

How Japanese Canadians were Persecuted After the Pearl Harbor Attack

Student Name

Date

On December 7, 1941, Canadians were stunned and furious that the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor and in turn, the government greatly mistreated them. Instantly after this tragedy, Canadians declared war on Japan. Partnered with the United States of America, they both sought revenge. Taking their anger out too far, they stripped Japanese Canadians of their rights and sent them into internment camps. Embarrassed and confused, these Japanese Canadians could not understand why they were being punished for something they had no part of.

("Attack On Pearl Harbor." *wikipedia*. N.p., n.d. Web. Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor)

The night before the ambush, the Japanese were preparing a secret attack on the United States' Naval Base, Pearl Harbor. Three hundred and fifty-three Japanese fighter planes were sent out. In two waves these men hit unexpected Pearl Harbor citizens with bomb after bomb. Intended to destroy American fleet units, the Japanese wanted America out of its way when they planned to conquer South-East Asia. This tragedy left 2,402 Americans dead and 1,282 wounded. Americans and their allied Canadians were shocked and enraged at the Japanese.

("Attack On Pearl Harbor." *wikipedia*. N.p., n.d. Web. Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor)

Immediately after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Japanese Canadians began getting persecuted. Resentment against the Japanese sky rocketed and racist posters were put up. Their fishing boats were seized, newspapers taken away, and many were fired from their jobs. Three months later these Japanese Canadians were beginning to be taken away from their homes to road camps, internment camps, and prisoner of war camps. By November 1942, nearly 22,000 Japanese were sent into these unsanitary camps. Families were separated and only hoped to see

Comment [DW1]: This introduction and thesis needs some work. The introduction should be interesting with the thesis (what the paper is about) in the last sentence.

Comment [DW2]: The antecedent of 'them' would be the Japanese which is a little confusing. It would be better to say "the Japanese living in Canada."

Comment [DW3]: This is not the correct way to cite sources.
See
<http://library.concordia.ca/help/howto/mia.php?guid=parenth>

Comment [DW4]: The attack was actually against naval forces, not citizens. This is an important distinction.

each other again. Everything these people owned was sold and was to pay for their living expenses. The Canadian government went way too far in trying to punish the Japanese. Despised by many Canadians, the Japanese were unfairly treated and locked up like prisoners.

("From Racism to Redress: The Japanese Canadian Experience." *crr.ca/divers files/en/pub/faSh/ePubFaShRacRedJap.pdf*. "N.p., n.d. Web. Racism towards the Japanese)

In these camps the Japanese were treated like animals. These Canadian citizens were forced into huts, foul-smelling horse stables, or tents. With no insulation, these crowded places were freezing in the winter. Lying on uncomfortable beds with their possessions squished beside them, they were miserable. After numerous complaints, conditions became a bit better because they had more stoves, could build extra rooms, and grow vegetable gardens. The Japanese who were in the United States were not even treated this badly. They actually had houses to stay in, their possessions were not sold, did not have to pay for food, and were kept with their families. Continuing to treat the Japanese poorly, the Canadian government kicked 10,000 Japanese Canadians out of the country. This unfair treatment in these camps to their own citizens never should have happened.

("Japanese Internment Camps." Yukon Education Student Network *www.yesnet.yk.ca/schools/projects/canadianhistory/camps/internment*. n.d. Web. How Japanese Canadians were wrongfully treated)

|| Hopefully persecution like this will never happen again in Canada. On September 22, 1988, Prime Minister Brian Mulroney acknowledged and apologized for the governments unjustifiable

Comment [DW5]: Conclusion should be restating the thesis.

Comment [DW6]: There should be comment regarding both sides of the issue. Canada was at war with the Japanese and there was a concern about security. Suggestion: "While the Canadian government felt there was a security risk with Japanese Canadians, the measures were taken too far....."

actions during world war two. Canada repaid surviving Japanese citizens \$21,000 each. This horrible attack by Japan was not the Japanese Canadians fault and they never should have been treated so severely by fellow Canadians.

(“From Racism to Redress: The Japanese Canadian Experience.” *crr.ca/divers*
files/en/pub/faSh/ePubFaShRacRedJap.pdf." N.p., n.d. Web. Racism towards the Japanese)

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Comment [DW7]: This is improperly cited.
Donna Ward is not the editor of this text

Comment [DW8]: This paper need more work
on organization with a clearly written thesis, points
and arguments. The citations and bibliography are
not in the proper format