

CHAPTER II

Geographical Distribution.

The Japanese population in the United States was concentrated in a few limited areas on the Pacific Coast. In 1940 there were 126,947 persons of Japanese ancestry, native and foreign-born, constituting less than one-tenth of one per cent of the total population. The bulk of them, 112,353, or 88.5 per cent, were living in California, Oregon and Washington. California had the highest number, 93,717 or 73.8 per cent of the total Japanese in this country, comprising a more significant portion (1.36 per cent) in the State population of 6,907,387. Washington was next with 14,565 Japanese (11.5 per cent of total Japanese in U.S.), and third, Oregon with 4,071 (3.2 per cent). In the eight Mountain States¹ 8,574 Japanese (6.8 per cent) were scattered.

Further concentration was found within the three Pacific Coast States. In California, more than a half of the Japanese (52.1 per cent of total Japanese in the State) lived in Los

1. Montana, Colorado, Idaho, Wyoming, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Nevada.

Angeles, Sacramento and San Francisco counties. In Los Angeles County alone, there were 36,866 (39.3 per cent of State total), i.e., almost one out of three Japanese in this country (29.0 per cent of U.S. total). The population in Sacramento County was 6,764 (7.2 per cent of State total); and in San Francisco County, 5,280 (5.6 per cent). Other areas of concentration were Alameda County with 5,167 (5.5 per cent), Fresno County with 4,527 (4.8 per cent), and San Joaquin County with 4,484 (4.8 per cent).

In the other two States, most of the Japanese were located in two areas, around Puget Sound in Washington, and Portland, Oregon. In King County (check) there were 9,863 Japanese (67.7 per cent of the total in Washington), and in Pierce County 2,050 (14.1 per cent). That is, more than three out of four Japanese in Washington were found around Puget Sound. In Multnomah County there were 2,390 Japanese (58.7 per cent of the total in Oregon).

It is evident from the above analysis of distribution by County that the majority of the Japanese lived in or near large cities. The Japanese population in the major cities on the

Pacific Coast for 1940 is reported by the Census as follows:

	No. of Japanese	Per cent of City Popu- lation	Per cent of total Japa- nese in U.S.
Los Angeles	23,321	1.6	18.4
San Francisco	5,280	0.8	4.2
Sacramento	2,879	2.7	2.3
Seattle	6,975	1.9	5.5
Portland	1,680	0.6	1.3

Although the Japanese thus constituted a small portion of the cities' population, their presence was conspicuous more than the percentages would indicate because of concentration in small areas within the metropolitan limits. In Los Angeles, for example, there were three major residential areas, viz., "Little Tokyo," "Boyle Heights," and "the Southwest District." "Little Tokyo," the main commercial district, was roughly bounded by Main Street, Alviso Street, Second Street, and the Los Angeles River. The approximate boundaries of "Boyle Heights" were Boyle Avenue, Indiana Street, First Street, and Fifth Street. "The Southwest District" usually referred to the area bounded by Jefferson Boulevard, Western Avenue, Exposition Boulevard, and

Vermont Avenue. It was estimated that each of these three areas contained nearly 5,000 Japanese inhabitants. In San Francisco the bulk of the Japanese were found in a small area bounded by Octavia, California, Ellis, and Fillmore Streets. In Sacramento the corresponding area was located approximately between K and P Streets and Second and Fifth Streets. The concentration in Seattle was found in the area with its axis at Twelfth Avenue between Yesler Way and Jackson Street.

The tendency toward concentration in these few areas had been in operation over several decades. In general, there were two major trends in the population shifts of the Japanese, (1) steady movements to Los Angeles and surrounding areas both from other States and from northern parts of the State, and (2) from rural to urban areas. The peak years for this migration were 1920-1930.

The Japanese population had been shifting steadily into California. In 1910 the Japanese in California numbered 41,356, constituting 57.3 per cent of the total Japanese in continental

United States. In 1920 the number increased to 71,952 or 64.8 per cent; in 1930, 97,456 or 70.2 per cent; and in 1940, 93,717 or 73.8 per cent. In contrast, the Japanese population in other states failed to increase at the same rate, or in some others actually decreased in the thirty year period. Washington, for instance, contained 12,929 Japanese inhabitants or 17.9 per cent in 1910, but in the thirty years increased only slightly to 14,565, which forced the percentage of relative distribution down to 11.5 per cent in 1940. The Japanese population in the eight Mountain States numbered 10,447, constituting 14.5 per cent, but it decreased to 8,574 or 6.8 per cent in 1940.

