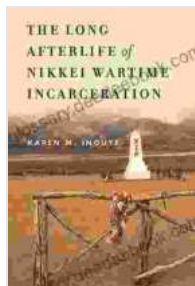


# The Long Afterlife of Nikkei Wartime Incarceration in Asian America



## The Long Afterlife of Nikkei Wartime Incarceration (Asian America) by RaeAnne Thayne

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English  
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The history of Japanese American incarceration during World War II is a complex and painful one. In the wake of the attack on Pearl Harbor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which authorized the removal of all persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast. Over 120,000 people, two-thirds of whom were American citizens, were forced to leave their homes and businesses and were sent to internment camps.

The conditions in the camps were often harsh. The internees were housed in barracks that were overcrowded and unsanitary. They were subjected to racism and discrimination from the guards and other camp staff. Many of the internees lost their jobs, their homes, and their businesses. The experience of incarceration had a profound impact on the lives of the internees and their families.

After the war, the internees were released from the camps. However, they faced continued discrimination and prejudice. Many of them were unable to find jobs or housing. Some were even forced to return to Japan. The experience of incarceration left a lasting legacy of trauma and pain.

In recent years, there has been a growing movement to redress the injustices of Japanese American incarceration. In 1988, Congress passed the Civil Liberties Act, which apologized for the internment and provided reparations to the survivors. However, the legacy of incarceration continues to shape Asian American identity today.

The experience of incarceration has led to a deep sense of mistrust among Asian Americans. Many Asian Americans feel that they are not fully accepted by American society. They worry that they could be targeted again in the future. This mistrust has led to a sense of isolation and alienation among Asian Americans.

The experience of incarceration has also had a profound impact on Asian American art and literature. Many Asian American artists and writers have explored the themes of internment, racism, and discrimination in their work. This work has helped to raise awareness of the Japanese American experience and to challenge the stereotypes that have been used to justify the internment.

The legacy of Japanese American incarceration is a complex and painful one. However, it is also a story of resilience and hope. The internees survived the camps and went on to rebuild their lives. They fought for justice and helped to change American society. The story of Japanese

American incarceration is a reminder of the dangers of racism and discrimination. It is also a story of the power of hope and the human spirit.

## **How the Incarceration Shaped Asian American Identity**

The experience of Japanese American incarceration has had a profound impact on Asian American identity. The following are some of the ways in which the incarceration has shaped Asian American identity:

- **Mistrust:** The experience of incarceration has led to a deep sense of mistrust among Asian Americans. Many Asian Americans feel that they are not fully accepted by American society. They worry that they could be targeted again in the future. This mistrust has led to a sense of isolation and alienation among Asian Americans.
- **Resilience:** The internees survived the camps and went on to rebuild their lives. They fought for justice and helped to change American society. The story of Japanese American incarceration is a reminder of the dangers of racism and discrimination. It is also a story of the power of hope and the human spirit.
- **Activism:** The experience of incarceration has led many Asian Americans to become involved in activism. They work to fight against racism and discrimination and to promote social justice. Asian American activists have played a key role in the civil rights movement, the anti-war movement, and the movement for reparations for Japanese American internees.
- **Art and literature:** The experience of incarceration has had a profound impact on Asian American art and literature. Many Asian American artists and writers have explored the themes of internment, racism, and discrimination in their work. This work has helped to raise

awareness of the Japanese American experience and to challenge the stereotypes that have been used to justify the internment.

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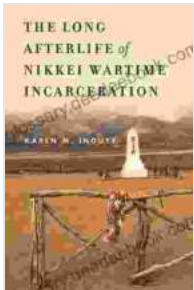
### **What Can We Learn from the Incarceration?**

The experience of Japanese American incarceration can teach us a lot about the dangers of racism and discrimination. It can also teach us about the importance of resilience and hope. Here are some of the lessons that we can learn from the incarceration:

- **Racism and discrimination are never justified.** The experience of Japanese American incarceration is a reminder that racism and discrimination are never justified. They are always wrong, and they can have devastating consequences.
- **We must never let fear and prejudice control our actions.** The fear of the unknown and the prejudice against people who are different from us can lead to terrible injustices. We must never let these emotions control our actions.
- **We must always stand up for what is right.** The experience of Japanese American incarceration is a reminder that we must always stand up for what is right. We must never be afraid to speak out against racism and discrimination.

- **We must never give up hope.** The experience of Japanese American incarceration is a reminder that we must never give up hope. Even in the darkest of times, we must always believe that things can get better.

The legacy of Japanese American incarceration is a complex and painful one. However, it is also a story of resilience and hope. The internees survived the camps and went on to rebuild their lives. They fought for justice and helped to change American society. The story of Japanese American incarceration is a reminder of the dangers of racism and discrimination. It is also a story of the power of hope and the human spirit.



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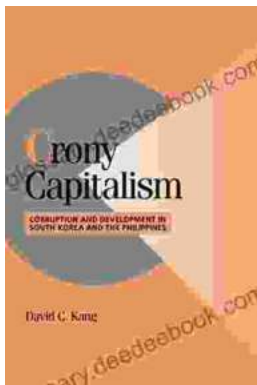
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