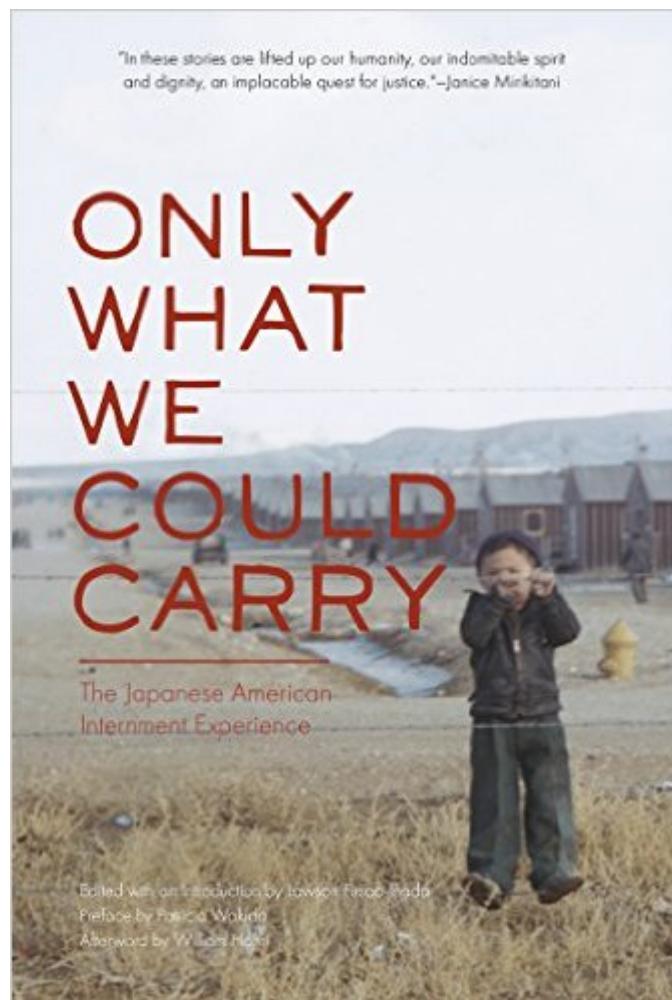


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# Only What We Could Carry: The Japanese American Internment Experience



## **Synopsis**

In the wake of wartime panic that followed the Japanese attack of Pearl Harbor, more than 100,000 Japanese Americans residing along the West Coast of the United States were uprooted from their homes and their communities and banished to internment camps throughout the country. Through personal documents, art, and propaganda, Only What We Could Carry expresses through words, art, and haunting recollections, the fear, confusion and anger of the camp experience. The only anthology of its kind, Only What We Could Carry is an emotional and intellectual testament to the dignity, spirit and strength of the Japanese American internees.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 480 pages

Publisher: Heyday; First Edition edition (August 1, 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1890771309

ISBN-13: 978-1890771300

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 1.1 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (23 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #75,945 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 inÂ  Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > United States > Asian American #137 inÂ  Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Minority Studies #421 inÂ  Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Criticism & Theory

## **Customer Reviews**

If you think about it Racial Profiling, much in the news of late, is not a new phenomena in the U.S. We have a long history, almost a tradition, of singling out groups of citizens, usually in the name of some war (Indian wars, War on Drugs), for special treatment under the law. It's not a new practice but it invariably ends up being a tragic mistake. One such tragedy was the imprisonment of Japanese American citizens during the Second World War. While there are a number of books dealing with the political and legal consequences of such governmental action, as well as a growing number of memoirs, to date there has not been an anthology of the voices of the Internment. That oversight has been corrected with this book and what a wonderful addition to the literature it is. In less than 3 months following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor with it's understandable wartime panic, in excess of 100,000 Japanese Americans living in the Western United States were forced

from their homes, many with only 48 hours notice, and sent to internment camps scattered among 14 states. Men, women, and children, whose only crime was being of Japanese descent, were banished to what many scholars call concentration camps. They "fit the pattern" and indeed governmental agencies published posters of detailing what "typical" Japanese looked like so they would be easier to detect. This book, using the personal recollections, art, documents, and poetry of many of the internees as well as a number of witnesses and friends, tells the story of the camp experience which is a haunting description of fear, anger, confusion and shame. These voices, reduced to paper, are a tragic reminder of the affects of war, not only on direct participants but frequently on innocents as well.

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