

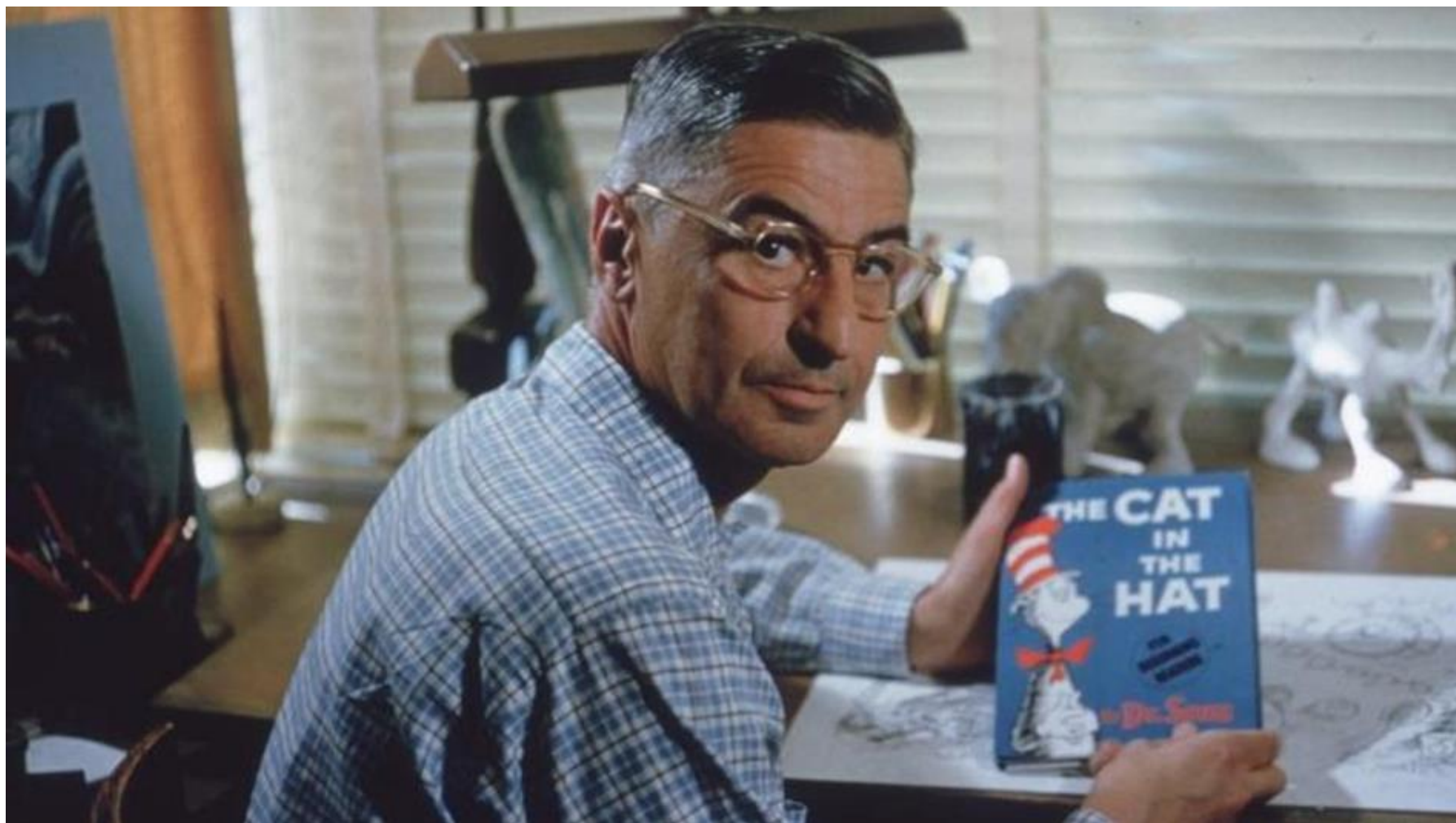
The Doctor Seuss You Don't Know: The Cartoonist That Took on Hitler

The Story of Theodore Geisel / Dr. Seuss

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Executive Director, Georgia Commission on the Holocaust



Geisel with a copy of his book, "The Cat in the the Hat," in 1957. (Credit: Gene Lester/Getty Images)



AMERICANS AND THE HOLOCAUST

Holocaust history raises important questions about what Europeans could have done to stop the rise of Nazism in Germany and its assault on Europe's Jews. Questions also must be asked of the international community, including the United States.

FEEDBACK

NEXT

Spreading the Lovely Goebbels Stuff



Dr. Seuss's September 18, 1941 cartoon in PM magazine accused Lindbergh of collaborating with Nazi Propaganda Minister Joseph Goebbels by giving antiwar, antisemitic speeches.

--Dr. Seuss Collection, Special Collections & Archives, UC San Diego, CA.

GERMANY INVADES POLAND



- The German army invaded Poland using a quick, decisive attack with a massive military force. This style of war was called *blitzkrieg* (lightning warfare).
- Great Britain and France ("the Allies") had an alliance with Poland. On September 3, they declared war on Germany. The United States vowed to remain neutral. World War II in Europe began.
- On September 17, the Soviet Union invaded eastern Poland. Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union divided Poland between them. Poland surrendered in October 1939.

