Defining moments

from the past with lessons for a post-9/11 world…

TIME LINE

1913	The U.S. enacts the Webb Act, which denies Japanese born immigrants the right to own land in the U.S.
1924	The U.S. enacts the Immigration Exclusion Act, which closes all immigration to the U.S. from Japan.
December 7, 1941	Japanese planes bomb Pearl Harbor.
December 8, 1941	The United States declares war on Japan.
February 19, 1942	President Franklin Roosevelt signs Executive Order 9066.
February 20, 1942	Lt. General DeWitt is appointed Military Commander to carry out evacuations in the Western Defense Command.
March 18, 1942	The U.S. establishes the War Relocation Authority to coordinate the evacuation program.
March 21, 1942	President Franklin Roosevelt signs Public Law 503, which makes a knowing violation of DeWitt's orders a crime, punishable by law.
March 24, 1942	Lt. General DeWitt declares curfew for all persons of Japanese ancestry.
May 9, 1942	The U.S. issues Civilian Exclusion Order No. 57, which orders all persons of Japanese ancestry to report to a control station on May 11 or May 12.
May 30, 1942	Fred Korematsu is arrested in San Leandro, California for violating the "exclusion order."
June 12, 1942	Fred Korematsu is charged with violation of Exclusion Order No. 34 in U.S. District Court for Northern California.
September 8, 1942	Korematsu's case goes to trial. He is found guilty and sentenced to five years' probation.
February 19, 1943	Korematsu, along with Min Yasui and Gordon Hirabayashi, appears before the court of appeals.
May 10, 1943	Fred Korematsu appears before the Supreme Court with Gordon Hirabayashi and Min Yasui.
December 18, 1944	By a 6 to 3 margin, the justices uphold Korematsu's conviction. Justices Murphy, Roberts and Jackson dissent.
December 18, 1944	On the same day as the *Korematsu v US* decision, the Supreme Court unanimously issues a writ of *habeas corpus* for Mitsuye Endo, ordering her release from the relocation camps. This ruling effectively ends the War Relocation Authority's ability to detain Japanese Americans.
August 14, 1945	Japan surrenders, ending World War II.