated against openly in newspapers, radio shows and other media outlets because the discrimination of Japanese Canadians throughout late 1800's to late 1900's was accepted in Canadian/American society.

Government of Japan in 1907 agreed to send only 8,000 Japanese immigrants to Canada. The hostility towards Japanese immigrants was entrenched into a misconception that without restriction and without delayed naturalization, there would be a surge in Japanese immigrants.



Pre/Post Japanese Internment Camps



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Internment process & Internment camps:

The hostility increased as Canada entered WWII against Japanese Imperial forces and the tensions reached its threshold, when Japanese forces attacked Pearl Harbor on December, 7, 1941.

Everyone assumed that Japanese Canadians would still be loyal to their motherland and would want their motherland to be victorious, even at the expense of Canada.

After Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 on February, 19, 1942 and this order was to exempt ANYONE from American society. But it was applied to virtually the entire Japanese American population on the West Coast.

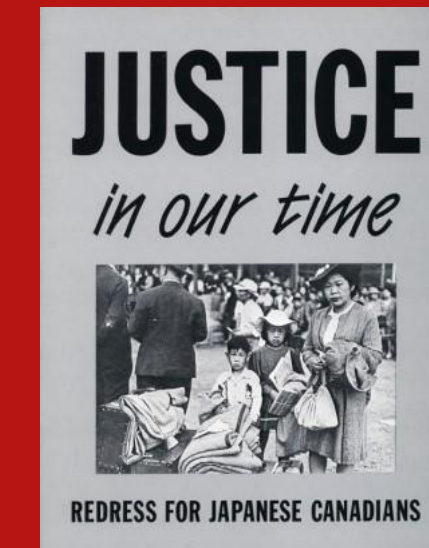
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Through two American Supreme Court cases, President Roosevelt announced that Japanese Americans would soon be allowed to return to the West Coast on December 1944.

With the pressure from BC politicians, softening viewpoints from the Canadian people, and the pressure to align with the American government, the Canadian government issued an order on March, 12, 1945 to force Japanese Canadians to return back to Japan or to force them to resettle far away from the West Coast.

Redress:

In 1983, National Association of Japanese Canadians (NAJC) mounted a redress campaign. Their demands were **FINALLY** met on Sept/22/1988, when: PM Brian Mulroney delivered a formal apology, individually compensated \$21,000 to each surviving internee, re-instated citizenship to those who were deported back to Japan, awarded \$12 million to NAJC to promote human rights and support the Japanese Canadian community, awarded \$24 million to establish Canadian Race Relations Foundation to push for the elimination of racism & abolished the War Measure Act. Also, they lobbied throughout Canada for public education systems to include Japanese Canadian internment camps' experiences and post-war Japanese Canadians' experiences into their curriculum.



Conclusion:

The Canadian government interned Japanese Canadians based on perceived threats, anti-Japanese hysteria, alleged loyalty to their motherland, Pearl Harbor attack and following the national policy of United States.

The Canadian government forcefully deported Japanese Canadians back to Japan and forced the remaining, "non-threatening" Japanese Canadians to resettle in western Canada in cities such as Toronto & Montreal. Additionally, Japanese Canadians were given little to no financial compensation from Bird Commission. Yet, by unifying themselves into a larger group of people: they were able to attain a formal apology from PM Brian Mulroney, were able to attain \$21,000 in compensation per surviving internee, were able to force Canada to reinstate citizenship to those who were deported back to Japan, were able to preserve their internment history and were able to spread awareness of their internment history by embedding it into the public education system.



Future discussions and research:

Who were the key figures that aided in the resettlement of Japanese Canadians, post internment period? What were the psychological and physical effects, the internment camps have had on the survivors? How do post internment Japanese immigrants feel about the internment camps and what are their reactions to it?

Research whether the redress to Japanese Canadians is sufficient or not and how can we spread the awareness of Japanese internment camps to newly arrived immigrants?

In conclusion, there are several research avenues on the effects of internment camps such as the Japanese Canadian population, Canada's Anglo Saxon population, Canadian economy and the Canadian society in general.