

Remembrance Essay

Grace Casteel

Our nation has learned a lot from this time in history. From 1941-1945 the United States of America fought a war against Japan called World War 2. During this war 110,000 to 120,000 Japanese-Americans on the Pacific coast were incarcerated in Internment camps all around the USA. About 62% of the internees were citizens of the United States but for some reason that didn't matter to the government at the time and maybe not even now. The whole war started because Japan bombed Pearl Harbor December 7, 1941. When the bombing happened all of America went up in chaos and the USA definitely could have handled it better.

One important lesson I think our nation learned was that Americans have sacrificed the civil liberty of their fellow citizens in a misguided attempt to reinforce their own security but by doing so they took away innocent people's basic rights. They were judged based on their physical features. Another lesson our nation learned was don't judge somebody based on someone else's actions. Just because one person in a large racial group takes an action doesn't mean that all the other people will take the same actions. I think that we had to go through a rough period like this to learn these valuable lessons even though the way we learned them wasn't fair to many people.

Another lesson I think our nation learned was to not be scared of someone you don't know or something that you don't know is true because anybody at anytime could do anything and that's just the reality of things. A few beneficial developments emerged from the war like racist attitudes and actions subsided slightly although we are still facing very biased opinions based on race today. That is still no excuse for the way that Japanese-Americans were treated. When our nation took the action to incarcerate innocent people it hurt all of our nation and not only the

people inside of the camps, although they were effected the most. The people outside the camps with family or friends on the inside did not get visiting hours or phone calls and the most you got was a letter that the government read through and probably inked out multiple words or sentences. It also effected the society and towns. They lost citizens that went somewhere they didn't deserve to go.

Our nation should have also learned that it might be harder to follow the law of the Constitution than they think by the way they acted. The Bill of Rights guarantees the freedom of speech, religion and the press and freedom from unreasonable searches and seizures. Even if you are an alien in the country you have these rights and are supposed to be treated fairly. The same laws apply to citizens and two thirds of the people incarcerated were American citizens. The basic rights of freedom were taken away from the people incarcerated during World War two and a few people fought for their freedom.

There's a saying that describes exactly how I feel about this situation and I think is one of the best, "But on the other hand, if a spark doesn't happen, it may rain." This quote is important in this situation because if we didn't go through this dark period our country would not have learned the valuable lessons I hope it learned and so many people wouldn't have realized what a blessing life is and how we must cherish every free moment. Also our country may not be the way it is today and if anything ever shifted then I wouldn't be sitting here writing an essay about how the United States Government made a very poor choice but at least we learned something from it. I'm definitely not saying that actions that were taken should have happened like that and we could have solved the problems in a better more civil way taking everyone's well-being into

consideration. The lessons we learned were important and made our nation the way it is today. People think differently and act differently because of the way our nation fell to come together as one during World War 2 but we are a nation now and hopefully growing stronger and coming together as one, no matter what race.

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