(Ethical Judgement) Reflection:

Watch Canada’s Apology to Japanese Canadians

Was the 1988 apology for interning Japanese Canadians necessary? Is the redress of $20,000 to survivors adequate? Explain why or why not.

If Canada apologized for the treatment of Japanese Canadians in WWII, what other identifiable groups does Canada owe an apology to and why?

The 1988 apology for interning Japanese Canadians was definitely necessary and the redress of $20,000 to survivors isn’t adequate because:

1. Lack of Evidence

"It is a fact that no person of Japanese race born in Canada has been charged with any act of sabotage or disloyalty during the years of war." - Prime Minister Mackenzie King, 1944

No Japanese person living in Canada posed a threat to the Canadians and their safety, this further proves the Government's endeavour for power.

1. Violation of Rights

Civil Rights law passed in 1867 in the Consitution Act of Canada. This law conveys the civil rights and liberties of Canadian citizens. However, the internment of the Japanese is deliberately breaking this law.

Takeo Ujo Nakano, is a Japanese Canadian man who was interned and wrote a book about his experience in the internment camps called Within the Barbed Wire Fence. "There too we had not been free to leave, but I had since realized how much undervalued the semblance of freedom afforded by the absence of the fence".

3. Racist and Discriminative

During WWII, when the opportunity came to stand in front of a judge, unlike the Italians and Germans, Japanese Canadians were denied the right of Habeas Corpus.

Racist people in British Columbia continued to write and publish newspaper editorials that hinted and even labelled the Japanese Canadians as filth columnists, or secret spies.

Overall, the event was unjustified by many including the RCMP and FBI, the Japanese Canadians truly had no intention in harming Canadians that had welcomed them into their country, their rights were violated and this internment was an evident act of racism and discrimination. Also, we should still care about the issue of Japanese internment and the apology for it so that history doesn’t repeat itself in the future.

In my opinion, Canada would owe an apology to the Jewish people who were in Canada at that time. When the SS St. Louis was turned away by Canadian officials, it forced the Jewish refugees to return back to Europe and back to the danger of the Holocaust. This lead to the death of approximately 254 passengers. At the time. Anti-semitism was present in Canada. The Canadian government had no interest in getting involved in his complicated situation and remained silent on the issue for as long as they could. The consequences of denying these poor refugees, forced Canada to reflect on how inclusive we were as a country. Canada was usually a very welcoming and warm country, but because they didn't want to be judged by other federal governments, they behaved in a discriminative manner.