SEPTEMBER 1, 1939

HISTORICAL EVENTS

UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM



Charles Lindbergh and his plane, Spirit of St. Louis.

--Photo courtesy of Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division.



Charles Lindbergh gives a speech on behalf of the America First Committee in Des Moines, Iowa, September 11, 1941.

--Courtesy of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, Hyde Park, NY.

... and the Wolf chewed up the children and spit out their bones ...
But those were Foreign Children and it really didn't matter."



--Dr. Seuss Collection, Special
Collections & Archives, UC San
Diego, CA.

On December 7, 1941, Japan launched a surprise aerial assault on the US Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Two days later, President Roosevelt told Americans:

“We are now in this war. We are all in it—all the way. Every single man, woman, and child is a partner in the most tremendous undertaking of our American history.”

Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941.

National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, MD.

How did Public Opinion About Entering World War II Change Between 1939 and 1941?

World War II began in Europe on September 1, 1939. For more than two years the United States remained officially neutral in the conflict, and Americans debated whether to stay out of the war or to join the Allied forces fighting Nazi Germany.

EXPLORE PUBLIC OPINION ABOUT AMERICAN INTERVENTION IN WORLD WAR II.

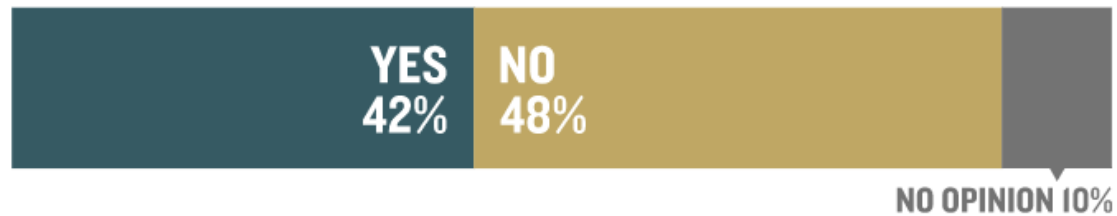


September 1, 1939: WORLD WAR II BEGINS

German forces invaded Poland. Two days later, Great Britain and France declared war on Germany, and World War II began. US President Franklin Roosevelt vowed that the United States would “remain a neutral nation.”

Q If it looks within the next few months as if England and France might be defeated, should the United States declare war on Germany and send our troops abroad?

Gallup, Sept 1-6, 1939



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SEPTEMBER 1, 1939

October 6, 1939: POLAND CONQUERED

Nazi Germany quickly defeated Poland, dividing the country with the Soviet Union, which had invaded Poland from the east. Hitler proposed a truce, vowing that millions would die if Great Britain and France refused to agree to Germany's demands.

Q If it appears that Germany is defeating England and France, should the United States declare war on Germany and send our army and navy to Europe to fight?

Gallup, Oct. 5-10, 1939



May 10, 1940: GERMANY INVADES WESTERN EUROPE

The German Army invaded the Netherlands, Belgium, and France.

Q Do you think the United States should declare war on Germany and send our army and navy abroad to fight?

Gallup, May 18-23, 1940

YES
7%

NO
93%

GERMANY INVADES WESTERN EUROPE



- Even though World War II had begun eight months earlier, there had not been much fighting following the Polish surrender until Germany launched a surprise invasion of the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, and France.
- These countries surrendered within six weeks. France was split in two. Germany occupied the north, and a collaborationist French government controlled the south.
- Hundreds of thousands of Jews in western Europe were now under Nazi control.

MAY 10, 1940

June 22, 1940: FRANCE FALLS TO GERMANY

Nazi Germany defeated France within six weeks, despite the fact that France had mobilized five million men to fight. When France surrendered, the country was divided into Nazi-occupied territory in the north and Nazi-allied territory in the south. Great Britain became the only major power at war with Nazi Germany and its collaborators.

Q Which of these two things do you think is the more important for the United States to try to do—to keep out of war ourselves or to help England win, even at the risk of getting into the war?

Gallup, June 27-July 3, 1940



September 16, 1940: MILITARY DRAFT

Congress passed the Selective Service Training and Service Act, which President Franklin Roosevelt signed into law. The Act authorized the US government to draft 900,000 men between 25 and 36 years of age for defensive purposes only. It was the first peacetime draft in American history.

Q Which of these two things do you think is the more important for the United States to try to do—to keep out of war ourselves or to help England win, even at the risk of getting into the war?

Gallup, Sept. 19-25, 1940



November 5, 1940: THIRD-TERM PRESIDENT

President Franklin Roosevelt was elected to an unprecedented third term as president.

Q Which of these two things do you think is the more important for the United States to do—to keep out of war ourselves, or to help England win, even at the risk of getting into the war?

Gallup, Nov. 21-26, 1940



March 10, 1941: ARMING THE ALLIES

After President Franklin Roosevelt vowed that the United States would become the “great arsenal of democracy,” Congress passed the Lend-Lease Act, authorizing the president to provide Great Britain with ships, planes, weapons, and ammunition needed to fight Nazi Germany. Roosevelt signed the act into law.

