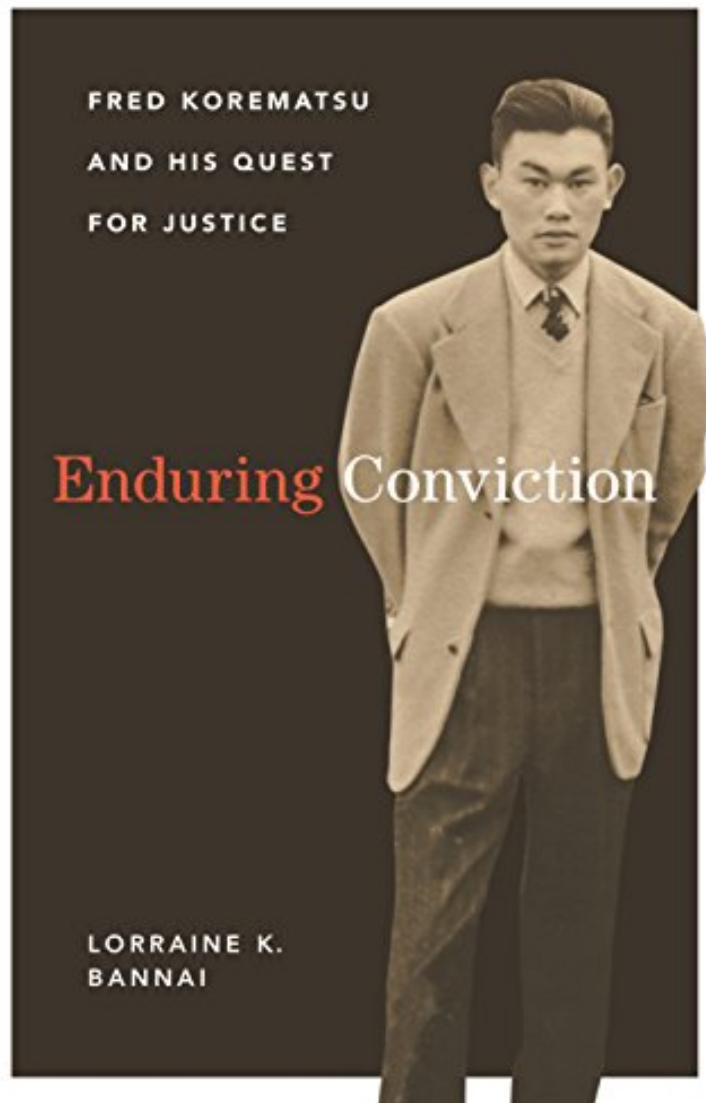


(Download) Enduring Conviction: Fred Korematsu and His Quest for Justice (Scott and Laurie Oki Series in Asian American Studies)

## Enduring Conviction: Fred Korematsu and His Quest for Justice (Scott and Laurie Oki Series in Asian American Studies)

*Lorraine K. Bannai*

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**Lorraine K. Bannai : Enduring Conviction: Fred Korematsu and His Quest for Justice (Scott and Laurie Oki Series in Asian American Studies)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Enduring Conviction: Fred Korematsu and His Quest for Justice (Scott and Laurie Oki Series in Asian American Studies):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A dry account of a very important storyBy BearwifeYou can tell a lawyer wrote this book . . . it is grammatical and clear, and the story itself is pretty darn amazing, but I found myself zoning out at times because, well, Fred himself and the people who experienced what he did are the story and yet the book is mostly a fairly dry account of the (disgraceful) history of his case in the courts. So this is readable, but not exactly gripping. Everyone should know, though, the details of what happened to Korematsu and so many tens of thousands of other Japanese citizens in the U.S., and how readily a liberal President and a supposedly enlightened court system sanctioned it. So this book is worth the effort. I just wish someone who writes for a living had written it.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Worthy addition to the civil liberties literatureBy Russell MerrisI first became aware of the blatantly unconstitutional WWII incarceration of American citizens of Japanese descent in a high school Government course of the kind taught in the late 1950's, but I didnt fully comprehend what had happened before reading "Americas Concentration Camps" by Allan Bosworth a decade after that. Thirty years down the road I became Chair of the Academic Senate of the Hayward campus of California State University and decided to use (some might say abuse) the office to promote a fortnightly series of university-wide conversations on the topic Racism in America. A number of calls to the ACLU of Northern California resulted in my being entrusted with the home telephone number of Kathryn Korematsu, Freds gracious wife and protective gatekeeper. After listening politely as I explained who I was and what I wanted, Kathryn asked a couple of probing questions before deciding it would be safe to let me talk to Fred who then agreed to be the inaugural speaker in my series provided the details could be worked out to Kathryns satisfaction. The result was a humble but profoundly moving talk to a large room filled with appreciative students, faculty, and members of the Hayward community. A year or two later, I was able to welcome Fred back to campus as a commencement speaker and to receive an honorary doctor of law degree. With that background, it was with high hopes but guarded expectations that I purchased "Enduring Conviction" (an exquisitely appropriate double entendre of a title). I am happy to report that my hopes were realized and my expectations greatly exceeded. Lorraine Bannai has put together not only a marvelous account of Fred Korematsus hugely significant legacy to American liberty, but done it in the humble tone and spirit of Fred himself. Anyone of a mind and temperament to appreciate Freds story as told in this outstanding book might also be interested in "Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee" by Dee Brown, "Subversives" by Seth Rosenfeld, and "Merchants of Doubt" by Naomi Oreskes and Erik Conway.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Compelling story!By Yoshinori HimelThis story is so compelling precisely because Fred Korematsu was such an ordinary American. He knew he was a loyal American and that the racial label that called him a wartime enemy was a lie. He loved his ordinary American home town, and like most Americans he hated to be forced out of there for no good reason. He hated to be separated from the romantic love of his short life for no reason. He knew that imprisoning him solely because of his race was wrong. He had the moral courage to take his unpopular dissent all the way to the Supreme Court, to lose there, and to go back to court when new evidence came to light 40 years later. This story of Fred Korematsu's all-American values of fairness and persistence in the face of adversity can inspire all Americans. I highly recommend it.

