



COLORFUL HISTORY



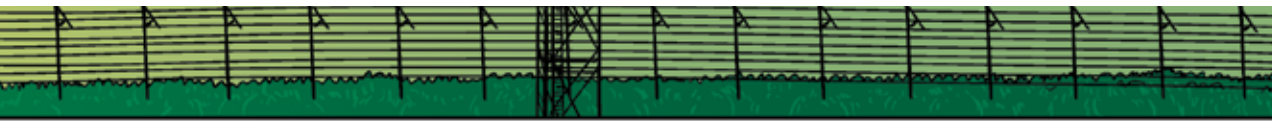
JAPANESE INCARCERATION DURING WWII

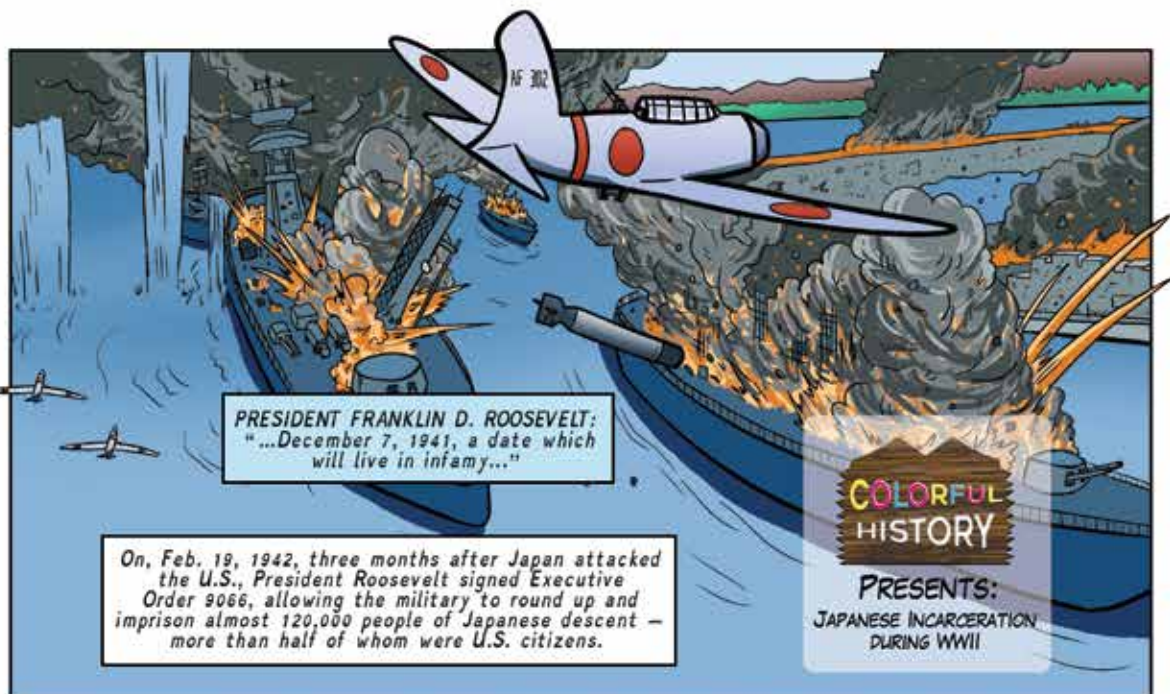


MINORU YASUI: A JAPANESE AMERICAN HERO



Story by Gil Asakawa • Art by Nicky Soh



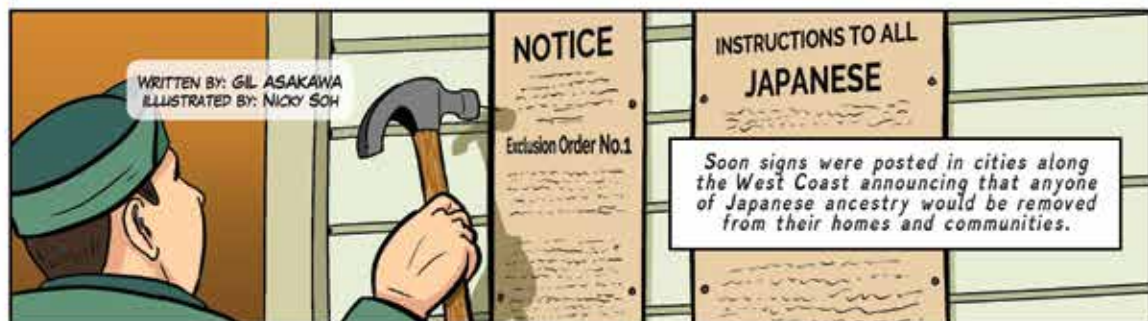


PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT:
"...December 7, 1941, a date which
will live in infamy..."

