



Imprisoned: The Betrayal of Japanese Americans during World War II

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While Americans fought for freedom and democracy abroad, fear and suspicion towards Japanese Americans swept the country after Japan's sneak attack on Pearl Harbor. Culling information from extensive, previously unpublished interviews and oral histories with Japanese American survivors of internment camps, Martin W. Sandler gives an in-depth account of their lives before, during their imprisonment, and after their release. Bringing readers inside life in the internment camps and explaining how a country that is built on the ideals of freedom for all could have such a dark mark on its history, this in-depth look at a troubling period of American history sheds light on the prejudices in today's world and provides the historical context we need to prevent similar abuses of power.

Imprisoned: The Betrayal of Japanese Americans during World War II Details

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From Reader Review Imprisoned: The Betrayal of Japanese Americans during World War II for online ebook

Zoey Wyn says

During WWII nearly everyone knows of the atrocities performed in Nazi Germany, under Hitler's rule. Why is it then that so many people are so unaware of similar events happening in America at the same time?

Right here in America, home of the free and land of the brave, the government was breaking resident aliens' and citizens' constitutional rights. Rights that were spelled out in the first ten amendments, the ones deemed to be of the utmost importance. They are so important that we call them the Bill of Rights.

Imagine being forced from your homes, schools, and businesses and only given two weeks to get all of your affairs in order, and then lose everything despite all your efforts. That is exactly how it starts, and Imprisoned takes us through it all.

Why I picked it up: I have always felt that Japanese internment is an under covered topic, especially in school, so it was exciting to see an accessible book on the topic. It is laid out expertly, and uses modern design element.

Why I finished it: While it is a non-fiction book, the narrative is honest and heart felt. I felt like I could really empathize with the victims of this event, because of this insightful perspective.

Who I'd give it too: History buffs, lovers of world cultures, and anyone interested in issues surround race.

Happy Reading!

YALSA Award for Excellence in Nonfiction 2014 Finalist
Junior Library Guild Selection
Booklist 2013 Lasting Connections
Booklist Editor's Choice
Bulletin Blue Ribbon Book 2013

Hilary says

This might be shelved in the children's section, but don't underestimate it, or its impact. Imprisoned delves thoroughly into the historical, military, social and political issues surrounding this civil rights travesty. It offers insight into the reasoning, but without justifying. It doesn't shy away from praise or criticism, but neither does it linger on the negative, making it suitable for most ages.

An excellent book for anyone wanting an overview, or a place to start. Expect some potentially awkward conversations when your child reads this, because really the actions (not just of the prisoners, but also the society that drove it) are unexplainable.

Aleya says

3.5 out of 5. This is a book young adults need to read, not only for the historical knowledge but the parallel to prejudice against Muslims today. Worth the read. I had some issues with the layout and often had to flip back and forth between pages to get everything.

Jenn says

This book is an excellent account of the internment of Japanese Americans during WWII. Sandler's work is well-written and thoroughly researched. My issue with the book is in the layout. I had hoped to use this work as a literature circle option for a fifth grade language arts/history project; therefore, I tried to read this book from a child's perspective. I was constantly frustrated with breaks in the narrative. In the middle of a paragraph or even a sentence, the next page would be a side story. In at least one instance the side story is three pages long right in the middle of a sentence. Every chapter has one of these multi-page breaks. How is a fifth grader supposed to become immersed in the story with so many interruptions? I found myself skipping the breaks and coming back to read them at the end of the chapter, which begs the question...Why not put these at the end of each chapter?!?!?!?

Sarah Sammis says

<http://www.pussreboots.pair.com/blog/...>

Hunter Alexander says

Racism, hatred, and discrimination. Three very important and controversial topics were dissected in this book. They were dissected for Japanese Americans during WW2. After Pearl Harbor, many people were afraid of Japanese Americans. Due to the fear, the "Japs" were placed into interment camps. By being placed in these hastily built piles of junk, the Japanese Americans were deprived of all of their Constitutional rights.

Michael Cyle says

Overall I liked this book because it showed how horrible World War two was. Throughout this book there was pictures of innocent Japanese-Americans who were put through torture just because of their race. The Japanese were stripped of basically everything they had, and were put in mini concentration camps or detention centers. This nonfictional book shows how the Japanese stayed true to America even though America violated every right ever made.

Jill says

This should be required reading. Not only is it unbelievable this ever happened in America, but the

similarities to today are appalling. We'll only learn from the mistakes of history if we learn about the past.

Melissa says

Fascinating.

Mary Sanchez says

Primary document pictures add so much to this award winning book about the Japanese Americans who were evacuated and relocated to various relocation camps during WWII. While I did know about these camps, I appreciated the quotes from actual people concerning their thoughts about relocating and what it was like.

I appreciated the information about the 442nd Battalion, made up primarily of Nisei or second generation Japanese born in America, and their experiences liberating the concentration camp survivors at Dachau, while the Japanese American soldiers still had families in the relocation camps in the United States.

A list of Medal of Honor recipients from this highly decorated unit, comprised of Japanese Americans should have been included and more thought should have been taken into the placement of sidenotes. I thought I had a misprinted copy of the book when I couldn't find the pages to continue the story.

