

A stylized American flag rendered with thick, expressive brushstrokes. The flag's colors—blue, white, and red—are visible, with the stars and stripes appearing as broad, textured strokes. The flag is positioned horizontally across the top half of the image.

The Home Front During WWII

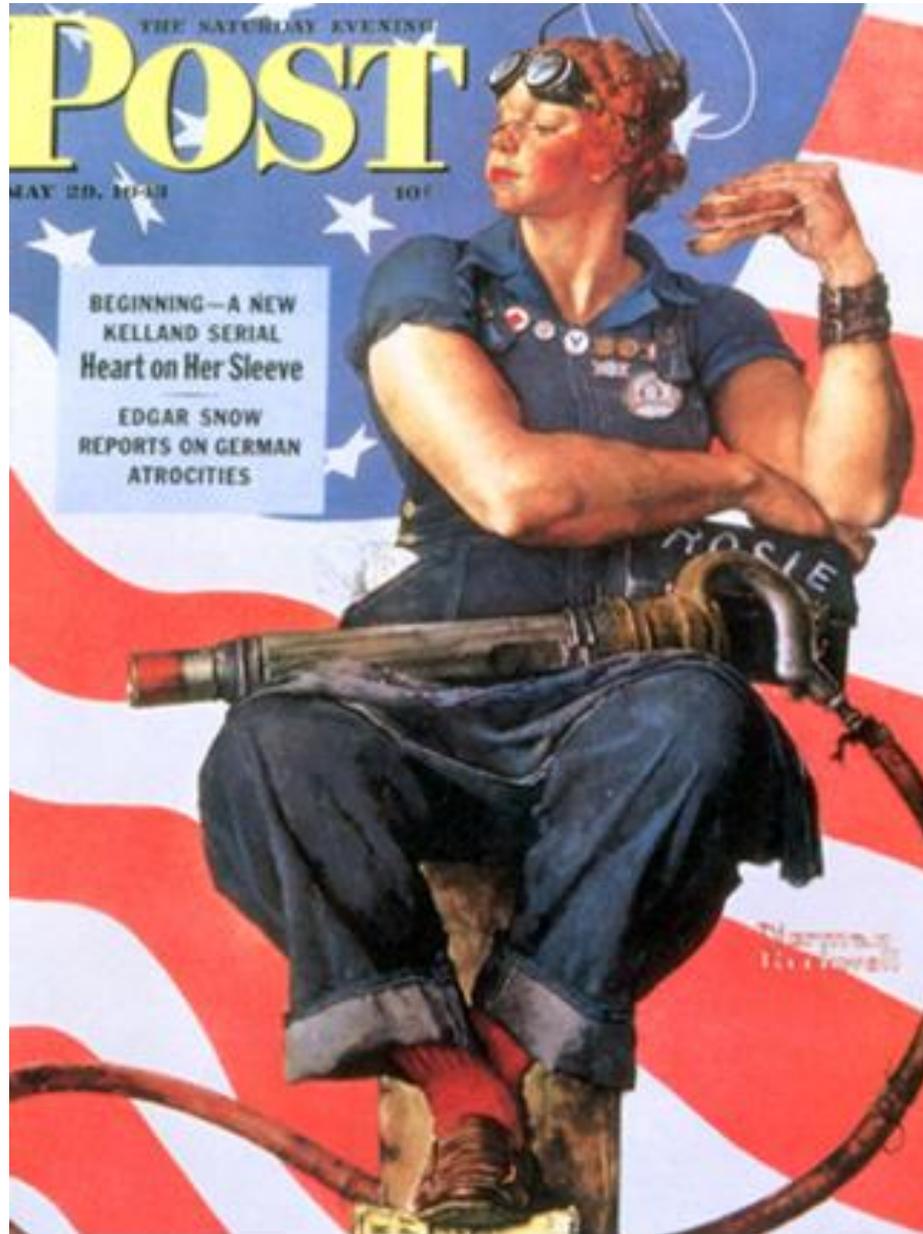
1. American Workforce

A "Work or Fight" propaganda campaign was waged. "Rosie the Riveter" posters beckoned housewives to leave the home and enter the nation's factories. About 6.5 million females entered the workforce during the war years, many for the first time. These women filled jobs in factories and clerical positions. One-third of these jobs were in the defense industry. (When the war ended, most of these women lost their jobs.)