In California itself population shifts tended southward. In the part of the State south of the Tehachapis, commonly referred to as southern California,¹ there were 11,550 Japanese or 27.9 per cent of total Japanese in the State in 1910. The population grew rapidly in the next thirty years; in 1920, 25,980 or 36.1 per cent; in 1930, 42,133 or 43.2 per cent; and

1. Counties included are Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego.

in 1940, 43,278 or 46.2 per cent. More specifically, the population in Los Angeles County increased from 8,461 or 20.5 per cent of the State total in 1910, to 19,911 or 27.7 per cent, 35,390 or 36.3 per cent, and 36,866 or 39.3 per cent in 1920, 1930, and 1940, respectively. In contrast, the population changed in the San Francisco Bay Area² from 8,341 or 20.2 per cent in 1910 to 11,815 or 12.6 per cent in 1940. The figures for 1920 and 1930 are 11,382 or 15.8 per cent and 13,292 or 13.6 per cent, respectively. The population in Sacramento County dwindled from 3,874 or 9.4 per cent in 1910 to 6,764 or 7.2 per cent in 1940.

The movement of the Japanese from rural to urban areas, as changes in the relative distribution of urban and rural populations would indicate, was a phenomenon on the Pacific Coast, particularly in California. In 1910 and 1920 the Japanese were almost equally divided in urban and rural areas. In 1910, 49.8 per cent were living in urban areas on the Pacific Coast and 50.2 per cent in rural areas, while in 1920 the corresponding figures were 48.7 per cent and 51.3 per cent, respectively. A

significant shift took place in the years 1920-1930, probably shortly after the enactment of anti-alien land laws in the West Coast states; the ratio swung toward the urban, viz., from 48.7 per cent in 1920 to 55.3 per cent in 1930. The preponderance of urban over rural population was maintained in 1940, when the ratio was 56.0 per cent and 44.0 per cent, respectively. The California trend of population shifts for this period followed similar patterns as on the Pacific Coast. The urban to the rural population ratio in California was 45.0 per cent to 55.0 per cent in 1910; 46.2 per cent to 53.8 per cent in 1920; 54.8 per cent to 45.2 per cent in 1930; and 55.8 per cent to 44.2 per cent in 1940. In contrast, Washington had been predominantly urban since the early days and had changed little in relative distribution in 1910-1940. The ratio for Washington is 64.0 per cent to 36 per cent in 1910; and 60.4 per cent to 39.6 per cent in 1940. The small Japanese population in Oregon, on the other hand, changed its relative distributions from 54.5 per cent in 1910 to ~~4x8~~ 46.1 per cent in 1940 for urban areas.

Socio-economic factors contributing to and affected by the movement toward Southern California and toward concentration in urban areas will be examined in the succeeding chapters.

Table VI

Geographical Distribution of the Japanese on the Pacific Coast
1900-1940

	1900		1910		1920		1930		1940	
		Per cent ^a		Per cent		Per cent		Per cent		Per cent
California	10,151	41.7	41,356	57.3	71,952	64.8	97,456	70.2	93,717	73.8
Oregon	2,501	10.3	3,418	4.8	4,151	3.7	4,958	3.6	4,071	3.2
Washington	5,617	23.1	12,929	17.9	17,387	15.7	17,837	12.8	14,565	11.5

^a Percentages is in term of the total number of the Japanese in continental United States.

Source of data:
United States census.

Table VIII

Urban and Rural Japanese Population on the Pacific Coast
1910-1940

	Urban		Rural	
	No.	Relative distr. in state	No.	Relative distr. in state
		Per cent		Per cent
California				
1910	18,612	45.0	22,744	55.0
1920	33,209	46.2	38,743	53.8
1930	53,397	54.8	44,059	45.2
1940	52,252	55.8	41,465	44.2
Oregon				
1910	1,861	54.5	1,557	45.5
1920	2,186	52.7	1,965	47.3
1930	2,253	45.4	2,705	54.6
1940	1,878	46.1	2,193	53.9
Washington				
1910	8,273	64.0	4,656	36.0
1920	10,143	58.3	7,244	41.7
1930	10,799	60.5	7,038	40.5
1940	8,790	60.4	5,775	39.6

Table VIII
 Urban and Rural Japanese Population by Region
 1910-1940

	Urban		Rural	
	No.	Relative distr. in region	No.	Relative distr. in region
		Per cent		Per cent
Pacific Coast states				
1910	28,746	49.8	28,957	50.2
1920	45,538	48.7	47,952	51.3
1930	66,449	55.3	53,802	44.7
1940	62,920	56.0	49,433	44.0
Mountain states				
1910	3,438	32.9	7,009	67.1
1920	2,941	27.3	7,851	72.7
1930	2,692	23.6	8,726	76.4
1940	2,152	25.1	6,422	74.9
Rest of United States				
1910	2,997	74.8	1,010	25.2
1920	5,351	79.5	1,377	20.5
1930	5,534	77.2	1,631	22.8
1940	4,601	76.4	1,419	23.6

Source of data:
 United States census

TABLE V.

GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE JAPANESE
IN THE UNITED STATES, BY REGION

1900-1940

	1900		1910		1920		1930		1940	
	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent	No.	Percent
U.S.(continental)	24,326	100.0	72,157	100.0	111,010	100.0	138,834	100.0	126,947	100.0
Pacific Coast States	18,269	75.1	57,703	80.0	93,490	84.2	120,251	86.6	112,353	88.5
Mountain States (Mont., Colo., Idaho, Wyo., N.M., Ariz., Utah, and Nev.)	5,107	21.0	10,447	14.5	10,792	9.7	11,418	8.2	8,574	6.8
Rest of U.S.	950	3.9	4,007	5.5	6,728	6.1	7,165	5.2	6,020	4.7

Source: U.S. Census

This table needs some reworking
Are you absolutely sure
the "Cumulative Total" I thought
series could not be continued
beyond 1930-1? Why not
whole col. 3 'continuous'?
What does Footnote ** refer to?