Q Which of these two things do you think is the more important for the United States to try to do—to keep out of war ourselves, or to help England win, even at the risk of getting into the war?

Gallup, March 9-14, 1941

HELP
67%

KEEP OUT
33%

ROOSEVELT SIGNS LEND-LEASE ACT



- Although the United States was officially neutral, and many Americans did not want to fight in World War II, the country supported the Allies. After France was defeated, Great Britain needed American aid to continue to fight Nazi Germany.
- President Roosevelt had already supplied weapons to Great Britain in exchange for money and for military bases in British territories.
- The Lend-Lease Act allowed the United States to “lend” weapons, food, and oil to the Allies.

MARCH 11, 1941

September 4, 1941: AMERICAN DESTROYER ATTACKED

A German U-boat submarine fired upon an American destroyer, the USS *Greer*, off the coast of Iceland. The *Greer* evaded the attack. President Roosevelt authorized US ships to shoot German vessels on sight.

Q Which of these two things do you think is the more important for the United States to try to do—to keep out of war ourselves, or to help Britain, even at the risk of getting into the war?

Gallup, Sept. 19-24, 1941



November 1941: ON THE VERGE OF WAR

Diplomatic relations between Japan and the United States were tense. American newspapers informed readers that war between the two countries seemed imminent.

Q Which of these two things do you think is the more important—that this country keep out of war, or that Germany be defeated?

Office of Public Opinion Research, Nov. 21-26, 1941




WAR!

On December 7, 1941, Japan launched a surprise aerial assault on the US Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. Two days later, President Roosevelt told Americans:

“We are now in this war. We are all in it—all the way. Every single man, woman, and child is a partner in the most tremendous undertaking of our American history.”

Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941.

National Archives and Records Administration  College Park, MD.

December 7, 1941: WAR!

The Japanese attack on the US naval base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, led President Franklin Roosevelt to declare war on Japan. A few days later, Nazi Germany declared war on the United States, and America entered World War II against the Axis powers.

Q Should President Roosevelt have declared war on Germany, as well as on Japan?
Gallup, Dec. 12-17, 1941

