

PRIMARY SOURCE SET I

Gen. John DeWitt, Final Report: *Japanese Evacuation from the West Coast* (1942)

In the war in which we are now engaged racial affiliations are not severed by migration. The Japanese race is an enemy race and while many second and third generation Japanese born on United States soil, possessed of United States citizenship, have become "Americanized," the racial strains are undiluted....It, therefore, follows that along the vital Pacific Coast over 112,000 potential enemies, of Japanese extraction, are at large today. There are indications that these are organized and ready for concerted action at a favorable opportunity. The very fact that no sabotage has taken place is a disturbing and confirming indication that such action will be taken.

Rep. John Rankin (D – MS), speech to House of Representatives (1942)

I'm for catching every Japanese in America, Alaska and Hawaii now and putting them in concentration camps and shipping them back to Asia as soon as possible...This is a race war, as far as the Pacific side of the conflict is concerned...The White man's civilization has come into conflict with Japanese barbarism...One of them must be destroyed...Damn them! Let's get rid of them now!

Observe	Reflect	Question
<p><i>Note any key words, phrases, or details from this set of sources:</i></p>	<p><i>Together, how do these documents redefine citizenship?</i></p> <p><i>What factors do you think played a role in that redefinition?</i></p> <p><i>Whose voice is not being heard in these sources?</i></p>	<p><i>What questions does this set of sources raise about citizenship?</i></p>

PRIMARY SOURCE SET II

Austin Anson, managing secretary, Vegetable Grower-Shipper Association of Salinas (CA)

We're charged with wanting to get rid of the Japs for selfish reasons. We might as well be honest. We do. It's a question of whether the white man lives on the Pacific Coast or the brown men. They came to this valley to work, and they stayed to take over. They offer higher land prices and higher rents than the white man can pay for land. They undersell the white man in the markets. They can do this because they raise their own labor. They work their women and children while the white farmer has to pay wages for his help. If all the Japs were removed tomorrow, we'd never miss them in two weeks, because the white farmers can take over and produce everything the Jap grows. And we don't want them back when the war ends, either.

"Sane Resistance," *Bakersfield Californian*, December 15, 1944

We have had enough experiences with the Japs in times of peace to emphasize the opinion that they are not to be trusted....and we can see little advantage except to Tokyo authorities, in returning these evacuees to their former homes....since their presence menaces the war effort, it is difficult to understand how anyone can seriously favor a plan for permitting them their full freedom in a country is at war with their nation. And Japan is their nation and ever will be.

Observe	Reflect	Question
<p><i>Note any key words, phrases, or details from this set of sources:</i></p>	<p><i>What do these documents add to the story?</i></p> <p><i>In what ways can citizenship be defined socially and culturally, as well as politically?</i></p> <p><i>What are some ways people can be socially or culturally excluded from citizenship?</i></p>	<p><i>What questions does this set of sources raise about citizenship?</i></p>

PRIMARY SOURCE SET III

Ray Takeno, "A Victorious New Year to You – America," *Manzanar Free Press*, January 1, 1944

Greetings to you for a Victorious New Year, people of America; from your kindred 50,000 citizens inside barbed wire fences....

In seeking to resettle and to re-establish ourselves in our respective trades, businesses, and professions....We only seek to join in the drive for Victory. We are prepared to shoulder our share of further sacrifices demanded of all her citizens by our country. We will not shirk. Indeed evacuees who already left the Relocation Projects are contributing to our embattled nation's war effort...In Europe, in the South Pacific, on every front former evacuees are today in uniform fighting beside their brother Americans....

...The citizen evacuees who are behind these barbed wire fences, through no fault of their own, are not persuaded to resettle by glittering promises of job offers. The important consideration is that they be convinced in their own minds that they are acceptable to American communities as Americans and that in relocation lies their service to their country....

...we look forward as Americans with deepened understanding and firm conviction to this New Year when Victory shall come to this country that is yours and ours.

Observe	Reflect	Question
<p><i>Note any key words, phrases, or details from this set of sources:</i></p>	<p><i>How do these documents change or deepen our understanding of Japanese-American internment?</i></p> <p><i>Why is it important to refocus the story from the oppressor to the oppressed?</i></p> <p><i>How can these ideas apply to other controversial topics?</i></p>	<p><i>What questions does this set of sources raise about citizenship?</i></p>