African Americans continued the Great Migration northward, filling vacated factory jobs. Mexican Americans were courted to cross the border to assist with the harvest season. Thousands of retirees went back on the job, and more and more teenagers pitched in to fill the demand for new labor.



2.



by Norman Rockwell, appeared on the cover of the popular weekly magazine, *Saturday Evening Post*

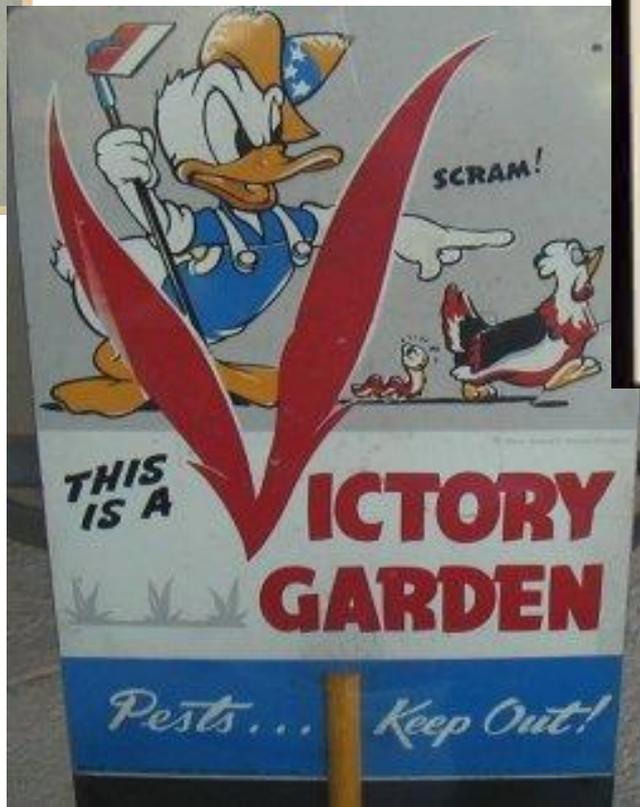
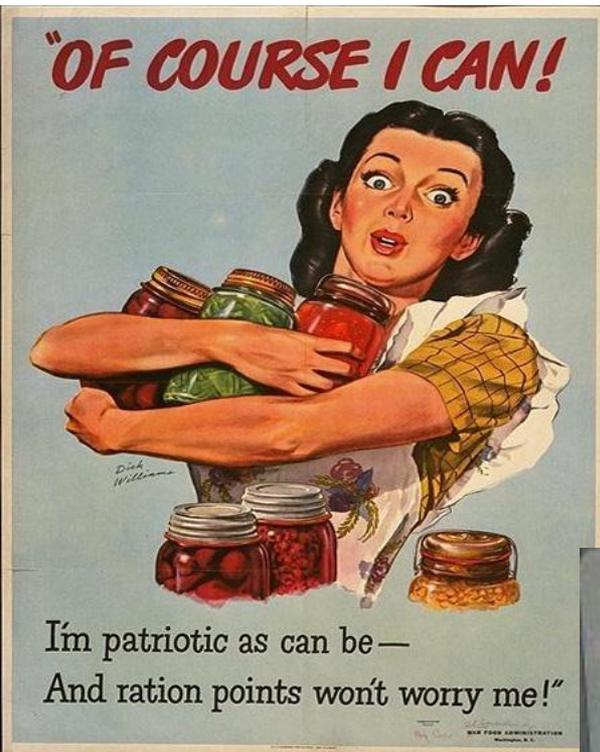
3. Everyday Life

Federal officials agreed that only through rationing could the demands be met. Americans were issued books of stamps for key items such as gasoline, sugar, meat, butter, canned foods, fuel oil, shoes, and rubber. No purchase of these commodities was legal without a stamp. Victory speed limits attempted to conserve fuel by requiring Americans to drive more slowly. Rotating blackouts conserved fuel to be shipped overseas.

Groups such as the Boy Scouts led scrap metal drives. Consumer goods like automobiles and refrigerators simply were not produced. Women drew lines down the backs of their legs to simulate nylon stockings when there were such shortages. Backyard gardens produced about 8 million tons of food.



4.



5. U.S. Economy

The auto industry produced 1/3 of the military equipment need in the war, which gave many Americans employment.

