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The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) was appointed by Congress in 1980 to study the facts, circumstances, and long-term consequences of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066. This order forced West Coast Japanese Americans (JAs) from their homes and incarcerated them in "camps" during World War II. Forty y\$

deemed illegal aliens. Even though this is the only home many of them have ever known, they are still waiting for a path to citizenship, and for immigration reform.

The current situation on the southern border echoes the treatment of JAs during World War II. Immigrant children are incarcerated en masse, being kept in some of the same detention centers once used for JAs. A vast majority of Americans agree children should not be separated from their parents and need to be reconnected to family members as soon as possible. Everybody knows immigration laws need to be changed but year after year it is delayed for political reasons. How can immigration reform be accomplished? What can be done now to help Dreamers and longtime immigrants gain citizenship?

The pandemic was difficult for everyone this past year, but it was made more disruptive with bad police actions against Blacks that could not be ignored. What happened to George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and many others was too blatant, and cannot be unseen. Discrimination based on race was out in the open, and engendered protests all across the country. Past atrocities such as the Tulsa Race Massacre in 1921 received more widespread coverage. Racist violence against minorities has occurred all too often. Still unknown to most Americans is the massacre in Los Angeles Chinatown in 1871, during which a mob of 500 attacked, robbed and killed 19 Chinese residents. Fifteen were hung – the largest mass lynching in this country—yet no punishments were given.

There were many discriminatory laws passed against JAs such as being denied citizenship, prohibitions against owning property, anti-miscegenation laws prohibiting Whites and Japanese from marrying, and a two-year limit in renting property. JAs experienced segregation, being locked out of jobs and unions, being beaten, run out of towns, and suffering major economic losses. However, compared to JAs, the prejudices held against Blacks have gone on longer and been much more severe. Coming to light are laws that placed Blacks at a disadvantage in housing, banking, voting, and health care, all of which have resulted in generational income inequality, poorer health, and shorter life spans.

While HR 40 has passed out of the House Committee on the Judiciary, it still does not have the required 218 Congressional co-sponsors to advance the bill to the Senate. A concerted push by all minorities banding together is insufficient to make this happen. White people are beginning to acknowledge what has happened in the past to Blacks. The public is finally open to looking at what has been kept in the dark for so long. What actions can we take to help establish a commission and get reparations for African Americans?

When America is pictured positively, the images are usually of white people, even though minorities form a large portion of this country. When negative aspects of America are portrayed, then minorities are very visible. Although in the wake of last summer's protests this portrayal is changing somewhat, the majority message continues to be if you are not white, you do not belong here.

Anti-Asian hate has been with America from the beginning of Asian immigration. In 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic (labelled with inflammatory names such as “the China virus” or “kung flu”), according to the Stop AAPI Hate coalition, there were more than 2,800 anti-Asian hate incidents and crimes ranging from verbal/online harassment, to civil rights violations, to physical assaults including murder.

Being blamed for things that happen across the ocean is not new. In 1982, Vincent Chin was beaten to death in Detroit at the