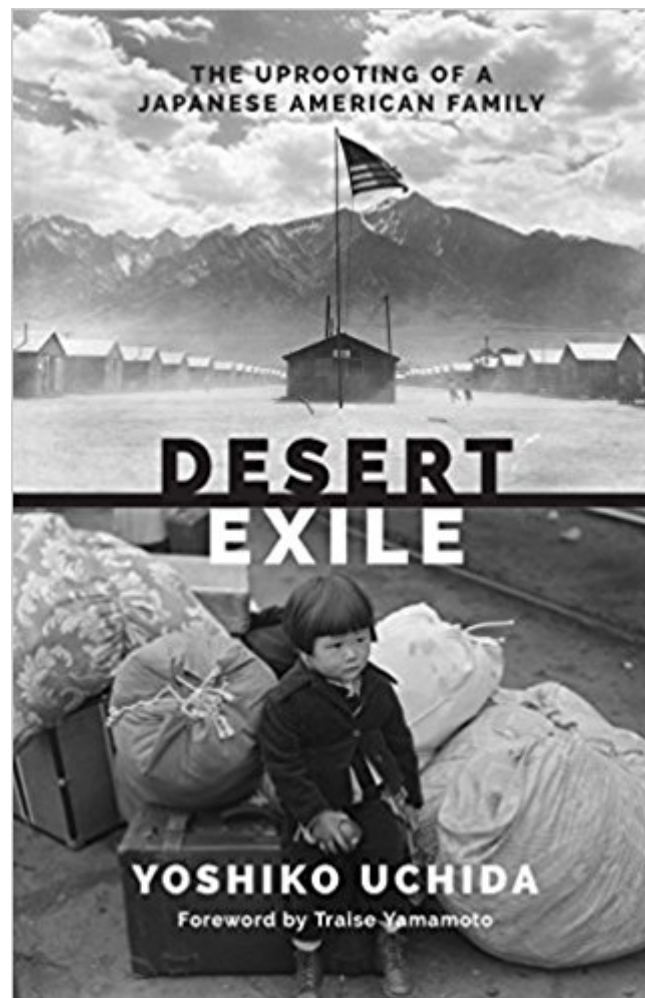




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# Desert Exile: The Uprooting Of A Japanese American Family (Classics Of Asian American Literature)



## Synopsis

After the attack on Pearl Harbor, everything changed for Yoshiko Uchida. *Desert Exile* is her autobiographical account of life before and during World War II. The book does more than relate the day-to-day experience of living in stalls at the Tanforan Racetrack, the assembly center just south of San Francisco, and in the Topaz, Utah, internment camp. It tells the story of the courage and strength displayed by those who were interned. Replaces ISBN 9780295961903

## Book Information

Series: Classics of Asian American Literature

Paperback: 184 pages

Publisher: University of Washington Press; revised edition edition (March 11, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0295994754

ISBN-13: 978-0295994758

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.5 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 42 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #202,214 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #61 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Ethnic & National > Japanese](#) #115 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Specific Demographics > Asian American Studies](#) #115 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Regional U.S. > West](#)

## Customer Reviews

"A sensitive, readable account that captures with insight and human warmth the feel of what it was like to be sent by one's own government into exile in the wilderness. It is a work worthy of an unforgettable experience." *—Pacific Citizen* "In *Desert Exile* the happy life of a Japanese American family before [being removed to a] concentration camp makes their surrealist nightmare experience after December 7, 1941, all the more inexplicable and horrifying." *—San Francisco Review of Books* "Desert Exile is a beautifully written personal history. . . . Uchida's intention was to illuminate the Issei and Nisei internment experience on a personal level for the benefit of later generations. She has succeeded." *—Western Historical Quarterly*

"Yoshiko Uchida has given us a chronicle of a very special kind of courage, the courage to preserve normalcy and humanity in the face of irrationality and inhumanity. Her family's story, told in loving

detail, brings alive the internment experience and is an important book for all Americans. It is not a history of the decisions that were made during this period, but rather it is the story of the human lives touched and molded by those decisions. As such it is infinitely more important, and infinitely more precious." --United States Senator Daniel K. Inouye --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

An excellent, heart touching personal account of the injustices and hardships Yoshiko Uchida and her family struggled to overcome after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. *Desert Exile* carries the reader along with the Uchida family as they and thousands of Japanese Americans are removed from their homes and incarcerated in internment camps along the west coast. It's a piece of America's history that is relevant even today. An informative and eye opening read.

While everyone has heard of the Holocaust and of the horrors inflicted upon the Jewish peoples during World War II, fewer people seem aware of the shameful treatment of the Japanese and Japanese-Americans in the United States following Pearl Harbor. While the American 'internment camps' did not play the same role as the concentration camps of Germany, and while the Issei and Nisei were not exterminated en masse as the Jews were, the actions taken by the American government with regard to "enemy alien" Japanese was nonetheless deploable, and should not be forgotten, lest such a thing happen again. Yoshiko Uchida had been living a fairly normal life with her Nisei sister and Issei family in Berkeley, California. Though she was aware of her Japanese heritage (sometimes more so than others), Yoshiko never considered herself to be anything but an American. So when the American government tells her and her family that they have 10 days to report for relocation, Yoshiko suddenly finds her entire identity thrown into turmoil. If she isn't American, and she isn't Japanese, then who is she? Much of this story was familiar to me, because I have read *The Invisible Thread*, another book by Uchida covering the same topic, but written for children. In each book, she speaks with anger, with sadness, and with fondness. She speaks of the confusion felt by the Nisei at being treated as criminals - actually, with less rights than criminals - by their own country. She speaks of the horrific living conditions at Tanforan and Topaz. She speaks of the fortitude of the Issei and Nisei, who meet the challenges present to them with typical Japanese aplomb. There are any number of books out there by survivors of the Japanese internment during World War II. Uchida's is particularly well told, and should be read by anyone who think that "things like that couldn't happen in America." This is particularly pertinent now, when we seem to be in danger of following the same slippery slope.

A surprising and important story about hard times in America and violation of our rights.

I purchased this book for a college history class and thoroughly enjoyed the easy to read format.

Interesting perspective from actual participant as I was a youngster during that time and unaware of what my country had done.

A subject we don't see discussed much anymore. Well written without bitterness. It was amazing to see what this group of mistreated people could accomplish to improve a pathetic existence during their exile. Some of our welfare recipients should read it to see just what can be accomplished with determination and pride.

okay

Interesting insight and informative

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