

SOCRATIC SEMINAR

JAPANESE AMERICAN INTERNMENT

Possible Questions 2nd Period

- To what extent were constitutional liberties applied to Japanese Americans after the bombing of Pearl Harbor?
- For defense of the country, was internment justified?
- Compare and contrast American and German concentration camps.
- Despite American democratic principles, what causes the American government to take over during times of emergency or danger?
- Did Japanese American internment represent growing American nativism or was it an isolated wartime event?
- Previous acts that discriminated against people & cultures had been declared unconstitutional. How were internment camps justified if they took similar action?

Possible Questions 3rd Period

- Should civil liberties be limited during war?
- When is national security more important than individual liberties?
- How did the press affect American opinion of the Japanese?
- To what extent were constitutional rights violated during WWII?
- Did the Japanese-Americans actually pose a serious threat to the general public after the attack on Pearl Harbor?
- How has the desire for both security and upholding the Constitution manifest itself throughout history?
- Was the internment of Japanese Americans the worst violation of the Constitution in American history? Explain.

QUESTION

Evaluate Japanese American Internment in terms of security gains versus losses in the national commitment to evolving democracy.

