

Japanese-American Internment Resources
Compiled by Julie Renee Moore
Catalog Librarian, Rutgers University Libraries

“Japanese-American Internment: Home and Father”

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“I think there is a basic need for Americans to understand that the civil rights of individuals must be protected even in wartime. One of the things we’re trying to do is to set the record straight and establish a principle of American government that will make the government think in the future before it takes rash action.” – Senator Ted Stevens, Alaska.

“I have never been so frightened as when federal agents came in the middle of the night, pounded on our door, grabbed my father and drove him off to Fort Richardson to be placed in the stockade there.” “To be interned behind barbed wire fences patrolled by armed guards, to have my father separated from the family, to be among strangers, and to read and hear terrible derogatory things about all Japanese, turned my happy and secure world upside down.” – Sam Kimura, testimony at the Sept. 1981 Commission of Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians.

“When I was a child, my mother told me stories about the Aleuts being evacuated from the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands. But I didn’t believe her because I never read about this history in school. My mom said that Navy burned the village of Atka. I thought she made up that story ... These incidents did happen, damages did occur. When the Aleut people testified at the hearings, they wanted to have this documentation in the history books. They wanted their story to be known and not to be just an incident where people would say, ‘Oh that didn’t happen. The government wouldn’t do that. This is America!’ Now, this Aleut story is part of our history books.” – Pat Petrivelli.

Quotes from *Forced to Leave: WWII Detention of Alaskan Japanese Americans and Aleuts* by Mary Fenno, 1997.

“There is a fine line between focusing on the suffering created by the internment and focusing on the strength and resilience with which Japanese Americans have been able to respond to this trauma. Overemphasis on suffering runs the risk of portraying the Japanese Americans as “damaged” victims, while overemphasis on their coping strengths runs the risk of minimizing the negative aspects of the internment.” – *Legacy of Injustice: Exploring the Cross-Generational Impact of the Japanese American Internment* by Donna K. Natata.

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