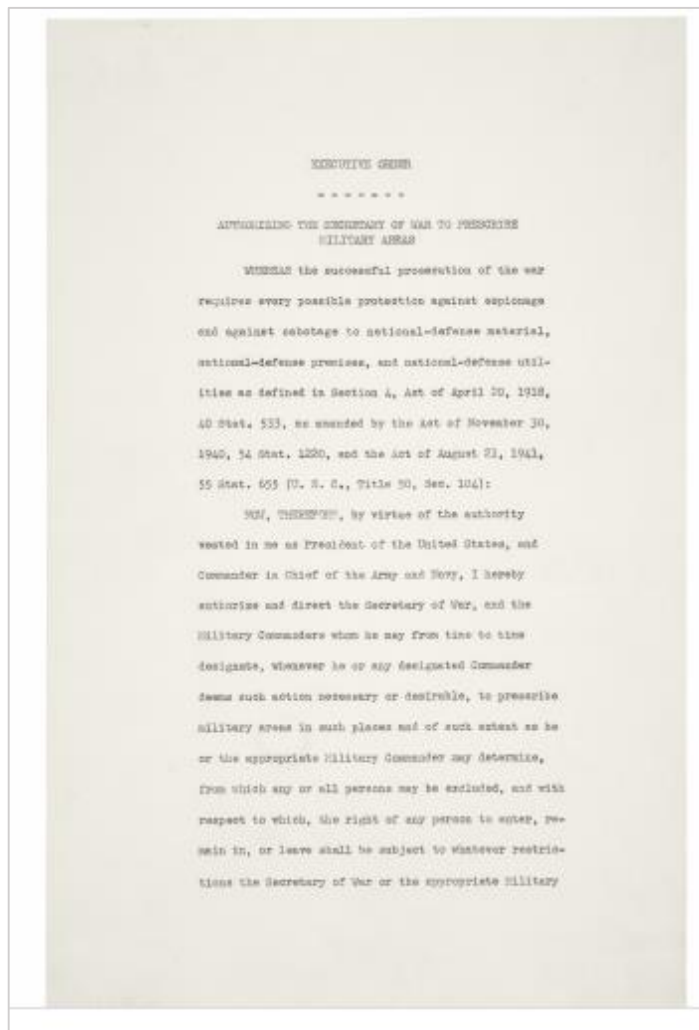


U.S. ENTERS WORLD WAR II

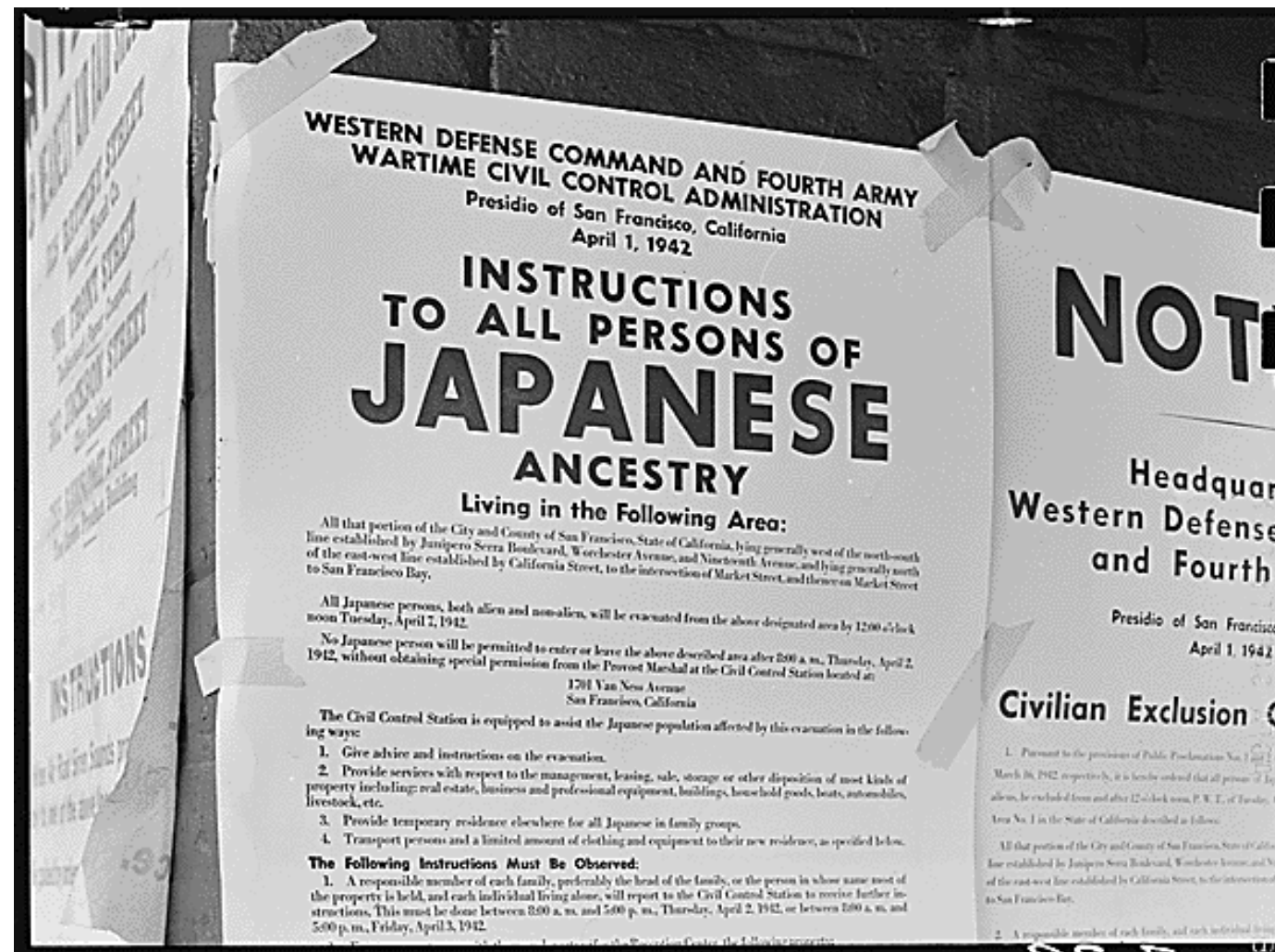


- The United States imposed economic sanctions on Japan and cut off Japan's supply of oil. In retaliation, the Japanese military launched a surprise attack on the US Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.
- The United States declared war on Japan.
- On December 11, Nazi Germany declared war on the United States.
- The United States officially entered World War II and joined the Allies.

DECEMBER 7, 1941



February 1942, Executive Order 9066



Posting of Exclusion Order at First and Front Streets in San Francisco, California, directing removal of persons of Japanese ancestry from the first section in San Francisco to be affected by the evacuation.

----National Archives



Login



Help Center



Menu


February 19, 1942

FDR Authorizes Incarceration of Japanese Americans

Executive Order 9066 authorized removal of Japanese Americans from designated military zones on the West Coast and their detention in internment camps.

SUBMIT RESEARCH ON THIS EVENT

 Image Details

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Little Tokyo Saying Adieu

LOS ANGELES, March 6 (AP) — Strange things are happening in Little Tokyo.

Moving vans are hauling away furniture and personal effects. For Rent signs are going up in store windows. Sales are in progress everywhere, with goods generally marked down 40 percent. Yet, there are few buyers.

Young Japanese, in the uniform of the United States army, are home on brief furloughs to visit relatives — relatives who must get out of Little Tokyo, business headquarters for the 40,000 Nipponese in Southern California. Sayonaras, or farewells, are being said, without tears.

On street corners young and old stare fixedly into space. The full impact of the war has been brought home to them. For three months Little Tokyo has been dying. Fifth column activity at Pearl Harbor is responsible. In 60 days it will be a ghost town.

