# Chapter 15 - Section 4

The Struggle for Justice at Home

#### Economic Situation facing African Americans in the 1940's

- Had it even worse off than whites during the Depression
- Many employers hired "whites only"



# Limited Housing

- Segregation & low pay limited houses and apartments available to blacks
- Many had to live in ghettos



## Race Riots

 Broke out in big cities because white workers and homeowners **feared and resented the newcomers** in their workplaces and neighborhoods



# Hypocrisy for Black GI's

- They were fighting against fascism and discrimination overseas only to experience the same racism back home
- Returning black soldiers were still turned away at white's only restaurants
- The "Double V" campaign urged victory over enemies overseas and over racial discrimination at home



# FDR's attitude

 The most important thing right now is fighting the war and **fighting racism would have to** wait until later



# A. Philip Randolph

- African American who fought to get blacks into unions so that they could get the same job opportunities and working conditions as whites
- He later organized the march on Washington in which MLK Jr. gave his famous *I have a Dream* speech



## Braceros

- Spanish for "workers"
- Thousands were brought into the US from Mexico during the war due to a shortage of workers





## barrios

# • **Spanish speaking neighborhoods** with crowded conditions and racial tension



## Zoot-suiters

- Mexican-Americans in the LA area who wore a style of clothing called a "zoot suit"
- a long draped sport coat and baggy pants with a slicked back "ducktail" haircut



 Sailors on nearby military bases were offended by this look so they roamed the streets beating them up and humiliating them for looking "un-American"





# Zoot Suit Riots

- **Street fighting against Mexican Americans** that turned into full scale riots when they fought back
- Police often arrested the Mexicans rather than the sailors even though they began the attacks





# Native Americans

- Lives were changed by the war because many left the only life they knew on the reservations to join the military or get jobs in the cities
- Treated the same way as African Americans
- Struggled to get out of poverty



#### Japanese-Americans

- Had already experienced prejudice in America, but
  became hated after the war began
- The media created hysteria by accusing them of being spies ("Jap boat flashes message ashore")





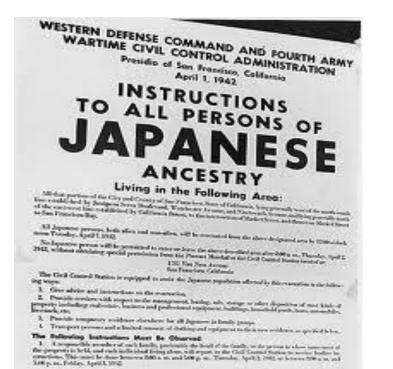
# Nisei

- People **born in the US of Japanese parents** who had emigrated from Japan
- **2/3 of all Japanese Americans** were actually born here



# **Result of Fears and Prejudices**

 President Roosevelt ordered the removal of all Japanese "aliens" from the West coast





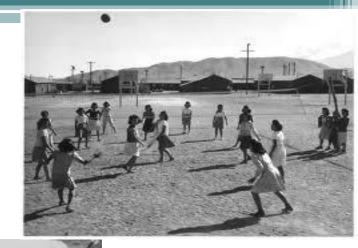
## Internment (confinement) Camps

• "prisons" that Japanese Americans were sent to in remote areas inland









U.S.Department of Justice KOOSKIA InternmentCampReservation For next 5 miles. No Admission official business.





# Lost Everything

- Relocation **took place so fast** that they had no time to make arrangements
- Lost their homes, businesses, and property
- Could only bring what they could carry





## Conditions in the Camps

- Desolate areas
- Wooden barracks with only cots, blankets, and a light bulb – families had only 1 room
- Had to share bathing and dining facilities
- Barbed wire and armed guards surrounded the camps





# After the War

- When they were sent home in 1945 many had nothing to return to
- One man lost \$55,000 worth of fishing nets, his car, and his furniture



# Unconstitutional?

 When some Japanese Americans contested it the Supreme Court ruled that it <u>was</u> constitutional



## 1988

• **40 years later the US Congress officially apologized** and gave each survivor \$20,000



## Japanese-American soldiers

- Despite this treatment many volunteered to fight in the military (17,000 – 1,200 from camps)
- 442<sup>nd</sup> Regiment fought in France and Germany and combat won more medals for bravery than any other unit in US History



# Assignment

 Imagine that you are a Japanese American living in California during WWII. In a <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> to 1 page essay discuss your experience being relocated to an internment camp. Use specific details from your notes.