

## Handout # 4(Lesson 4): Eleanor Roosevelt Speaks Out

While Eleanor Roosevelt did not criticize her husband's decision to issue Executive Order #9066, which was responsible for the incarceration of 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry, she did express concern about discrimination against Japanese Americans. In an article entitled "A Challenge to American Sportsmanship" published in *Collier's Magazine* on October 16, 1943 she wrote:

Japanese Americans may be no more Japanese than a German-American is German or an Italian-American is Italian. All of these people, including Japanese Americans, have men who are fighting today for the preservation of life and ideas around which our nation was built.

We have no common race in this country, but have an ideal to which all of us are loyal. It is our ideal which we want to have live. It is an ideal which can grow with our people, but we cannot progress if we look down upon any group of people among us because of race or religion. Every citizen in this country has a right to our basic freedoms, to justice, and to quality of opportunity, and we retain the right to lead out individual lives as we please, but we can only do so if we grant to other the freedoms that we wish for ourselves.

Source:

Roosevelt, Eleanor. "A Challenge to American Sportsmanship", *Colliers Magazine*, October 16, 1943. [<http://www.gwu.edu/~erpapers/documents/articles/challengetoamerican.cfm>]