On, Feb. 19, 1942, three months after Japan attacked
the U.S., President Roosevelt signed Executive
Order 9066, allowing the military to round up and
imprison almost 120,000 people of Japanese descent –
more than half of whom were U.S. citizens.

COLORFUL
HISTORY

PRESENTS:
JAPANESE INCARCERATION
DURING WWII



WRITTEN BY: GIL ASAKAWA
ILLUSTRATED BY: NICKY SOH

NOTICE

Exclusion Order No.1

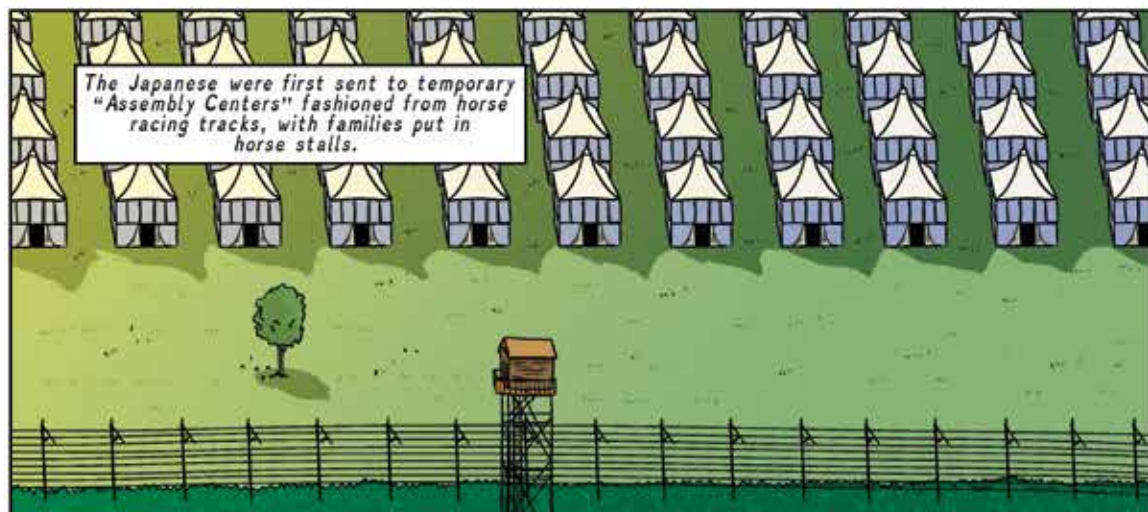
INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL
JAPANESE

Soon signs were posted in cities along
the West Coast announcing that anyone
of Japanese ancestry would be removed
from their homes and communities.



Entire families were rounded up, sometimes with just
two weeks' notice. Many were forced to leave
behind homes, businesses, farms, family belongings
and even pets.

Daddy,
where are we going
and why do we
have to go?



The Japanese were first sent to temporary "Assembly Centers" fashioned from horse racing tracks, with families put in horse stalls.



They were eventually sent to one of 10 concentration camps spread out from inland California to Idaho, Utah, Arizona, Arkansas and even Colorado. These camps housed thousands of people in rows of barracks.



Even though their families were imprisoned, many young men were still eager to join the U.S. military and serve their country. Some who could speak Japanese were sent to the Pacific to translate captured documents and interrogate prisoners.

Come on, guys, let's go for broke and rescue those Texas boys from the Nazis!

After WWII, Japanese Americans assimilated back into American culture, though many waited years to return to the West Coast.

Many settled in Denver, and by the 1960s the Japanese were an important part of the community, even though they still faced prejudice.

