

# WHO IS FREE TO PRACTICE THEIR RELIGION?

## MINORITY RELIGIONS HAVE BEEN SUPPRESSED

Fifth-grader **Charlotte Gabrielli** was suspended from her Sacramento elementary school in 1936 for refusing to recite the Pledge of Allegiance. She was obeying her Jehovah’s Witness parents, who believed that saluting the flag was idolatry. Prejudice against Jehovah’s Witnesses led to the suspension and expulsion of many students around the state, and vigilantes attacked their meetings. But in 1943, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that students could not be forced to recite the Pledge if it violated their religious beliefs.



10-YEAR-OLD CHARLOTTE GABRIELLI WOULD NOT SAY THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE BECAUSE IT VIOLATED HER RELIGIOUS BELIEFS.



IF THERE IS ANY FIXED STAR IN OUR CONSTELLATION IT IS THAT NO OFFICIAL, HIGH OR PETTY, CAN... FORCE CITIZENS TO CONFESS BY WORDS OR ACT THEIR FAITH THEREIN.

- UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT, 1943



LOGGING ROAD OPPONENTS PROTEST AT THE FOREST SERVICE OFFICE IN EUREKA TO SAVE LAND SACRED TO THEIR TRIBES FOR MORE THAN A THOUSAND YEARS.

Charlotte Gabrielli: Courtesy of the California Historical Society  
Logging opponents: Courtesy of Heyday Institute, Photographer Lee Brumbaugh