Uncle Sam has ordered approximately 300,000 enemy aliens and American-born Japanese from specified combat areas in Washington, Oregon, California and part of Arizona. The evacuation presents a myriad of problems, including acquisition of sites away from defense projects, transportation, financing and alien property custodianship.

For American-born Japanese, the forcible ejection is a severe blow to pride in citizenship, and a heartache for the thousands who must quit their jobs, leave school, and start life anew in strange surroundings. All understand, however, that by leaving voluntarily they are assisting to the utmost the defense program.

Thousands plan to leave voluntarily, without any prodding. The first resettlement project is being created. The site hasn't been selected, but details are being rushed to completion. Able-bodied young men will be the first to go. They will set up homes and institutions and families will follow as quickly as possible. The first call for volunteers in such a project brought 2,000 responses, and thousands more are registering. The government will have to be consulted in every step.

The vegetable business in Los Angeles county, a \$42,000,000-a-year enterprise, is going to feel the pinch of the Japanese evacuation. The Japanese have supplied \$28,000,000 annually of the crops and it is extremely doubtful if there will be sufficient white labor to produce requirements of the 2,500,000 people in the county. Many Japanese foresaw what is happening to them and did no early planting.

Article Name: Little Tokyo Saying Adieu

Newspaper
The State Journal/Lansing State Journal

Location
Lansing, Michigan

Publication Date
March 06, 1942

Page Section and Number
10

Headline
Little Tokyo Saying Adieu



Thank You Note in "Little Tokyo" in Los Angeles, California. Mr. and Mrs. K. Tseri have closed their drugstore in preparation for the forthcoming evacuation from their home and business.
--National Archives

JAPANESE AMERICAN RELOCATION

After the Japanese Imperial Navy attacked US forces at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, bringing the United States into World War II, fear of espionage or sabotage by people of Japanese ancestry gripped the country. In the aftermath of the attack, the US government relocated approximately 120,000 people of Japanese descent—mostly American citizens—from their West Coast homes to “relocation centers” in remote areas of the country.

KEY FACTS

1

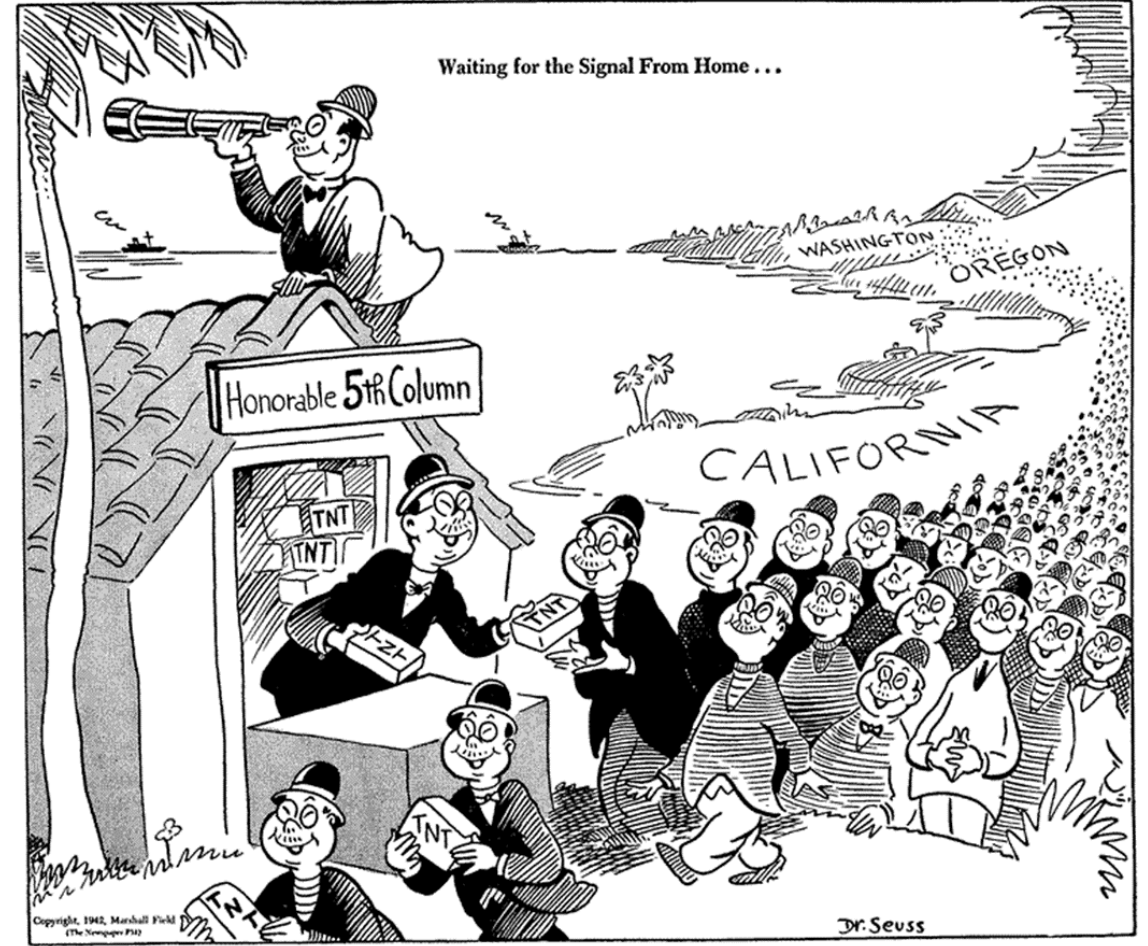
In 1940, approximately 127,000 persons of Japanese descent lived in the continental United States.

