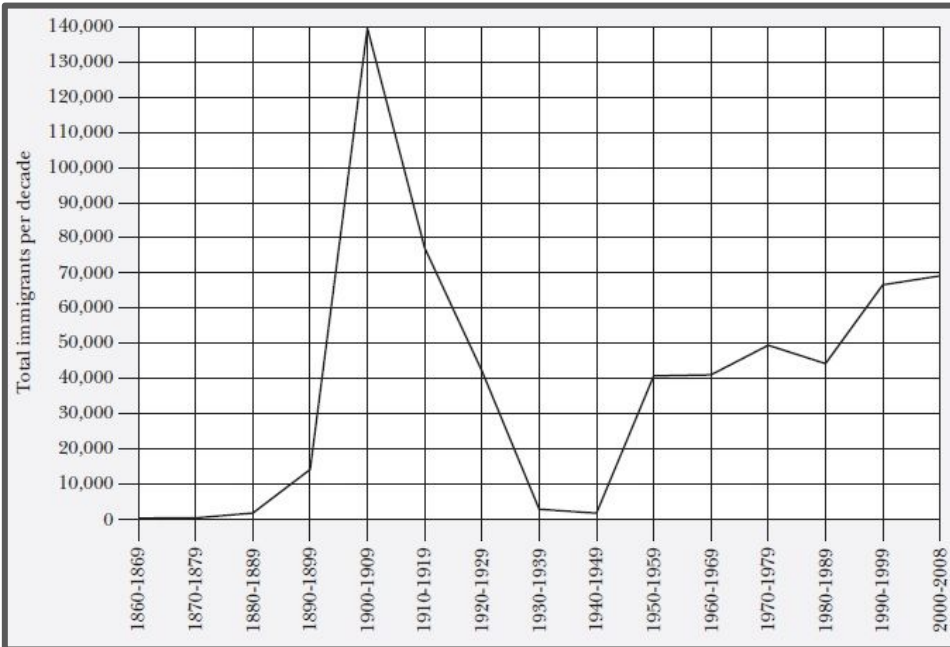


Japanese Immigrant Experience

By: Mrs. O'Toole

Between 1886 and 1911, more than 400,000 men and women left Japan for the U.S. and U.S.-controlled lands, and significant emigration continued for at least a decade beyond that. The two most popular destinations were the archipelago of Hawaii and America's Pacific coast. Hawaii was the first U.S. possession to become a major destination for immigrants from Japan, and it was profoundly transformed by the Japanese presence.

Japanese immigrants began their journey to the United States in search of peace and prosperity, leaving an unstable homeland for a life of hard work and the chance to provide a better future for their children.



Japanese immigrant farmers and their families excelled in the cultivations and marketing of fruits and vegetables, which many white farmers resented.

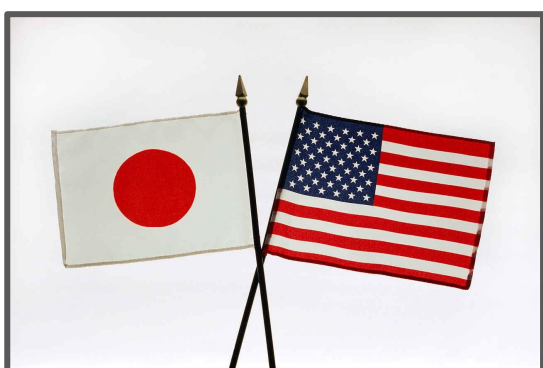
Today, the Japanese American community is nearly 1 million strong, and can be found in all corners of the nation, as well as in prominent roles in most fields of endeavor.

In February of 1942, President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, the army issued its first Civilian Exclusion Orders, requiring that "all Japanese persons, both alien and non-alien, will be evacuated" from a number of areas on the Pacific coast and confined to "relocation camps" further inland. 100,000 Japanese Americans, Nisei and Issei, citizen and non-citizen camps.

Japanese have sought success in the full range of American career fields, from politics, academia, and the arts to business and the skilled trades—as well as farming.

Japanese popular culture includes Japanese cinema, cuisine, television programs, anime, manga, video games and music, all of which retain older artistic and literary traditions, and many of their themes and styles of presentation can be traced to traditional art forms.

Child waiting to be sent to internment camp, 1942



Japanese Americans have made significant contributions to the agriculture of the western United States, particularly in California and Hawaii. Nineteenth-century Japanese immigrants introduced sophisticated irrigation methods that enabled the cultivation of fruits, vegetables, and flowers on previously marginal lands.