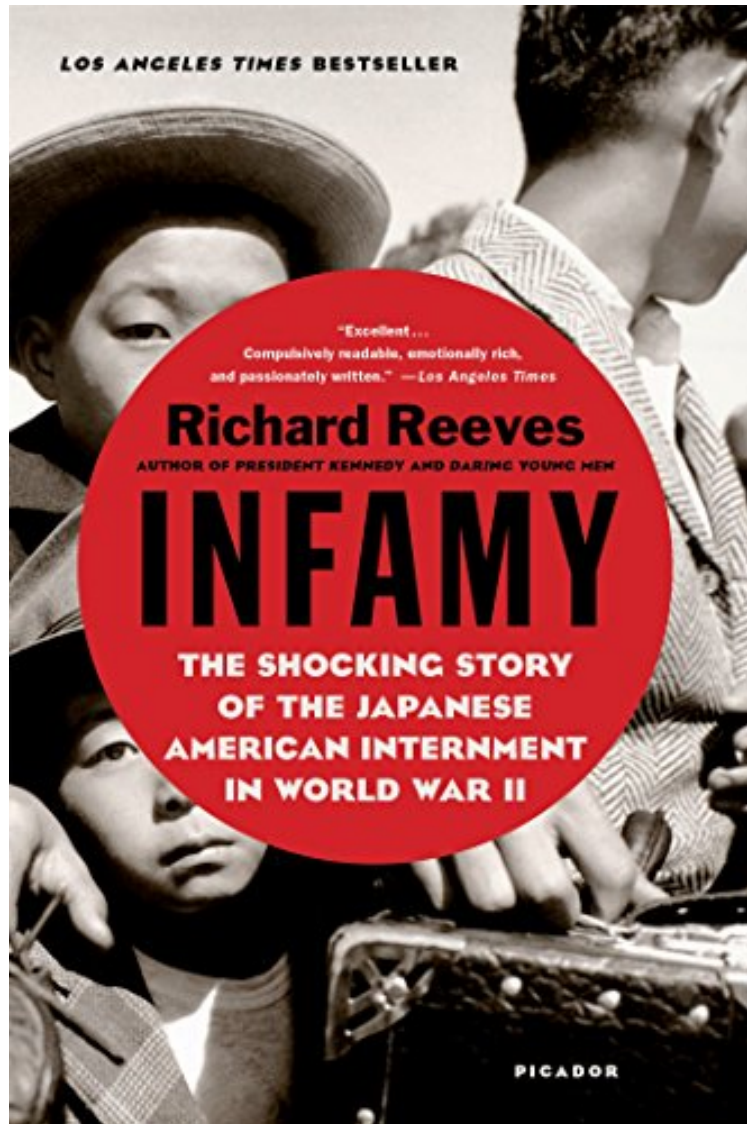


(Read free) Infamy: The Shocking Story of the Japanese American Internment in World War II

Infamy: The Shocking Story of the Japanese American Internment in World War II

Richard Reeves

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#65691 in Books Reeves Richard 2016-04-12 2016-04-12 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.17 x 1.02 x 5.591, .0 #File Name: 1250081688384 pages Infamy The Shocking Story of the Japanese American Internment in World War II | File size: 36.Mb

Richard Reeves : Infamy: The Shocking Story of the Japanese American Internment in World War II before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Infamy: The Shocking Story of the Japanese American Internment in World War II:

66 of 68 people found the following review helpful. Best "Big Picture" -- Concisely Details Causes, Human Impact

Present Significance of Great Injustice with Passion Clarity
By kasI. Why I Read This Book --Because of the gravity and continued relevance today of the issues raised by our country's disgraceful treatment of Japanese-American citizens under color of law during WWII, I was immediately drawn to this book when I saw it listed among the titles available in a recent Early Reviewer giveaway. I studied the Supreme Court case failing to invalidate the "internment" program under the Constitution in law school (i.e. Korematsu). However I didn't know any of the details of the policy's development and enforcement -- let alone the experience of the people forced from their homes and collected in concentration camps (that was the name used in government documents apparently -- the term was not linked with the Nazi genocide program directly at that time). I wanted to know more.