In the 1970s, younger Japanese Americans began to seek redress — an apology and reparation payments from the U.S. government for what had happened to their families.

But it wasn't until 1988 that President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act, which offered an official apology and a small payment to camp survivors.

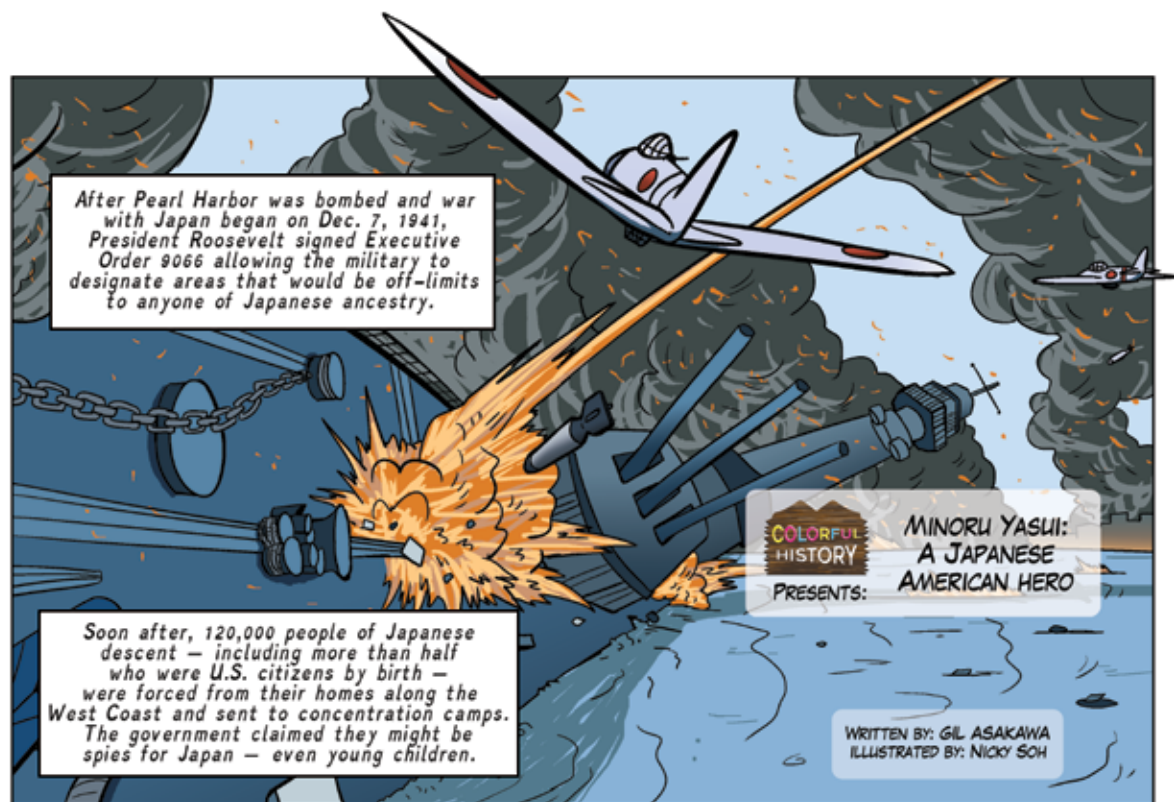
Civil Liberties Act
...these actions were carried out without adequate security reason ...and were motivated largely by racial prejudice, wartime hysteria, and a failure of political leadership.

After many years of being ashamed, this was a vindication that Japanese Americans were as loyal and patriotic as any other U.S. citizen.

In Denver, Sakura Square continues to honor this legacy and preserve the Japanese American community, culture and history with year-round festivals and events.

SAKURA SQUARE

さくら



After Pearl Harbor was bombed and war with Japan began on Dec. 7, 1941, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 allowing the military to designate areas that would be off-limits to anyone of Japanese ancestry.

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MINORU YASUI:
A JAPANESE
AMERICAN HERO

PRESENTS:

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Soon after, 120,000 people of Japanese descent — including more than half who were U.S. citizens by birth — were forced from their homes along the West Coast and sent to concentration camps. The government claimed they might be spies for Japan — even young children.



