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Title: Anne Yuki Watanabe Interview  
Narrator: Anne Yuki Watanabe  
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AT: 39:23 Do you think that something like this, the Incarceration experience of Japanese Americans, do you think something like this wouldn't happen again?

AW: 39:33 Um, yeah, definitely. I mean, I don't know. Like, I think what's hard about like the society that we live in is that it's really adaptive to like how, you know, it's kind of like how Michelle Alexander talks about it in the new Jim Crow, how like, like, because of the Civil Rights Movement, like racism has had to kind of like code itself into institutions in ways where it can't be like openly identified. And so like, I don't know if it would happen like in quite the same way, but I feel like, yeah, I mean, we're definitely, especially right now, like we're seeing such a resurgence of like, um, you know, just like people feeling really emboldened to like openly express. They're like, um, just like their racism and their desire for like a white nation. And, um, and I think it was really interesting. I was listening to this interview with, um, on Democracy, Democracy Now with this guy who like works for an organization that helps people like disengage from like extreme right wing groups. Like, you know, like Neo Nazis and stuff like that. And he was just talking and he was, he's a former Neo Nazi. Um, he was Neo Nazi in the 80s and 90s and he got out and he was just talking about how like 30 years ago, they basically like actually came up with this strategy of like, look, we're not going to be able to, like, we have all these supporters among sort of like, right, like lots of like the average like racist white American, but who are going to be like too scared to like openly join us with our like, you know, being like skinheads and being like openly Nazis or whatever being aligned with the Ku Klux Klan. And so we should like, you know, instead of shaving our heads, we should like put on suits and like, you know, go to college and we should like become police officers. And we should join the military and we should like become politicians and run for office. And like basically they

actually like literally came up with a strategy of like we should put ourselves in institutions and he was saying like the world that we're living in now, like this, like Trump's America or whatever, is like literally like the realization of that, you know, of that plan that they came up with. Um, and yeah, so I just, I think like, absolutely like there's tons of people in our government and in like the police force and in the military and our institutions that like would support something like that happening and you know, and there's more and more sort of permission for people to be like open about those views. Um, so it does feel like we're heading in the direction of like something like that happening. And also, at the same time, I think, you know, obviously there's a lot of people who are going to be in resistance to that. I mean, one thing that really strikes me about World War II Japanese American incarceration. Like when I was walking around this gallery and looking at the pictures as I was like, you know, like what, like, I mean, yeah, it's a really different historical moment, but just like we're there, like, nobody that was like refusing to drive the buses are like nobody who was like blockading the streets or like, you know, just like, it seemed like there was so many opportunities for people to like refuse or to disrupt at least what was happening. And I just like, that's like one thing that I would definitely is like now I feel like, you know, people are like much more committed or like have more tools around organizing that kind of disruption. Um, and so yeah, I would hope that like there would definitely be like lots and lots of resistance to things moving in that direction, but I don't know. Yeah, I mean, that's a weird moment that we live in and it's hard to know like where we're headed.

- AT: 43:51 Um, as we wrap up there, I do want to kind of backtrack a little bit, um, because I, I'm just curious about where, like how you experienced internment in your education, in the ages, you know, um, where you're learning about World War II. Then like how, how did that come up in the classroom?
- AW: 44:25 I barely remember it. I think it was basically just sort of a footnote, you know, like I remember it was like three sentences in a textbook kind of thing. Um, so yeah, I don't, I don't think there was ever like a unit on it or like any like concerted focus. It was just sort of like a side note.
- AT: 44:44 Did you ever, do you remember reacting to that at all or just kind of like oh yeah?
- AW: 44:49 You know, honestly, I think I had so deeply internalized this belief that it was insignificant that I, it didn't strike me at all that it was a footnote. Yeah.

AT: 45:01 Well, I think we can be wrapping up, but is there, is there anything that I might've missed or that you'd want to add before we wrap up?

AW: 45:13 Not that I think they can think of.

AT: 45:16 Thank you so much for recording with us.

AW: 45:18 Thank you. Thank you.

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