

Don't use the word "Jap."

"Jap" is a convenient term. It fits into headlines. It's easy to say.

But it is offensive to many Americans.

It is derogatory in the same sense that "kike," "wop," "chink," and "nigger," are derogatory.

Right-thinking, fair-minded Americans do not use such expressions.

They are a shameful remnant from an earlier era when our country was made up of many unassimilated immigrant groups.

But that era is gone, and we are all Americans proud of our backgrounds and entitled to dignity.

So please, don't say "Jap."

Why is "Jap" not a nice word?

Because it has a long, bitter history of derogatory connotations.

Some may feel it is a logical contraction of "Japanese," unaware that for years "Jap" was used as an insult.

As used by bigots and racists intent on ridding the West Coast of the fictitious "yellow peril," "Jap" became a symbol of hate and contempt.

Those days are gone forever, but the expression — no matter how innocently used — still stings like a whiplash.

But don't take our word for it.

"An opprobrious usage," says *Funk and Wagnalls*.

"A shortened form often expressing contempt," says *Webster's New World Dictionary*.

"Often used disparagingly," says *Webster's Third International Dictionary*.

Most communications media have rules against the use of the term "Jap."

But occasionally, through lack of understanding, or other reasons, this offensive expression comes back to life.

Please help us put it to rest permanently. It has no place in our language.

The Japanese in the United States are American citizens, mostly the second and third generation descendants of immigrants who came here in search of opportunity and freedom.

If you need a short, accurate, descriptive term, call them *Nisei*. Its literal meaning is "second generation" but common usage has made the word applicable to all Americans of Japanese origin.

The *Nisei* are good Americans as they proved by their brilliant service record in World War II and the Korean War.

THEY ARE NOT "JAPS."

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**PLEASE
DON'T!**