

Videos Located in Media Services (L-219) relating to When the Emperor Was Divine by Julie Otsuka

Arranged Alphabetically by Title

- America at its Best: Legacy of two Nisei Patriots (51 minutes)

Call Number: VT-2483

This video is a presentation of the Nakamura/Okubo Medal of Honor Committee of the Nisei Veterans Committee, Seattle, WA;

Along with Washingtonians William Nakamura and James Okubo, twenty other Asian American veterans, mostly Nisei (second-generation Japanese Americans), were awarded the Medal of Honor on June 21, 2000, for their service in World War II. Nakamura and Okubo were honored again on March 25, 2001, at a ceremony in Seattle, Washington. This video commemorates them and the thousands of other Nisei who served in the 100/442nd Regimental Combat Team, and Military Intelligence Service, during World War II.

- Beyond Barbed Wire (88 minutes)

Call Number: VT-2481

This video is narrated by Noriyuki "Pat" Morita; edited by Steve Rosen; written by Terri DeBono.

Recounts the personal sacrifices and untold stories of heroism displayed by the Japanese American soldiers of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence Service who fought for America while their families were held in internment camps.

- Children of the Camps (57 minutes)

Call Number: VT-2482

A documentary and educational project, produced by Satsuki Ina.

During World War II more than half of the 120,000 Americans of Japanese descent who were "evacuated" to American concentration camps were children. In this documentary six Japanese Americans who were incarcerated as children in the camps reveal their experiences, cultural and familial issues during incarceration, the long internalized grief and shame they felt and how this early trauma manifested itself in their adult lives.

- Conscience and the Constitution (57 minutes)

Call Number: VT-2131

Resisters.com produced in association with the Independent Television Service; produced, directed and written by Frank Abe.

Americans, organized as the Fair Play Committee, refused to be drafted from the concentration camp at Heart Mountain, Wyoming. Ready to fight, but not before their rights as U.S. citizens were restored and families released. The largest organized resistance to incarceration, leading to the largest trial for draft resistance in U.S. history. Prosecuted as criminals, Japanese American leaders and veterans ostracized them as traitors. The resisters served two years in prison, and for the next 50 were written out of the official history of Japanese America.

- Days of Waiting (28 minutes)

Call Number: VT-2244

This video chronicles the life and art of Estelle Ishigo. A Mouchette Films production; produced in association with National Asian American Telecommunication Association; produced, written & directed by Steven Okazaki.

Based on the novel Lone heart mountain and the personal papers of Estella Ishigo. Documents the life of Estelle Ishigo, a Caucasian woman interned with her Japanese-American husband first at the Pomona Assembly Center, California, and then at Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Wyoming, during World War II.

- Invisible Citizens (60 minutes)

Call Number: VT-0696

Keiko Tsuno interviews Japanese-Americans concerning their experiences in World War II including evacuation to internment camps and military service in Europe. Newsreel clips from that period are included. Also shows current lifestyles.

- A Personal Matter: Gordon Hirabayashi versus the United States (30 minutes)

Call Number: VT-1846

Created by The Constitution Project; directed and edited by John DeGraaf; written by John DeGraaf and William Mondis.

Portrays Gordon Hirabayashi who as a young man in 1942 challenged the United States government order that all Japanese Americans be interned. The case went to the Supreme Court and he lost. But he has tried ever since to have the decision overturned, feeling that if the Constitution is abandoned in a time of crisis, it has little meaning.

- Rabbit in the moon (85 minutes)

Call Number: This title is on order

A Wabi-Sabi production; a film by Emiko Omori.

A documentary/memoir about the lingering effects of the World War II internment of the Japanese American community. Visually stunning and emotionally compelling, the film examines issues that ultimately created deep rifts within the Japanese American community, reveals the racist subtext of the loyalty questionnaire and exposes the absurdity of the military draft within the camps. These testimonies are linked by the filmmakers' own experiences in the camps and placed in a larger historical context by the director.

- Snow Falling on Cedars (128 minutes)

Call Number: VT-2351

Universal Pictures; produced by Kathleen Kennedy, Frank Marshall; produced by Harry J. Ufland, Ron Bass; screenplay by Ron Bass and Scott Hicks; directed by Scott Hicks.

Based on the novel by David Guterson. A murder trial has upset the quiet community of San Piedro, and now this tranquil village has become the center of controversy. For a local reporter the trial strikes a deep emotional chord when he finds his ex-lover is linked to the case

- Topaz (58 minutes)

Call Number: VT-2124

Created by KUED-TV; producer, director, screenwriter, Ken Verdoia.

Documents the denial of rights to American citizens of Japanese descent who were forced from their homes to Utah's desert rangeland during World War II. Originally produced in 1987.

- Toyo Miyatake: Infinite Shades of Gray (28 minutes)

Call Number: Media Reserve

A production of the Frank H. Watase Media Arts Center. Produced by Karen L. Ishizuka, directed by Robert A. Nakamura. Thank you to Louis Watanabe for lending this video to the Library.

From the video cover: Having smuggled a lens and film holder into one of America's concentration camps during World War II, Miyatake was the first to photograph this national disgrace. Yet it was his little-known artistic pursuits before the war that honed his discerning eye. Shades of Grey is a penetrating portrait of this photographer's quest to capture beauty and dignity of everyday life.

- Unfinished Business (58 minutes)

Call Number: VT-2245

National Asian American Telecommunications Association; produced by Mouchette Films; producer-director, Steven Okazaki.

Tells the stories of three Japanese-Americans, Fred Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi, and Minoru Yasui, who resisted the military orders to intern the Japanese-Americans and remove them from the West Coast after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Focuses on the three men's lives and the reasons behind their decisions to take their cases to the Supreme Court.

- Without Due Process: Japanese Americans and World War II (52 minutes)

Call Number: VT-2242

This video was created by Gerald and Misha Griffith.

The forced evacuation and incarceration of over 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II is a stark example of what can and did happen in this nation when government leaders chose to disregard the rights guaranteed to all Americans by the Constitution." Describes the violation of the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution, which insists on due process of law. Tells of the race prejudice, war hysteria, and failure of political leadership which resulted in the evacuation of Japanese Americans, and their placement in internment camps in California, Utah, Arizona, Idaho, and Arkansas.

- Words, Weavings & Songs (34 minutes)

Call Number: Media Reserve

A production of the Frank H. Watase Media Arts Center. Produced and directed by John Esaki. Funded by a grant from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program. Thank you to Louis Watanabe for lending this video to the Library.

From the video cover: In 1942 during World War II the American government incarcerated 120,000 Japanese Americans in concentration camps in the interior of the U.S. These three women, Wakako Yamauchi, Momo Nagano, and Mary Nomura, were confined behind barbed wire during their teenage years, yet responded to the adversity with creativity and resourcefulness.

This list of videos was originally compiled by reference librarian Martha Keenan. Additional videos added by reference librarian Sayumi Irei.