2

On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, which gave the Secretary of War the authority to exclude “any and all persons” from entering, remaining, or leaving designated military areas.

3

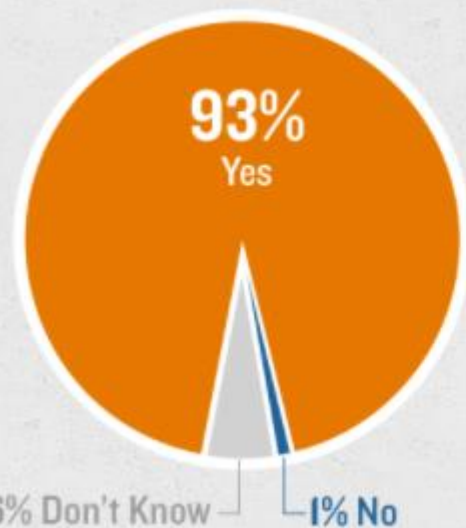
The executive order provided US military commanders with the power to legally and forcibly relocate some 120,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans from their homes on the West Coast to inland relocation centers.



PUBLIC OPINION POLL ON JAPANESE INTERNMENT

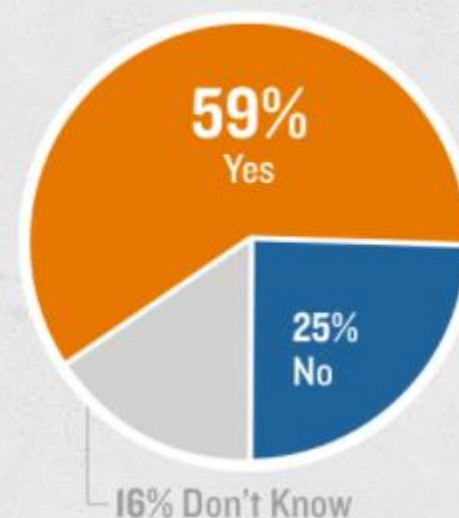
March 1942

Do you think we are doing the right thing in moving Japanese aliens (those who are not citizens) away from the Pacific coast?



BACK

How about the Japanese who were born in this country and are United States citizens, do you think they should be moved?



NEXT





Children Pledge Allegiance to the Flag in San Francisco, California, at Raphael Weill Public School. Children in families of Japanese ancestry were evacuated with their parents and will be housed for the duration in War Relocation Authority centers where facilities will be provided for them to continue their education.

