

# ***Aiko Herzig Yoshinaga, Critic of Wartime Internment, Is Dead at 93***

By [Sam Roberts](#)

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Aiko Herzig Yoshinaga, a Japanese-American whose tenacious archival research persuaded Congress to approve reparations for her fellow inmates of World War II internment camps and an official apology to them, died on July 18 in Torrance, Calif. She was 93.

Her death was confirmed by her daughter Lisa Furutani.

Mrs. Herzig Yoshinaga's discovery of a document in the National Archives contributed to the 1983 decision by a Federal District Court in California to void a wartime verdict against Fred Korematsu, who had refused the blanket evacuation order of Japanese-Americans from sensitive military zones, and the convictions of two others, Gordon Hirabayashi and Minoru Yasui in similar cases.

The document she discovered was apparently the only remaining original version of a 1943 government report that refuted the Pentagon's claim that the evacuation was a military necessity.

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