Lake says

This book I did not expect it to be so detailed, I thought it would be more story's and fighting. This book is BORING let me tell you, its just telling you the stuff I don't know how I read it. Well I mainly read it because I was failing the class and I needed a book to do one of these on, so here it goes. Imprisoned is a book about World War 2, in many cases we all know what happened to Pearl Harbor. The Japanese militia bombed them, the US took it to a whole new level they locked up any Japanese American they could find thinking they were spies. Now the camps were not anything like the Nazi camps they killed the Jews the US did not kill them unless they died in the camp. Now yes food was low at sometimes, yes it was cramped up a little bit. They all had shelter they weren't on top of each other or dying they had sports to play. They played football and soccer and many other sports with simple materials. They waited and waited for years to get out it was dumb and ruthless, but the Japanese Americans that half and half got out the full Japanese spent a full five years the last camp was closed in March of 1946.

Elizabeth S says

4 1/2 stars. Awesome book, great format, and informative text without being at all dry. I appreciated how Sandler began by talking about groups of Japanese immigrating to America around the 1900's, rather than beginning with Pearl Harbor. I think it is important to remember that racial prejudice was longstanding and not entirely a product of the Pearl Harbor attacks. I also enjoyed the chapters about events that happened after the WWII internment, including examples of Japanese Americans working to make sure nothing like this happens again to any group. Thank you.

Heidi says

No matter how many times I read about the events leading up to and including the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II, it makes me sick every time. Every ideal represented by the American flag was violated by imprisoning people for no reason other than their race. Some of the details provided by Sandler are all too reminiscent of the Nazis and the Japanese Empire (other than murder). I've always believed that when we behave like those we fight/condemn we are no better than they are, and this time in our history shows that all too clearly. Sandler does a nice job summing up the events that led to the imprisonment of 120,000 Japanese Americans, including a discussion of Japanese immigration and Pearl Harbor. He goes on to present facts about how and why it was decided to force the Japanese Americans into concentration camps (supposedly a risk of sabotage and spying, which was never proven against any of those imprisoned). Those in favor of this plan outnumbered those against. In addition to explaining about life in the camps, Sandler discusses the Japanese Americans who served in the military, both as interpreters and combat soldiers. Life after the camps and the search for redress are covered in the second to last chapter. The last chapter focuses on the possibilities of such a thing happening again and the importance of not letting it happen again, even after September 11. A powerful account of historical events that should be known, in order for it to never happen again.

Penny Peck says

Sandler has a somewhat original approach to this subject, which helps this stand out from the wealth of previous books on Japanese-American relocation. Like many previous books, this is filled with distinctive b&w photos, and quotes from people who were kids and teens in the camps. But the author also includes a chapter on Nisei military service at the time, and a chapter on the redress movement (to get an apology and repayment). That means some things had to be left out - no mention of the important court cases challenging relocation like Korematsu, or very much about the "no-no" boys, incarceration of some people accused as spies, or how Tule Lake was used as the camp for those who might protest or speak out against relocation. A clearer example of the few Italian and German immigrants and their limitations would have helped also, such as the DiMaggios (parents of Joe) being classified as enemy aliens and his fishing boat taken away. Still, this is a very thoughtful, engaging, and useful book for grades 5-8 on this important part of U.S. History.

Alex (not a dude) Baugh says

The story of what happened to Japanese Americans shortly after the United States entered World War II never ceases to stun me. And, as Martin Sandler shows in his newest nonfiction book, *Imprisoned*, it is especially ironic that while we were fighting a war to save democracy, we had no compunction about taking it away from a whole section of American society by placing them in internment camps scattered throughout the US, located out in the middle of nowhere.

But, as Sandler points out, fear and mistrust of Japanese immigrants to the US didn't begin with World War II. And so, we are given a short history about the arrival of the Japanese; their willingness to take any kind of work when they first arrived here; how they saved their money and how they were eventually able to afford their piece of the American Dream.

But they looked different, their language was different, their religion and culture were different and so they faced anti-Japanese signs and sentiments all over the West Coast. As more Japanese arrived, laws were passed preventing Japanese immigrants from owning land, then congress passed the Immigration Act, which banned Japanese immigration to the US altogether. And of course, according to The Naturalization Act of 1790, citizenship was already out of the question for any non-white not born on American soil. Yet, despite all of these obstacles, Sandler points out, the Japanese still managed to thrive in this country.

That was until December 7, 1941, when the Japan attacked the United States in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Once again, fear and mistrust reared up. And, despite the fact that there was no indication that the Japanese and their American born children were the least bit sympathetic to or in cahoots with Japan, it didn't take long for the hate and suspicion mongers to convince the President of the United States to sign Executive Order 9066 placing them in internment camps.

In this relatively short (176 pages), well researched, well written book, Sandler gives us tells the story of life in the internment camps through personal accounts and interviews never before published, all supplemented with a abundance of photographs, providing a more in-depth look at what went on before, during and after the war.

It was a little difficult reading this book because it was from Net Galley and I downloaded it to my Kindle App and the photos weren't where they should have been and the wonderful personal accounts that are included were also kind of helter-skelter so I am very anxious to see and reread the actual book when it comes out on August 27, 2013.

Despite my difficulty reading Imprisoned, I would still highly recommend it to anyone interested in WW2 home front history. A nice companion book, which Sandler also mentions is Citizen 13660 by Miné Okubo, which I review back in 2011.

The story of internment of Japanese and Japanese Americans didn't end with WW2. Given \$25 and a ticket home, Sandler goes on to briefly cover how the internees returned to their homes to find everything gone, how they worked hard to get back on their feet yet again, despite yet more obstacles, and finally, their fight for reparations in the 1970s and 1980s.

There is copious back matter including places to visit, websites with additional information and a nice in-depth index (one of my favorite back matter elements that often is not as well done as this one).

This book is recommended for readers age 10+
This book was an E-ARC from Net Galley

This review originally was posted on The Children's War
