

## NATIONAL ARCHIVES DOCUMENT

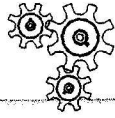
### Authorizing the Secretary of War to Prescribe Military Areas

Whereas the successful prosecution of the war requires every possible protection against espionage and against sabotage to national-defense material, national-defense premises, and national-defense utilities . . .

Now, therefore, by virtue of the authority vested in me as President of the United States, and Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy, I hereby authorize and direct the Secretary of War, and the Military Commanders whom he may from time to time designate, whenever he or any designated Commander deems such action necessary or desirable, to prescribe military areas in such places and of such extent as he or the appropriate Military Commander may determine, from which any or all persons may be excluded, and with respect to which, the right of any person to enter, remain in, or leave shall be subject to whatever restrictions the Secretary of War or the appropriate Military Commander may impose in his discretion. . . .

I hereby further authorize and direct the Secretary of War and the said Military Commanders to take such other steps as he or the appropriate Military Commander may deem advisable to enforce compliance with the restrictions applicable to each Military area hereinabove authorized to be designated, including the use of Federal troops and other Federal Agencies, with authority to accept assistance of state and local agencies.

The Japanese  
Relocation Order affected some  
112,000 Japanese Americans,  
including thousands of children.



## Determine Point of View

In its 1982 report, the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians concluded:

The only justification for exclusion here, beyond DeWitt's belief that ethnicity ultimately determines loyalty, is the unsupported conclusion that 'indications' show that the Japanese 'are organized and ready for concerted action.' The General's best argument for the truth of this was the fact that it hadn't happened yet. It would be hard to concoct a more vicious, less professional piece of military reasoning.

Reread the excerpt from De Witt's report. Would you agree with the commission's conclusion? Explain why or why not.

## Assess Significance

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, the FBI arrested some 2,300 Japanese nationals and Japanese Americans

suspected of subversive activity against the United States. The FBI and U.S. Justice Department felt law enforcement efforts had removed any threat by the Japanese community to national security. Why, then, do you think Roosevelt still issued Executive Order 9066?

## Draw Conclusions

In 1988 President Ronald Reagan signed into law Civil Liberties Act of 1988. In part it said, "these actions were carried out without adequate security reasons and without any acts of espionage or sabotage documented by the Commission, and were motivated largely by racial prejudice, wartime hysteria, and a failure of political leadership." Each surviving victim of Executive Order 9066 was given a reparation payment of \$20,000. Of what importance was the reparation payment?