--National Archives



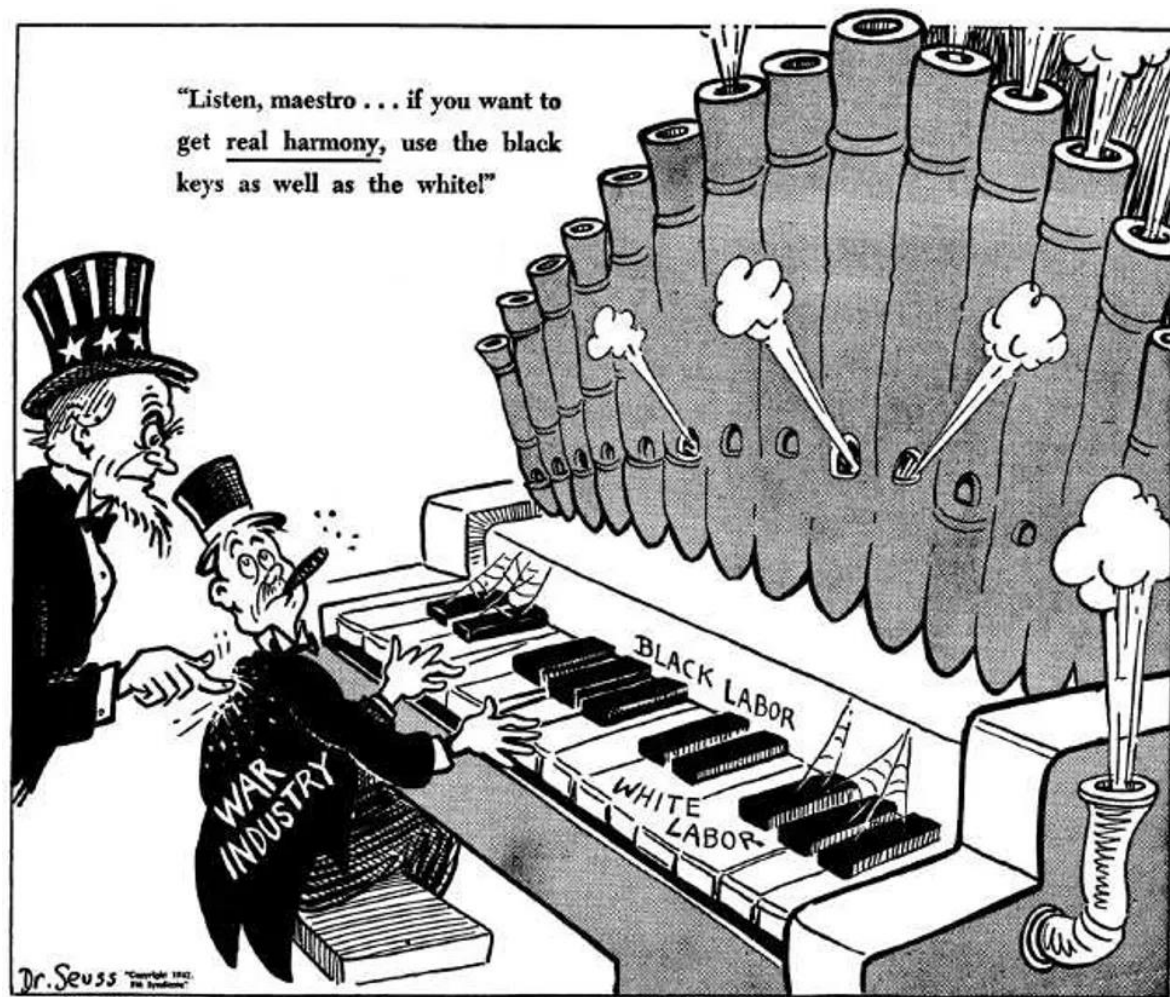
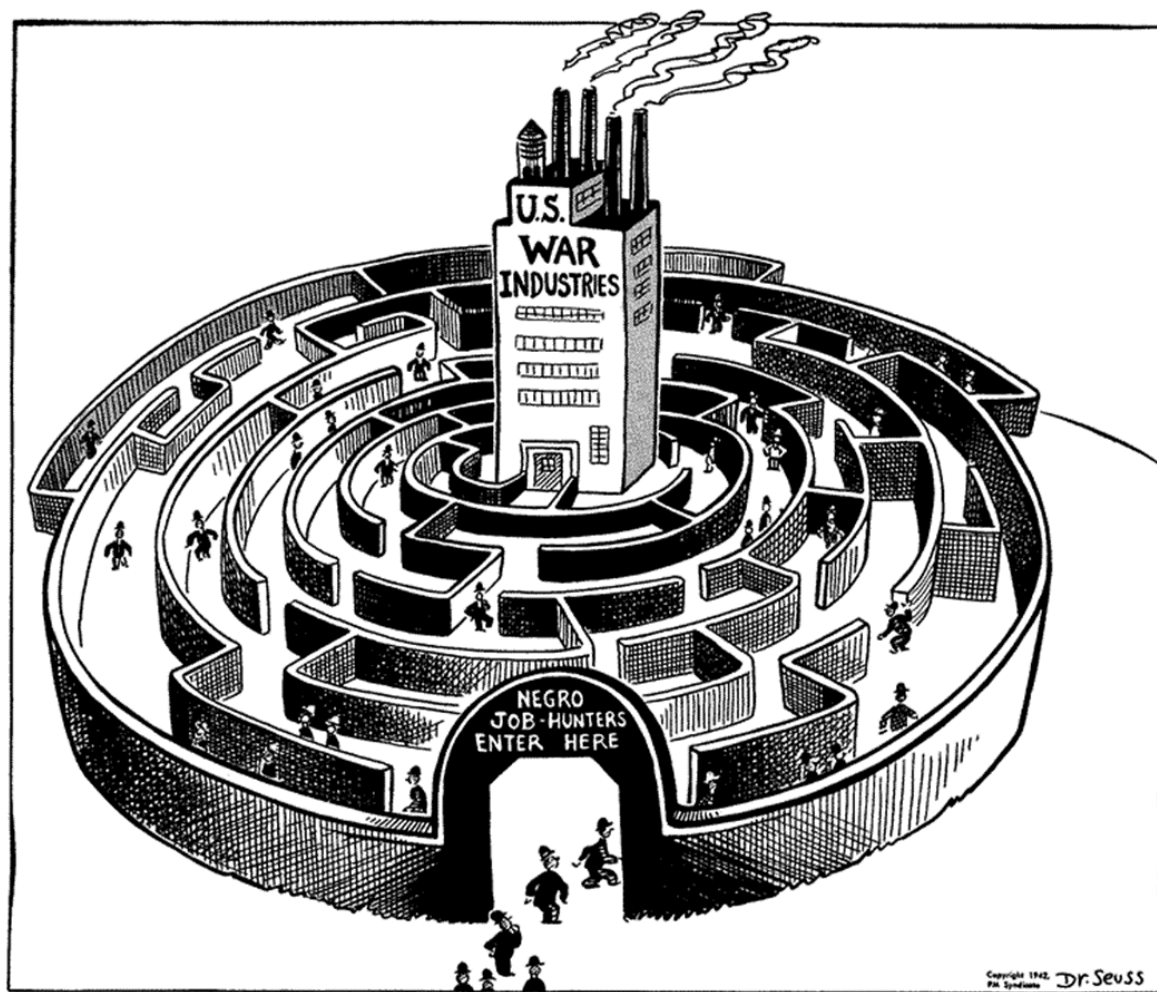
Sorting Baggage at Minidoka in Eden, Idaho. Baggage belonging to evacuees from the assembly center at Puyallup, Washington, is sorted and trucked to owners in their barrack apartments.
National Archives