Minoru Yasui, a Japanese American attorney in Portland, Oregon, believed these orders were unconstitutional and discriminatory. He challenged the government-ordered curfew order by marching up to police officers demanding to be arrested. Eventually, they did.

Arrest me, officer —
I'm a person of Japanese
ancestry!

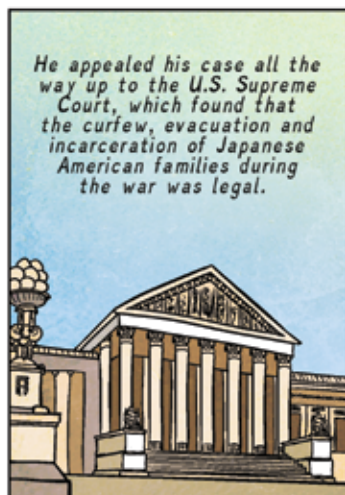
Just run home or
you're going to get
yourself into
trouble.



The case "Yasui v. United States of America" was tried in June 1942. Min was found guilty of breaking the curfew.

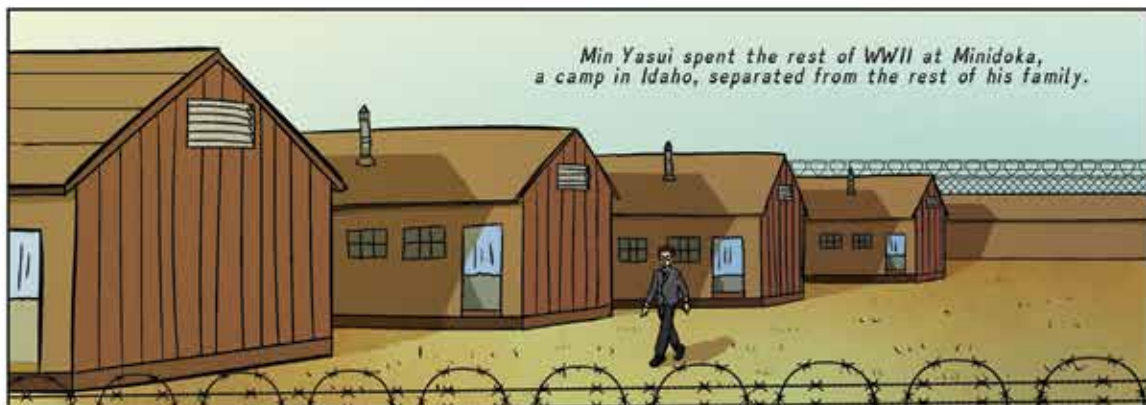


He spent nine months in
solitary confinement —
he wasn't even allowed
to take a shower!



He appealed his case all the way up to the U.S. Supreme Court, which found that the curfew, evacuation and incarceration of Japanese American families during the war was legal.

Min Yasui spent the rest of WWII at Minidoka, a camp in Idaho, separated from the rest of his family.



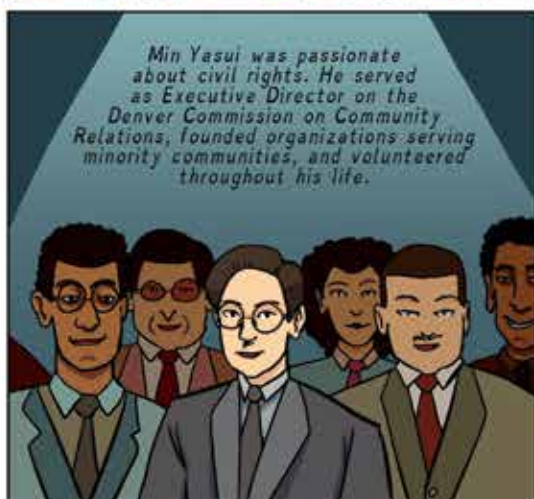
Denver, 1946.

After the war, Min Yasui reunited with his family in Denver, where he set up a law practice to help Japanese Americans resettle and restart their lives. At times, he took things like food or chickens as pay for his services.

I'll practice law in Denver and help people!



Min Yasui was passionate about civil rights. He served as Executive Director on the Denver Commission on Community Relations, founded organizations serving minority communities, and volunteered throughout his life.



