

citizenship, and 71,484 were American-born citizens. In early 1942 there were about 58,000 Italian and 22,000 German aliens in the Pacific states. Most of the Germans, and a large proportion of the Japanese and Italians, lived in or near the principal cities and adjacent strategic areas. A good many of the German aliens were recent refugees from Nazi Germany. In contrast to the Germans and Italians, the Japanese in the Pacific states, and especially in California, had been the target of hostility and restrictive action for several decades, a factor that unquestionably colored the measures taken against these people after Pearl Harbor.⁴

The Background of Evacuation Planning

A prewar agreement made the Department of Justice responsible for controlling enemy aliens in the continental United States in the event of war. During 1941 this department (primarily, through its Federal Bureau of Investigation) scrutinized the records of prospective enemy aliens and compiled lists of those against whom there were grounds for suspicion of disloyalty. Presidential proclamations of 7 and 8 December 1941, dealing with the control of Japanese and of German and Italian aliens, respectively, provided the basis for immediate action against those so suspected. On 7 December President Roosevelt authorized the Army to co-operate with the FBI in rounding up individual enemy aliens considered actually or potentially dangerous. By 13 December the Department of Justice had interned a total of 831 alien residents of the Pacific states, including 595 Japanese and 187 Germans, and by 16 February 1942 the number of alien Japanese apprehended had increased to 1,266. By specifically authorizing the exclusion of enemy aliens "from any locality in which residence by an alien enemy shall be found to constitute a danger to the public peace and safety of the United States," the Presidential proclamations also provided a basis for evacuation on a larger scale.⁵

During the first few days after the Pearl Harbor attack the west coast was greatly alarmed by a number of reports—all false—of enemy ships offshore, and it was in this atmosphere that the first proposal for a mass

⁴ The background of attitudes and action toward the Japanese is described in detail in tenBrock *et al.*, *Prejudice, War and the Constitution*, ch. I.

⁵ Ltr, TAG to CG's, 29 Jul 41, AG 014.311 (1-13-41), sec. 1; Proclamations of 7 and 8 Dec 41, copies in PMG 014.311 WDC and PMG 383.01 Hawaii; Tel Conv, SGS with Gen DeWitt, 7 Dec 41, WDC 381 RAINBOW 4; Memo, Special Asst to SW for PMG, 13 Dec 41, PMG 014.311 WDC; Grodzins, *Japanese Evacuation*, p. 232; J. Edgar Hoover, "Alien Enemy Control," *Iowa Law Review*, XXIX (March 1944), 396-408.