II. My Personal Opinion After Reading -- Ultimately, author Richard Reeves did more than satisfy my intellectual curiosity with an engaging, accessible and concise history of the key events. However, these qualities would not suffice to constitute an outstanding history. Reeves managed to accomplish what I think is the more difficult and more important work of the historian -- to give the reader a fuller, more palpable and cognizable sense of the toll on human dignity involved in what happened. He achieved this due to the combined effects of two strengths of this history: 1) The reader got a textured sense of the impact of the incarceration on the substance and quality of daily life of the people affected and on individuals' lifetimes, which was tantamount to stealing years of time from the totality of human beings' experience on this earth! This is to say nothing of the disruptions to the pursuit of life, liberty and happiness of each victim that could not be remedied upon release from internment. Lives could not be picked up and continued as if nothing had happened, to grossly understate the matter. This history makes sure readers get some understanding of what that specifically meant in individual victims' post-war lives. Through reading this book, one way readers can better appreciate the injustice done to Japanese Americans by their government during this period. due to this wise choice to particularly focus on its human impact despite the book's relative brevity. Different histories might have focused primarily on explication of the causes and machinations of state that made the injustices possible as well as detailing exactly what (as well as how, why, where and to whom) it happened. Rather than going into further analysis of the unfolding of this awful chain of events, Reeves balanced his history with a sense of the lives impacted by the events at issue. 2) Granted I came to this book with a deep sense of personal outrage at what my country's government did -- as an American and as a human being. But, I think that the second way this history does an outstanding job of presenting the breadth, depth and sheer grievousness of what happened is Reeves's own contagious passion -- which is appropriately contained between the lines, yet constant throughout -- about what happened. Because Reeves does not assume a false neutrality to the question of whether actions taken which effectuated this chain of events were right or wrong, he does an outstanding job on maintaining a laser like focus on what is most important. I, for one, couldn't ask for a better big picture from a historian. This book effectively argues that what was done during WWII in the western part of the United States to some people on the sole basis of personal connections to Japan through ancestral descent and/or nativity, are deeds which should most properly -- most vitally -- live ever on in infamy among the people of this country and every country.

III. My Thoughts for Prospective Readers
In conclusion, I will go so far as to say that whatever you think of the title when you start reading, you will probably better appreciate the relative fitness of the choice when you finish. I personally think this is an outstanding contribution to American historical discourse that should reach as many people as possible of every nationality. I've set forth some of its particular strengths that distinguish it from the pack, IMHO, for your consideration... But for reallies, who the heck am I to estimate your final valuation of a purely hypothetical reading of some book I happen to love? This is the rub: the good people at LibraryThing's Early Reviewers program gave me a free copy of this gem to read on the condition that I'd share my honest impressions in a review posted on their site. I have always thought in such cases: "Why not copy to Goodreads and ?" I figure it couldn't do any great harm. So here we are. Thank you for considering my ideas, and in all seriousness, I really hope they prove useful to some of you.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Ranks with "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee" By Jersey Shore John I read Richard Reeves's latest book, *Infamy: The Shocking Story of the Japanese-American Internment in World War II*, over the Memorial Day weekend. I've read several of his books and, until now, had considered "President Nixon: Alone in the White House" as his masterpiece. In my inexpert opinion, it's the best book ever written on that troubled President. *Infamy* is a masterpiece that should rank alongside works like "Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee" for clearly articulating Americans inhumanity to their fellow Americans. Reeves has have connected those dots like none before him, although giving generous credit to those who tried. The World War II internment of 120,000 Japanese-Americans in isolated concentration camps remains the greatest stain on President Franklin D. Roosevelt's otherwise stellar record. Meticulously researched, *Infamy* documents the post-Pearl Harbor panic and paranoia that led to Executive Order 9066, and there are villains aplenty, including California Attorney General Earl Warren (subsequently Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme court), Deputy Secretary of War John McCloy (subsequently Chairman of the World Bank) and even cartoonist Theodor Geisel (better known as Dr. Seuss). In some ways, it was not unlike the anti-Muslim anger following 9/11, but carried to an unconstitutional extreme. McCloy's quote "if it is a question of the safety of the country and the Constitution... why the Constitution is just a piece of paper to me." By putting a human face on the tragedy, Reeves has produced the most readable account of this travesty of justice. Whether it was Seattle shopkeepers forced to sell their businesses for

pennies on the dollar, San Pedro fishermen forced to abandon their boats, or Oregon farmers forced to leave their homes and farms behind, "military necessity" drove them to imprisonment behind barbed wire and guard towers in concentration camps located in barren deserts and remote swamps. Despite their maltreatment, most internees remained loyal to their adopted country. When finally allowed to enlist in the Army in January 1943, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team fought fiercely in the European Theater of Operations, becoming the most decorated unit per capita of the Second World War. Reeves tells the amazing story of their rescue of "The Lost Battalion," a Texas National Guard unit that had been cut off and surrounded by German troops. Reeves weaves in the stories of Daniel Inouye, Medal of Honor winner and long-term Senator from Hawaii, and Norman Mineta, Congressman and cabinet member in both Democratic and Republican administrations. The injustice that Caucasian Americans perpetrated on 120,000 fellow citizens, placing them in concentration camps and stealing their possessions, is one of those sins that cries out to heaven for vengeance. This quote from Chapter 9 says it all: "When Private Shiro Kashino... first saw the row of huts behind barbed wire at Dachau, he said, 'This is exactly what they had built for us in Idaho.'" Unfortunately, the racial paranoia depicted in *Infamy* continues to prevail today. *Infamy* is a tale that celebrates the ability of the human spirit to ultimately transcend adversity. It's a compelling read! 43 of 43 people found the following review helpful. POW By Y. Matsumoto I was interned at Amache, Colorado. I have read other books about the internment but this was among the best. It revealed the horror of the event as experienced by the internees. I was 4 when interned yet it has affected my life in a negative way.

