



## Images of America's Concentration Camps

Monday, Oct. 3 - Fri Oct. 21, 2022

El Camino College Library  
Reception: Thurs, Oct. 13, 1-3 pm

**"Images of America's Concentration Camps"** commemorates the 80th "Day of Remembrance," the 80th anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's 1942 signing of Executive Order 9066.

E.O. 9066 authorized the Secretary of War, Henry L. Stimson, to declare parts of the country "military zones." This authorization opened the door for the military to use these zones as they saw fit, including excluding anyone they considered a threat to national security. The West Coast was declared a military zone, and General John L. DeWitt ordered the removal of all people of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast—most of whom were American citizens—and imprisoned them in concentration camps or forced them into exile inland.

While the use of the term, "concentration camps" is commonly used to refer to the Nazi death camps, internal memos stored in the National Archives indicate that members of FDR's administration used "concentration camps" to refer to the camps where Japanese Americans were imprisoned. This is not to say that the experiences of the millions of people imprisoned and murdered in the death camps and those of the people imprisoned here during World War II are equivalent and/or that their experiences are being conflated. Instead, within the context of the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans, the use of "concentration camps" is a matter of utilizing accurate terminology.

This exhibit's purpose is to provide a visual reminder of the injustices Japanese Americans faced during their mass incarceration and the lessons learned from their experiences. These images are presented with the hope that, someday, such injustices will become mere vestiges of the past.



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