In some tables, percentage
disturbances are bad.

And sources of data should always
be given explicitly.

TABLE VII

DISTRIBUTION OF JAPANESE POPULATION IN CALIFORNIA
BY COUNTY 1900 - 1940

	1900		1910		1920		1930		1940	
	No.	%								
STATE TOTAL:	10,151	100.00	41,356	100.00	71,952	100.00	97,456	100.00	93,717	100.00
ALAMEDA	1,149	11.32	3,266	7.90	5,221	7.26	5,715	5.86	5,167	5.51
CONTRA COSTA	276	2.72	1,009	2.44	846	1.18	796	.82	829	.88
FRESNO	598	5.89	2,233	5.40	5,732	7.97	5,280	5.42	4,527	4.83
IMPERIAL	-	-	217	.52	1,986	2.76	2,241	2.30	1,583	1.69
KERN	48	.47	273	.66	338	.47	712	.73	756	.81
KINGS	156	1.54	293	.71	594	.83	746	.77	508	.54
LOS ANGELES	204	2.01	8,461	20.46	19,911	27.67	35,390	36.31	36,866	39.34
MERCED	43	.42	98	.24	420	.58	768	.79	715	.76
MONTEREY	710	6.99	1,121	2.71	1,614	2.24	2,271	2.33	2,247	2.40
ORANGE	3	-	641	1.55	1,491	2.07	1,613	1.66	1,855	1.98
PLACER	133	1.31	862	2.08	1,474	2.05	1,874	1.92	1,637	1.75
RIVERSIDE	97	.96	765	1.85	628	.87	589	.60	552	.59
SACRAMENTO	1,209	11.91	3,874	9.37	5,800	8.06	8,114	8.33	6,764	7.22
SAN BENITO	15	.15	286	.69	427	.59	559	.57	526	.56
SAN DIEGO	25	.25	520	1.26	1,431	1.99	1,722	1.77	2,076	2.22
SAN FRANCISCO	1,781	17.55	4,518	10.92	5,358	7.45	6,250	6.41	5,280	5.63
SAN JOAQUIN	313	3.08	1,804	4.36	4,354	6.05	4,339	4.45	4,484	4.78
SAN LUIS OBISPO	16	.16	434	1.05	501	.70	868	.89	925	.99
SAN MATEO	46	.46	358	.86	663	.92	1,169	1.20	1,218	1.30
SANTA BARBARA	114	1.12	863	2.09	930	1.29	1,889	1.94	2,187	2.33
SANTA CLARA	284	2.80	2,299	5.56	2,981	4.14	4,320	4.43	4,049	4.32
SANTA CRUZ	235	2.32	689	1.67	1,019	1.42	1,407	1.44	1,301	1.39
SOLANO	870	8.57	894	2.16	1,017	1.41	1,350	1.39	906	.97
SONOMA	148	1.46	554	1.34	506	.70	716	.74	758	.81
TULARE	48	.48	615	1.49	1,602	2.23	1,486	1.52	1,812	1.93
VENTURA	94	.93	872	2.11	675	.94	597	.61	672	.72
YOLO	410	4.04	789	1.91	1,152	1.60	1,423	1.46	1,087	1.16
ALL OTHERS	1,126	11.09	2,748	6.64	3,283	4.56	3,252	3.34	2,430	2.59

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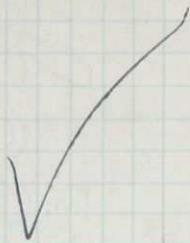
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Source ?

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	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940
So. Calif Imperial Los Angeles Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino San Diego					
Bay Area S.F. S.M. Main Alameda Washington	3075	5,341	11,352	13,292	11,815
	29.83	20.17	15.82	13.64	12.61

1900	1910	1920	1930	1940
-	217	1,986	2,241	1,583
204	8,461	19,911	25,390	36,866
3	641	1,491	1,613	1,855
97	765	628	589	552
148	946	533	578	846
25	520	1,431	1,722	2,076
<hr/> 477	<hr/> 11,550	<hr/> 25,980	<hr/> 42,133	<hr/> 43,278
4.70%	27.93	36.11	43.23	46.18

~~555~~
~~600,000~~

~~300000~~
~~100000~~

~~700000~~
~~400000~~

1940

K

2nd Jk

P

	JAPANESE POP	TOTAL POP	% of TOTAL POP
LOS ANGELES	23,321	1,504,277	1.55
SF	5,280	634,536	.83
SACTO	2,879	105,958	2.72
SEATTLE	6,975	368,302	1.89
CALIFORNIA	93,717	6,907,387	1.36