A LOS ANGELES TIMES BESTSELLER • A NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW EDITOR'S CHOICE • Bestselling author Richard Reeves provides an authoritative account of the internment of more than 120,000 Japanese-Americans and Japanese aliens during World War II "Highly readable . . . [A] vivid and instructive reminder of what war and fear can do to civilized people." ?Evan Thomas, The New York Times Book Review After Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt signed an executive order that forced more than 120,000 Japanese Americans into primitive camps for the rest of war. Their only crime: looking like the enemy. In *Infamy*, acclaimed historian Richard Reeves delivers a sweeping narrative of this atrocity. Men we usually consider heroes? FDR, Earl Warren, Edward R. Murrow? were in this case villains. We also learn of internees who joined the military to fight for the country that had imprisoned their families, even as others fought for their rights all the way to the Supreme Court. The heart of the book, however, tells the poignant stories of those who endured years in "war relocation camps," many of whom suffered this injustice with remarkable grace. Racism and war hysteria led to one of the darkest episodes in American history. But by recovering the past, *Infamy* has given voice to those who ultimately helped the nation better understand the true meaning of patriotism.

A Los Angeles Times Bestseller A New York Times Book Editor's Choice "A compulsively readable, emotionally rich and passionately written account of the internment of 120,000 American Japanese in concentration camps during World War II.... Reeves' excellent *Infamy*, the first popular, general history of the subject in more than 25 years, reminds us that not only can it happen here, it did.... Every reader who has lived the post-9/11 era will immediately notice the parallels." ?Los Angeles Times "Highly readable.... The story of this national disgrace, long buried... still has the power to shock. [*Infamy* is a] vivid and instructive reminder of what war and fear can do to civilized people." ?Evan Thomas, The New York Times Book "History's judgment is that internment... was wrong. Mr. Reeves's excellent book gives us an opportunity to learn from past mistakes.... Reeves is especially good at bringing to life the social experience of internment." ?The Wall Street Journal "Richard Reeves's book on the harsh, prolonged and unjustified internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II is a detailed account of a painful and shameful period in modern American history. *Infamy* combines Reeves's journalist's training with his historian's eye to give us a page-turner on how hysteria at the highest levels can shatter our most fundamental rights. Brace yourself and read this very important book." ?Tom Brokaw, author of *The Greatest Generation* "For years, the unjust relocation and incarceration of more than 120,000 Japanese Americans living on the West Coast during World War II - the majority of them American citizens - was shrouded in shame and secrecy.... [*Infamy's*] greatest strength is probably Reeves's masterful use of anecdotes, which enliven an epic story with poignant tales of individual hardship, courage, and endurance." ?The Boston Globe "Infamy tells the story of why and how the American government--with the full support of its citizenry--illegally interned Japanese-Americans. Richard Reeves even-handedly examines this dangerous precedent-setting time when the Constitution was trampled by misinformation, prejudice, and fear. Today as Muslim and Hispanic immigrants are being blamed for America's ills, *Infamy* is a timely and important read." ?James Bradley, author of *Flags of Our Fathers* and *The China Mirage* "In *Infamy*, journalist Richard Reeves... provides a sweeping and searching account of this appalling chapter in the history of the United States.... Reeves reserves the heart of his book -- and rightfully so -- for a narrative of the heartbreaking experiences of evacuated individuals and families." ?San Francisco Chronicle "Infamy... is perhaps the most thorough history of the relocation to date." ?The Denver Post "More than 120,000 Japanese-Americans were locked up during World War II... [*and Infamy*] tells their tale with energy, compassion and moral outrage.... With meticulous care [*Reeves documents*] the decisions made in

Washington by the world's most powerful men, and how those decisions affected the lives of ordinary Americans whose only crime was to be of Japanese descent.” ?Minneapolis Star Tribune“The forced relocation and internment of [Japanese Americans during WWII] was a racially based insult to our purported ideals. Reeves, an award-winning journalist, recounts the unfolding of this outrage with a justifiable sense of moral indignation.... This is a painful but necessary and timely reminder of how overblown fears about national security can have shameful consequences.” ?Booklist (starred review)“Reeves provides unsparing criticism about the racist whirlwind of anti-Japanese feeling fanned by the Roosevelt White House, Congress, state and local governments, and leading media figures ... The testimonies of the uprooted Japanese-Americans, many of whom remained patriotic even as they were forced into the camps, are heartbreaking, courageous, and ironic in light of those who fought valiantly alongside American soldiers while their relatives remained locked away. Reeves's chilling exposé takes a deeper look at one of America's darkest chapters.” ?Publishers Weekly“An engaging and comprehensive depiction of an essential, but sometimes overlooked, era of U.S. history... Reeves unearths and makes public a painful national memory, but he does so while maintaining the dignity of those held behind barbed wire and unmasking the callous racism and disregard of the people who put them there.” ?Kirkus s“Essential... Reeves mixes intimate narratives with historical documents to give an authoritative account of one of the darkest periods in American history.” ?Library JournalAbout the AuthorRichard Reeves, the bestselling author of such books as *President Kennedy: Profile in Power*, is an award-winning journalist who has worked for *The New York Times*, written for *The New Yorker*, and served as chief correspondent for *Frontline* on PBS. Currently the senior lecturer at the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism at the University of Southern California, he lives in Los Angeles.