

Timeline for Japanese Americans in the Interior West

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| 1882 | U.S. Congress passes the Chinese Exclusion Act, essentially cutting off Chinese immigration and creating a demand for Japanese labor for the American West's railroad, mining, and agricultural industries |
| 1900 | Issei immigrant population in the Interior West is 5,278 |
| 1907-1908 | Gentlemen's Agreement between the U.S. and Japan becomes effective and greatly reduces Japanese immigration into the American West |
| 1910 | In the decade between 1910 and 1920, Interior West region experiences an economic boom fueled by railroad construction, coal and hard-rock mining, and agricultural development; also, sugar beet production increases dramatically in this region during this peak period of Japanese immigration to the U.S., as seen in the rise in acreage devoted to this crop in Colorado, Utah, Idaho, and Nebraska from 168,425 to 506,200 |
| 1913 | California and Arizona pass anti-Japanese alien land laws, leading to migration of Issei laborers to Interior West states |
| 1921 | Washington, Texas, and Nevada enact anti-Japanese alien land laws, while New Mexico adds an amendment to its constitution that serves a similar function |
| 1922 | The U.S. Supreme Court rules in <i>Takao Ozawa v. United States</i> that Japanese aliens are definitely prohibited from becoming naturalized U.S. citizens on the basis of race, and this ruling remains in effect until 1952 |
| 1923 | Oregon, Montana, and Idaho pass anti-Japanese alien land laws |
| 1925 | Kansas enacts an anti-Japanese land law |
| 1930 | Population of Japanese immigrant community in Interior West is estimated at 12,862 |
| 1940 | U.S. Census reports Japanese American population of Interior West to be 9,624, a numerical loss reflecting the Depression's impact |
| 1941 | Mike Masaru Masaoka, a Mormon from Salt Lake City, Utah, becomes executive secretary of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL); Japan bombs U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor in Hawai'i, an act that precipitates America's entry |

into World War II and marked the beginning of arrests of Nikkei and the imposition of restrictive measures on the Japanese American community

- 1942 President Franklin Roosevelt signs Executive Order 9066, setting the stage for the mass removal of people of Japanese ancestry on the West Coast and detention in U.S. Army, Department of Justice, and War Relocation Authority (WRA) concentration camps sited mostly in Interior West states; Fred Isamu Wada departs Oakland, California, with 21 people, en route to Keetley, Utah, to form Keetley Farms, a “voluntary resettler” community in the Interior West; U.S. Army issues Public Proclamation No. 4, which effectively ends the period of “voluntary evacuation” responsible for a substantial migration of West Coast Japanese Americans into the “free zone” states of the Interior West; JACL moves its national headquarters from San Francisco to Salt Lake City; U.S. government authorizes two Nikkei newspapers in Denver, Colorado (the *Colorado Times* and the *Rocky Nippon/Shimpo*) and two in Salt Lake City (the *Utah Nippo* and the *Pacific Citizen*) to serve as the “Free Zone” Japanese American wartime press; emergency meeting of JACL leaders held in Salt Lake City, which is followed by wave of anti-JACL beatings, riots, and strikes in the WRA camps; WRA issues policy statement on resettlement from its camps, resulting in a greatly enlarged Interior West Nikkei population, including a substantial number of farm workers credited with saving the region’s imperiled sugar beet crop
- 1943 Utah and Wyoming pass anti-Japanese land laws
- 1944 Native Nebraskan Ben Kuroki, an Army Air Corps sergeant, achieves acclaim as Japanese America’s first war hero upon completing 28 bombing missions in the European Theater, and then goes by order of the U.S. War Department on a controversial morale-raising tour of three Interior West WRA camps; two federal trials are held in Cheyenne, Wyoming, for Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee draft resisters and their leaders, and another federal trial, for treason, is held in Denver for three Nisei sisters charged with assisting in the escape of two German prisoners of war that they met when all five were working on a Trinidad, Colorado, farm; U.S. government removes restrictions preventing resettlement of Japanese Americans on the West Coast, which catalyzes a steady migration in the following years from the Interior West to California, Oregon, and Washington
- 1945 World War II ends
- 1946 JACL holds its first postwar biennial convention in Denver, at which former Colorado governor Ralph Carr, the keynote speaker, is feted for being the only

	Interior West governor to welcome West Coast Nikkei to resettle in his respective state after Pearl Harbor
1948	JACL holds its second postwar biennial convention in Salt Lake City
1953	President Dwight Eisenhower confers the Congressional Medal of Honor on Hiroshi “Hershey” Miyamura of Gallup, New Mexico
1962	Idaho voters approve a constitutional amendment extending basic American rights to naturalized Asian Americans, ending their exclusion from voting, holding civil office, and serving as jurors, and also terminating Idaho’s status as the only U.S. state holding such restrictions
1967	Salt Lake City razes its <i>nihonmachi</i> (Japan Town) and replaces it with the Salt Palace Convention Center
1973	Sakura Square, a one-block complex of shops, housing, and a remodeled Buddhist church, opens in downtown Denver, near the heart of the Nikkei community’s historic <i>nihonmachi</i>
1978	At the JACL biennial convention in Salt Lake City, the organization adopts a resolution calling for redress in the form of individual payments of no less than \$25,000 to compensate Japanese Americans for their World War II mass exclusion and detention by the U.S. government
1988	President Ronald Reagan signs Civil Liberties Act, which involves a presidential apology to the Japanese American community for its World War II mistreatment, along with a redress payment of \$20,000 for each surviving camp inmate and the establishment of a civil liberties public education fund
2006	New Mexico repeals its anti-Asian alien land law
2008	Bryan Clay, a Texan of mixed African American and Japanese American heritage, wins the gold medal for the decathlon held in Beijing, China, and is declared “the world’s best athlete”; the Japanese American National Museum’s project <i>Enduring Communities: Japanese Americans in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, and Utah</i> , as a climax to its three-year existence, stages a national conference in Denver, <i>Whose America? Who’s American? Diversity, Civil Liberties, and Social Justice</i>