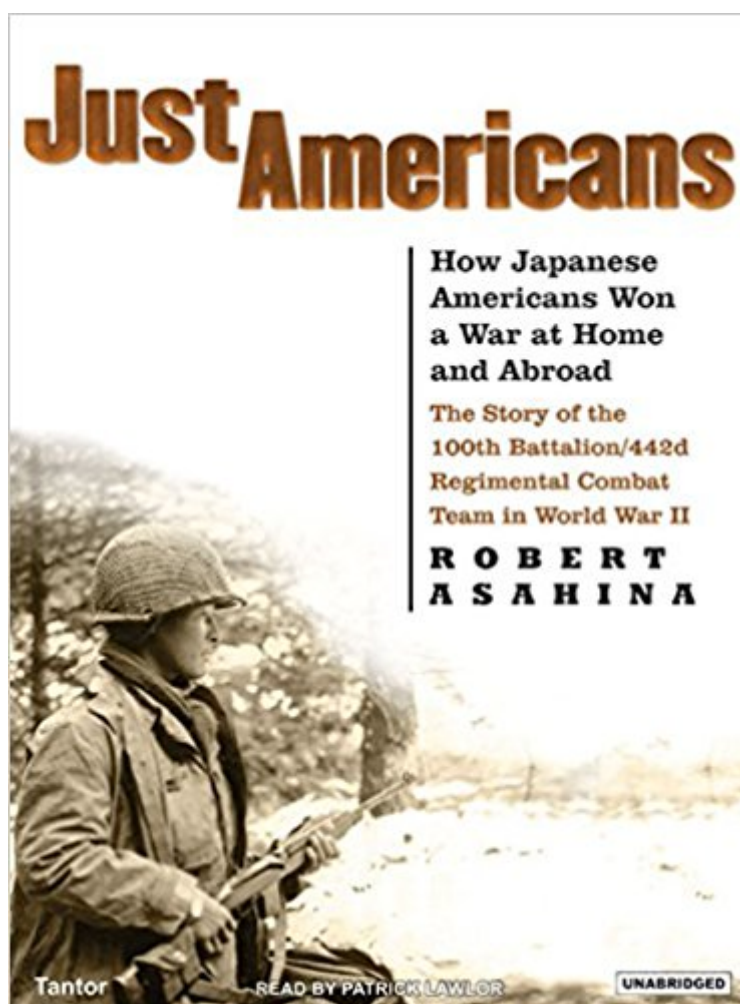


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# Just Americans: How Japanese Americans Won A War At Home And Abroad: The Story Of The 100th Battalion/442d Regimental Combat Team In World War II





## Synopsis

A sneak attack by an enemy power leaves thousands of Americans dead. A minority group in America is harassed for its ties to a foreign country. A worldwide conflict tests our resolve in combat abroad and our commitment to justice, equality, and liberty at home... Within months after Pearl Harbor, 110,000 Japanese Americans were forcibly "evacuated" from the West Coast, losing their jobs, their property, and their homes. In less than a year, they were "relocated" and incarcerated in desolate camps throughout the West, Southwest, and South. Yet, incredibly, thousands of young men from the camps joined the Army, to defend the country that had denied them their rights. This is the dramatic story of the segregated Japanese American 100th Battalion/442d Regimental Combat Team-and what they did to affirm their full citizenship. As Gen. Jacob L. Devers put it, in World War II the soldiers of the 100th/442d had "more than earned the right to be called just Americans, not Japanese Americans." During the fall of 1944, the combat team made headlines when it rescued the "lost battalion" of the 36th "Texas" Division. At the same time, with the 1944 elections looming, the Roosevelt Administration was debating whether to close the camps. And while the soldiers of the 100th/442d were sacrificing their lives in Europe, the Supreme Court was deciding the infamous Korematsu and Endo cases, which challenged the notion that "military necessity" justified the "relocation." From breathless battle scenes, masterfully handled in all their detail; to the unbreakable bonds of friendship in the field; to heart-wrenching stories of loss and discrimination on the mainland and in Hawaii, *Just Americans* tells the story of what Gen. George C. Marshall called the "most decorated unit in American military history for its size and length of service." It is also the story of soldiers in combat who were fighting a greater battle at home-a struggle that continues for minority groups today-over what it means to be an American.

## Book Information

Audio CD

Publisher: Tantor Audio; Library - Unabridged CD edition (September 19, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1400132819

ISBN-13: 978-1400132812

Product Dimensions: 6.7 x 0.9 x 6.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 26 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #962,208 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #204 in [Books > Books on CD](#) >

## Customer Reviews

This excellent volume on Japanese Americans' participation in World War II focuses on the combat units. The independent 100th Battalion was raised in Hawaii, the 442d Regimental Combat Team on the mainland and largely from the detention camps, and the two units' different backgrounds and experiences made for a good deal of rivalry and ill feeling at first. In time they merged and, exhibiting formidable mastery of infantry combat, compiled a combat record in Italy and France that it would be an understatement to call distinguished. Although Asahina doesn't cover the intelligence work of Japanese Americans in the Pacific, that is compensated for by detailed description of the behind-the-scenes politics involved in organizing the units and procuring amnesty for their members' relatives, and of the pro-Japanese stand of soldier-journalist S. L. A. Marshall. A valuable volume of new material on Japanese Americans in WWII that is likely, unfortunately, to be one of the last published while many Japanese American veterans are still alive. Roland GreenCopyright Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Asahina's wonderful book more than does justice to the history of the 442d.... I hope it becomes required reading in high school and college history courses." ---Lucian K. Truscott IV, author of *Dress Gray and Heart of War*

As a long time WWII history buff I can recommend this book without reservation. The author has researched this book very well and presents the facts in a compelling fashion. I was expecting certain passages to regarding how the Japanese-American population at home was treated to be one of finger-pointing, over-sentimentalization and playing the victim to gain sympathy. Boy was I wrong. Negative aspects of "exclusion", internment, and racism, are on the page but so are the bravery and resolve of these people to overcome them. The removal of the Japanese-American population from the west coast of the mainland while leaving the population of Japanese-Americans in Hawaii intact is spelled out in a way for the reader to discover the idiocy in it. For instance the reason given to the "evacuation" was the proximity of Japanese-Americans to military bases and facilities. Yet one of the future members of the 442d worked at Pearl Harbor helping to repair the facilities in the weeks and months after the attack! This book brings to light a story that should be

read.

The book is well-researched on the subject of those of us who were interned in various "Internment Camps" during WWII and the reasons why Japanese Americans overcame - on the whole - the prejudice that put them in those camps. The book is easy to read and follow, a must for my husband.

Great condition as advertised

A very good book. Also a depressing account on how the law is only as good as the people supporting it. The constitution is nothing if people twist and ignore it. I wonder if I would have given my life for a country that took away my freedom, my property and my right as a US citizen.

If you are GFB enthusiast you will really like this book. It goes into detail the movements of the 442nd/100th Battalion. Superb coverage of the historical events that are very important today, especially for the Japanese-American community.

Excellent story of the 442d. I got what I was looking for, a unique story about exceptional men who stepped up when their friends and families were being stepped on. I have recommended this to those friends who like military history.

This book was very good. It was a great tribute to the soldiers of the 100th/442nd. But it also provides a very good perspective of the prejudice often faced by Japanese Americans back then and even today.

Tells the story about the brave and courageous Japanese decedents that are Americans and fought for their country . This is the story of the Go for Broke battalion.

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