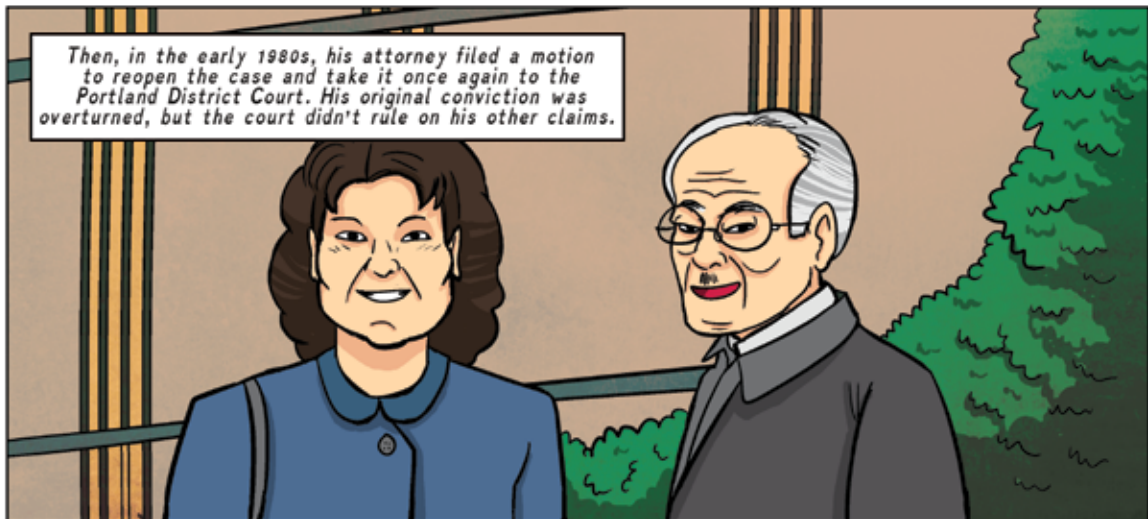
Min built such strong relationships with minority organizations that he was even able to help prevent widespread rioting in Denver following the assassination of Martin Luther King in 1968.



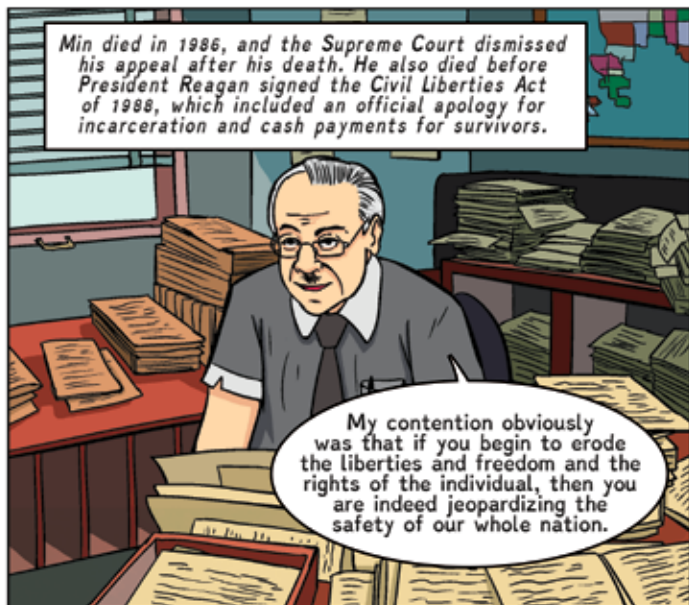
Through all this, Min Yasui never stopped fighting for justice. In the 1970s and 1980s, he was a leader in the national redress movement, seeking an apology from the U.S. government for what happened to Japanese Americans during WWII.



Then, in the early 1980s, his attorney filed a motion to reopen the case and take it once again to the Portland District Court. His original conviction was overturned, but the court didn't rule on his other claims.



