

Glossary

Some of the words used in this exhibition have varying legal and common meanings. Following are definitions of some key terms as we use them here.

ALIEN Anyone who is not a citizen of the country where that person lives or visits.

CITIZEN A legally recognized national of a state, due to birth or naturalization, entitled to that state's protections and subject to its laws.



DEPORTATION The governmental removal of a foreign national from a country. The removal of a citizen, either through denaturalization or refusal to acknowledge citizenship, is a violation of international law. During World War II (WWII), "enemy aliens" and some U.S. citizens were deported for purposes of hostage exchange, often sending those civilians into war zones.



DETENTION A period of temporary custody prior to disposition by authorities to more permanent confinement, parole, or release. Pursuant to the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 (revised in 1918), during WWII, Italian, German, and Japanese "enemy aliens" endured indefinite detention without charges.



ENEMY ALIEN A citizen of a country with which the United States is at war or which threatens invasion. Such a person may be a student, tourist, diplomat, or someone visiting temporarily on business. During WWII, immigrant residents from Italy, Germany, and Japan, many of whom had lived in the U.S. for many years, and those seized from Latin America were also classified as "enemy aliens."

EVACUATION The process of people leaving or being ordered to leave an area to avoid a hazard such as a natural disaster or military threat. During WWII, the U.S. government used "evacuation" as a euphemism for the expulsion of all German, Italian, and Japanese "enemy aliens" and U.S. citizens of Japanese ancestry from "military prohibited zones" because of their race or national origin.



EXCLUSION Prohibiting a person or group from a specific location. During WWII, all "enemy aliens," all U.S. citizens of Japanese ancestry, and selected U.S. naturalized citizens of German and Italian ancestry were not allowed in or near "military zones," which covered approximately 1/3 of the U.S. – military bases, harbors, power plants, and broadly defined restricted areas.



EXTRAORDINARY RENDITION Rendition is the legal transfer of a person from one jurisdiction or country to another. Extraordinary rendition refers to such transfer without legal proceedings, and can include indefinite detention, interrogation, and torture, which would be illegal in the U.S. During WWII, men, women, and children seized from Latin America were transported to and interned in the U.S., with many being subjected to hostage exchange and forced deportation – a WWII-version of extraordinary rendition.



HOSTAGE-TAKING The seizure or detention of a person coupled with a threat to kill, injure, or continue to detain such person in order to compel a third person or government to take some action. During WWII, the U.S. government orchestrated the apprehension and detention of over 150,000 "enemy alien" immigrant residents and citizens of the U.S. and 18 Latin American countries. Over 4,800 were sent into the war zones of Asia and Europe in hostage exchanges for U.S. and Latin American citizens held by the Axis powers.

IMMIGRANT A person who comes to a country to take up permanent residence.

INCARCERATION Confinement, often as punishment for a crime. During WWII, however, some 120,000 U.S. citizens and immigrant residents of Japanese ancestry from the U.S. West Coast were incarcerated en masse without charges of a crime or due process in ten War Relocation Authority (WRA) camps. U.S. officials used the term concentration camps. However, they were not the Nazi death or extermination camps.



INTERNMENT The preventive confinement of individuals for political or military reasons, without charges or intent to file charges, especially during a war. Under international law, internment is a legal scheme by which a warring country may confine aliens – enemy soldiers and selected civilian subjects of an enemy power. During WWII in the U.S., this occurred by order of the Attorney General, who could legally intern "enemy aliens" but not U.S. citizens. Thousands of "enemy aliens" were interned in facilities run by the Department of Justice and the U.S. Army, some until 1948, well after the war ended.

LATIN AMERICA While different disciplines make distinctions among the nations of the Caribbean, Central America, and South America, in this exhibit, all three of these regions are collectively referred to as "Latin America."

NATURALIZATION The legal process in the U.S. by which immigrants become citizens and take an oath to renounce previous allegiances and uphold the U.S. Constitution. Prior to the 1950s, the U.S. severely limited Asian immigration. Japanese were prohibited from naturalization until 1952.



REDRESS The act of righting a wrong or compensating for a loss or suffering, which may or may not include financial compensation. The right to petition government for redress of grievances is granted by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and the right to remedy and reparations for serious or gross violations of human rights is specified under international law. The Japanese American redress movement culminated in the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. However, this legislation excluded Japanese Latin Americans and other "enemy aliens."

RELOCATION The act of moving something or someone from one place to another. During WWII, the U.S. government used "relocation" as a euphemism for the forced removal and/or incarceration of U.S. citizens and "enemy aliens" of Japanese ancestry as well as 881 native Alaskan Aleuts.



RENUNCIATION The formal, voluntary, and intentional act of giving up one's right to citizenship. During WWII, some 5,000 Japanese American Nisei (second generation) renounced their U.S. citizenship, thereby becoming "enemy aliens." All but 128 of these renunciations took place at Tule Lake, the product of duress and manipulation. Many renunciants regained their citizenship after the war through an extended legal process but endured a lifetime of stigma.

REPARATIONS The substance of the relief provided as redress for a wrong or loss inflicted. It can include restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, legal guarantees to prevent repetition, and policies to educate the public about the injustice.



REPATRIATION Returning a person to one's country of birth, citizenship, or origin, by voluntary return or forced governmental deportation. During WWII, the U.S. government used "repatriation" as a euphemism for the forced deportation and hostage exchange of thousands of Japanese, German, and Italian "enemy alien" residents and citizens of the U.S. and Latin American countries.