

Desert exile

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Desert Exile In the book “ Desert exile, the uprooting of a Japanese-American family”, Yoshiko Uchida narrates his experiences as a Japanese-American before the war, as well as during the war. The author gives an account of what took place in his life before the war started and the experiences of Japanese-Americans during the war. In addition, the author highlights the reactions of the Japanese-Americans to their situation during the war. As a Japanese-American, Uchida seems to have enjoyed his experiences, and the life him and his family lived before the outbreak of the war. Since his father received a good salary while working at Mitsui, Uchida used to live a more decent life than most of his Japanese colleagues in the United States. The author also witnessed other Japanese families suffer in the United States; this is because Japanese Americans experienced immense difficulties than the aliens (Uchida 10).

Uchida’s experiences before the war were pleasant; as he experienced unity and togetherness of Japanese Americans who lived in the United States. His father could invite guests who would come and play golf with him while Uchida’s mother took tea with her female friends (Uchida 14). From the experiences that Uchida had, it is apparent that life used to be enjoyable before the war broke out. The author seems to have lived happily with his friends and family. Uchida enjoyed life to the fullest since the family could take trips with a lot of ease because the father had a railroad pass that enabled him to visit various places without any restrictions.

During the Second World War, the Japanese went through several experiences that brought immense problems into their lives. Following the outbreak of the war, Japanese-Americans in the military had to be ousted. This emanated from the attack on Pearl harbor, which angered the United
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States and created resentment towards the Japanese-Americans. They faced numerous problems; as the United States government kicked them out of their homes. The U. S. government also introduced camps, which were guarded by the army in order to ensure that they did not escape. The Japanese experienced problems with sanitation and overcrowding in the camps; as many of them could be confined in small camps. It became difficult for the Japanese-Americans to mingle with people from other racial groups. The segregation of the Japanese-Americans made them experience problems with access to essential services, especially from the government that completely neglected them (Uchida 52).

The Japanese-Americans responded to their situation in a number of ways; to deal with prejudice and discrimination towards them, they started the rebellion towards the authorities. They joined forces with the ultimate aim of frustrating the efforts of the American government. Japanese-Americans started defying orders in the camps where the government had confined them. Consequently, the United States government found it difficult to deal with the Japanese. Moreover, the Japanese Americans responded to their situation by joining hands with other Asians in the United States. They also formed alliances with countries such as Germany in order to frustrate the efforts of the American government (Uchida 61).

Works Cited

Uchida, Yoshiko. *Desert Exile: The Uprooting of a Japanese American Family*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1984. Print.