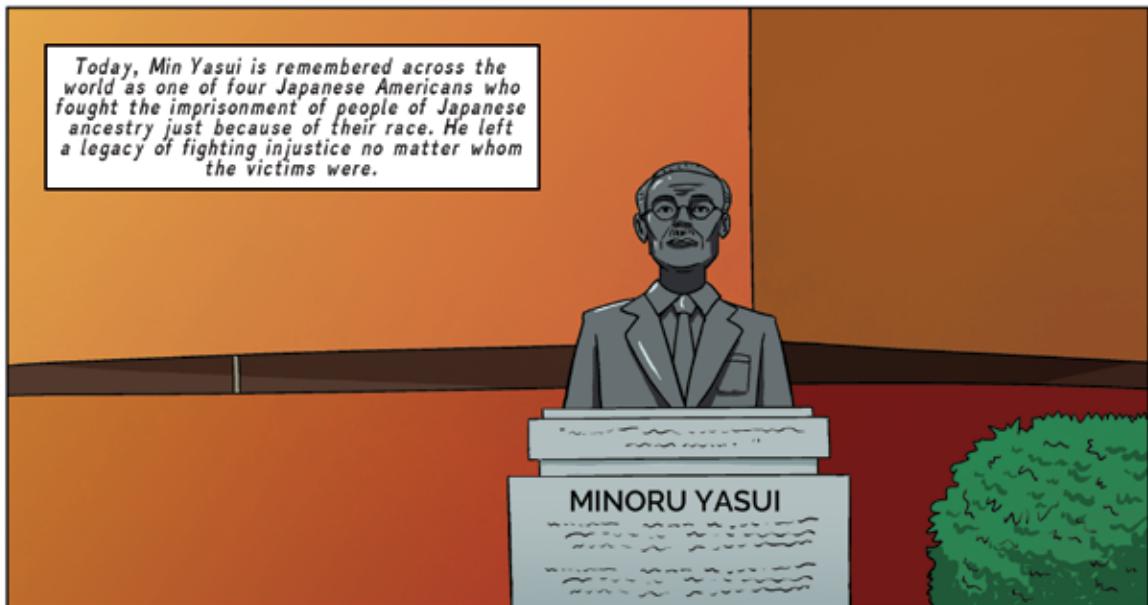
Min died in 1986, and the Supreme Court dismissed his appeal after his death. He also died before President Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which included an official apology for incarceration and cash payments for survivors.



In Denver, Min Yasui's legacy is symbolized with a bust at Sakura Square in downtown. His passion for community organizations has continued with the Minoru Yasui Community Volunteer Awards.



Today, Min Yasui is remembered across the world as one of four Japanese Americans who fought the imprisonment of people of Japanese ancestry just because of their race. He left a legacy of fighting injustice no matter whom the victims were.



WORK IN PROGRESS

Each online comic is accompanied by a script, artistic process documents, and a teacher's guide. Of course, we encourage you to use these however you see fit in your classroom.

<https://classroom.popcultureclassroom.org/product/colorful-history/>

SCRIPT

Colorful History Presents: Japanese Incarceration During WWII
Story by Gil Askawa
Art by Nicky Soh

PAGE ONE – THREE PANELS

Panel #1

Background image of Pearl Harbor bombing based on historical photographs

<https://media1.britannica.com/eb-media/81/71381-004-534732C4.jpg>

PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT: "...December 7, 1941, a date which will live in infamy..."

CAPTION: On, Feb. 19, 1942, three months after Japan attacked the U.S., President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, allowing the military to round up and imprison almost 120,000 people of Japanese descent – half of whom were U.S. citizens.

TITLE: Colorful History Presents: Japanese Incarceration during WWII

Panel #2

Image of EO 9066 on street posts:

CAP: Soon signs were posted in cities along the West Coast announcing that anyone of Japanese ancestry would be removed from their homes and communities.

CREDITS: Story by Gil Askawa

Art by Nicky Soh

Special Thanks to (TBD)

Panel #3

Image based on historical photos of JAs being rounded up, either walking over bridge in Seattle or waiting to board buses (maybe collage... up to the artist)

YOUNG GIRL: Daddy, where are we going and why do we have to go?

CAP: Entire families were rounded up, sometimes with just two weeks' notice. Many were forced to leave behind homes, businesses, farms, family belongings and even pets.

ROUGHS



INKS



COLORS AND FINAL LETTERING

