Keierra Hudson

Gentlemen’s Agreement between the U.S. & Japan

The Gentlemen’s Agreement is a collection of notes exchanged between Japan and the United States during late 1907 and early 1908. This agreement is important because it eased the previous tension between the two countries stemming from poor treatment of Japanese immigrants in the US. Through their notes, Japan and the United States were able to come to an agreement. First Japanese government began to restrict the immigration of Japanese workers to the US; second the United States withdrew an offending measure enacted by the San Francisco Board of Education; Japanese and Chinese children were no longer sent to segregated schools.

There was constant tension between the United States and Japan for various reasons. The Gentlemen’s Agreement showed Roosevelt’s initiative and his ability to be a peace maker. Creating peace was not an easy process for Roosevelt; he had to address the way students from Japan were treated by schools. To do so, Roosevelt had to persuade San Francisco to desegregate its schools; his ability to do this shows his powers of persuasion. The segregation order was finally revoked. Immigration to the United States was limited to those who had been to the United States before, and to the parents, wives, and children of those who were already there. The Gentlemen’s agreement was effective in reducing Japanese immigration and lessening some tension between Japan and the United States.

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