Fred Korematsu's decision to resist F.D.R.'s Executive Order 9066, which provided authority for the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, was initially the case of a young man following his heart: he wanted to remain in California with his white fiance. However, he quickly came to realize that it was more than just a personal choice; it was a matter of basic human rights. After refusing to leave for incarceration when ordered, Korematsu was eventually arrested and convicted of a federal crime before being sent to the internment camp at Topaz, Utah. He appealed his conviction to the Supreme Court, which, in one of the most infamous cases in American legal history, upheld the wartime orders. Forty years later, in the early 1980s, a team of young attorneys resurrected Korematsu's case. This time, Korematsu was victorious, and his conviction was overturned, helping to pave the way for Japanese American redress. Lorraine Bannai, who was a young attorney on that legal team, combines insider knowledge of the case with extensive archival research, personal letters, and unprecedented access to Korematsu his family, and close friends. She uncovers the inspiring story of a humble, soft-spoken man who fought tirelessly against human rights abuses long after he was exonerated. In 1998, President Bill Clinton awarded Korematsu the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Excellent. . . . In Enduring Conviction, [Lorraine Bannai] skillfully weaves the story of the landmark court case with Fred's personal journey. . . . Her elegant telling of the story of the incarceration and Fred Korematsu's fight against it could not be more timely. . . . Hopefully, the inspiration provided by Fred Korematsu may be an even more enduring response to injustice.--Elaine Elinson "Los Angeles of Books "Enduring Conviction shows how politics and racial prejudice can conspire to trample the civil rights of an entire racial group during a time of war, based on fabricated claims of military necessity. . . . Bannai's volume is a worthwhile read for those interested in learning about some of the worst events and court rulings in American history, and serves as a reminder that the constitutional rights of American citizens should also be safeguarded during times of war, and in the darkest times of American history.--Harvey Gee "Asian American Policy " "Wonderful! A moving portrait of a seemingly ordinary man, motivated by

love, whose passionate resistance transformed him into Fred Korematsu - an icon of the Japanese American Redress movement, and a true defender of American liberties."Lane Hirabayashi, coauthor of *A Principled Stand: The Story of Hirabayashi v. United States*"A remarkable story of a man who stood up and spoke out in the same tradition of others in this country who have spoken out against oppression and discrimination. This is what makes America strong people who have faith in our ideals and who have the guts to stand up for them. Fred Korematsu was an ordinary man who did extraordinary deeds and with that he made history."George Takei, actor and activist"Enduring Conviction brilliantly tells the story of an ordinary American with extraordinary courage. Lorraine Bannai has given us the best biography of a litigant in a famous and infamous Supreme Court case that has yet been written."Peter Irons, author of *Justices at War: The Story of the Japanese American Cases*"Bannai unravels, like an engaging novel, the story of Fred Korematsu, the wrongs he endured, and the fortitude he demonstrated. A quiet and modest citizen who thought he'd lost his country, Korematsu and his courage give hope to the rest of us that we too can stand up to right injustice."Linda Tamura, author of *Nisei Soldiers Break Their Silence*"Lorraine Bannai had a frontline position in the struggle for Japanese American inclusion, and her telling of one man's story is so much more than that. She shows that in times of crisis, the appeal of authoritarian, scapegoating rhetoric is a menace to democracy. The Korematsu story is about fighting back against fear and hate, thereby holding our nation to its highest ideals."Mari Matsuda, author of *Where is Your Body?: Essays on Race, Gender and the Law*About the AuthorLorraine K. Bannai is director of the Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality and professor of legal skills at Seattle University School of Law.