Wartime Civil Control Station in San Francisco, California. Japanese family heads and persons living alone form a line outside the station located in the Japanese American Citizens League Auditorium at 2031 Bush Street, to appear for "processing" in response to Civilian Exclusion Order Number 20.
National Archives

Seuss cartoons published in 1942

The Old Run-Around



Dr. Seuss Goes to War: 1943

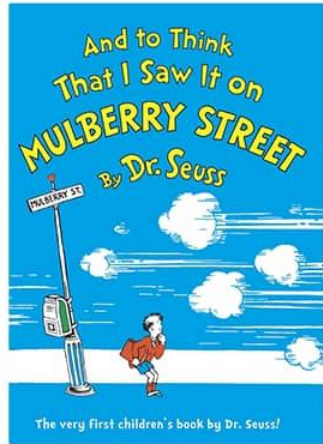


Army Maj. Theodor Geisel. Photo courtesy of the U.S. Army.

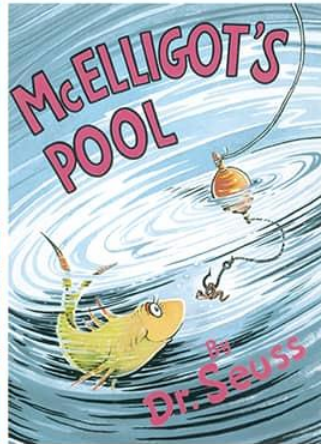


March 2, 2021

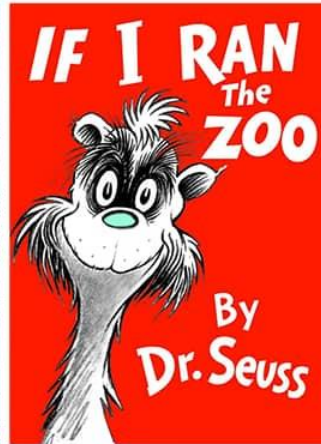
The six Dr. Seuss books no longer being published



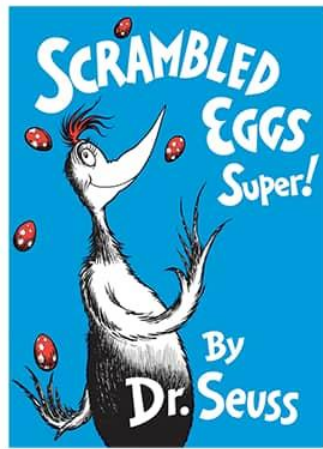
And to Think That I
Saw It on Mulberry
Street (1937)



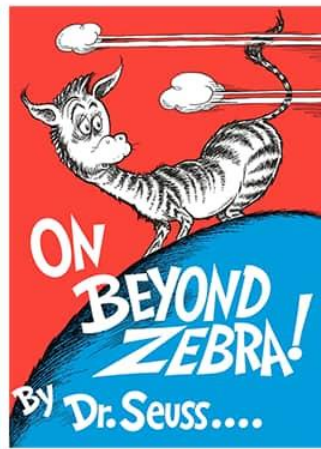
McElligot's Pool
(1947)



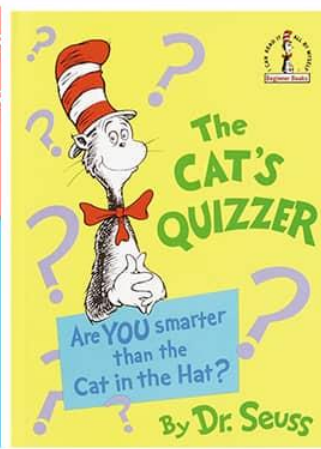
If I Ran the Zoo
(1950)



Scrambled Eggs
Super! (1953)



On Beyond Zebra!
(1955)



The Cat's Quizzer
(1976)

Dr. Seuss™

Today, on Dr. Seuss's Birthday, Dr. Seuss Enterprises celebrates reading and also our mission of supporting all children and families with messages of hope, inspiration, inclusion, and friendship.

We are committed to action.

To that end, Dr. Seuss Enterprises, working with a panel of experts, including educators, reviewed our catalog of titles and made the decision last year to cease publication and licensing of the following titles:

And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street

If I Ran the Zoo

McElligot's Pool

On Beyond Zebra!

Scrambled Eggs Super!

The Cat's Quizzer

These books portray people in ways that are hurtful and wrong.

Ceasing sales of these books is only part of our commitment and our broader plan to ensure Dr. Seuss Enterprises' catalog represents and supports all communities and families.