WWII cost the U.S. over \$350 billion. Tax rates were raised to generate revenue and control inflation (which covered 45% of war costs). Some people paid 90% of what they earned toward taxes! War bonds were sold, raising \$185 billion. The war effort brought the U.S. out of the Depression as unemployment was only at 2% in 1944.

In addition, the size of the federal government more than tripled from about a million workers in 1940 to almost 3.5 million in 1945.



6. Internment of Japanese Americans

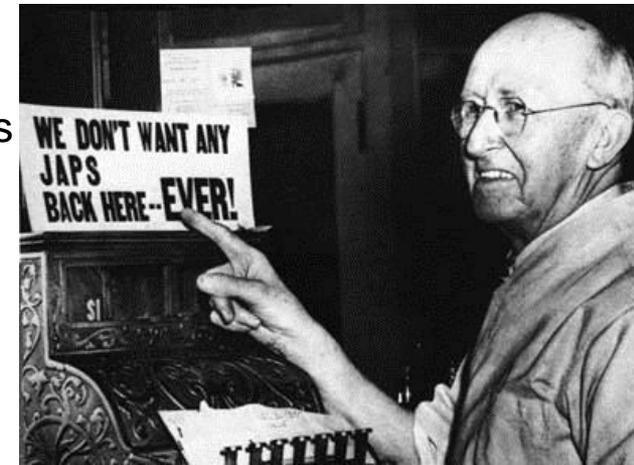
President Roosevelt signed **Executive Order 9066** in February 1942 ordering the relocation of all Americans of Japanese ancestry to concentration camps in the interior of the United States.

Despite the lack of any concrete evidence, Japanese Americans were suspected of remaining loyal to their ancestral land. Anti-Japanese paranoia increased because of a large Japanese presence on the West Coast. In the event of a Japanese invasion of the American mainland, Japanese Americans were feared as a security risk.

Ten camps were finally completed in remote areas of seven western states. Housing was poor. Families dined together at communal mess halls, and children were expected to attend school. Fred Korematsu decided to test the government relocation action in the courts. He found little sympathy there. In ***Korematsu vs. the United States***, the Supreme Court justified the executive order as a wartime necessity.

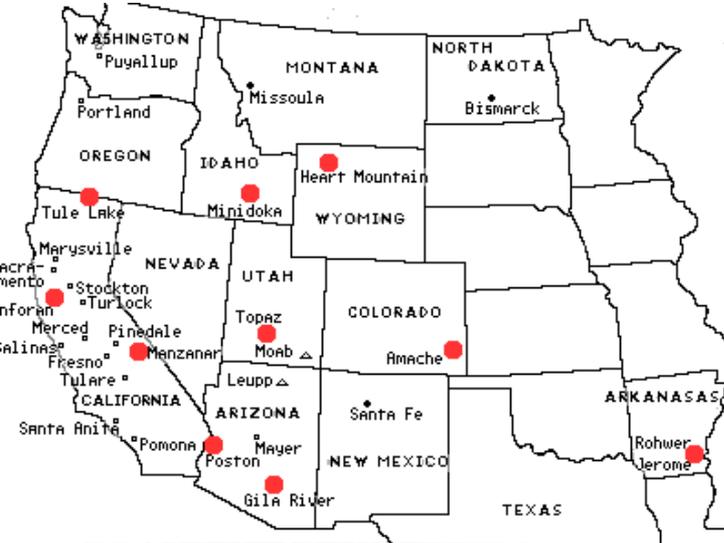
When the order was repealed, many found they could not return to their hometowns. Hostility against Japanese Americans remained high across the West Coast into the postwar years as many villages displayed signs demanding that the evacuees never return. As a result, the interns scattered across the country.

In 1988, Congress attempted to apologize for the action by awarding each surviving intern \$20,000. While the American concentration camps never reached the levels of Nazi death camps as far as atrocities are concerned, they remain a dark mark on the nation's record of respecting civil liberties and cultural differences.



7.

Location of the 10 Japanese-American Internment camps



Amache, CO



- **By 1944 exceeded 7,500**
- **Camp Amache = tenth-largest city in the state**
- **Hastily built, enclosed by barbed wire, it had only the most rudimentary facilities.**
- **Mess halls were inadequate, bathhouses were without water, toilets were unsightly and unsanitary, and drinking water had to be trucked in from the nearby town of Granada.**