



THE PACIFIC WAR

THE JAPANESE –
AMERICAN
CONFLICT IN WWII

**A PRESENTATION BY
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Japanese Aggressions in China



If the tangled events that eventually led to war between Japan and the United States could be summed up in a single word, that word would be: “China”.

In the early 1930's, Japan was looking for supremacy in East-Asia. In 1931 Japanese troops marched into Manchuria, renamed the territory Manchuko, and established a puppet government.

In 1937, the Japanese attacked China. This aggression became the beginning of the Pacific Side of WWII.

(Freedom From Fear, p. 500)

Roosevelt's reaction



The “China Incident” had been a regional incident until 1940.

By 1940 Japan depended on the United States for a long list of strategic war materials including oil; 80% of Japan’s fuel supplies came from America.

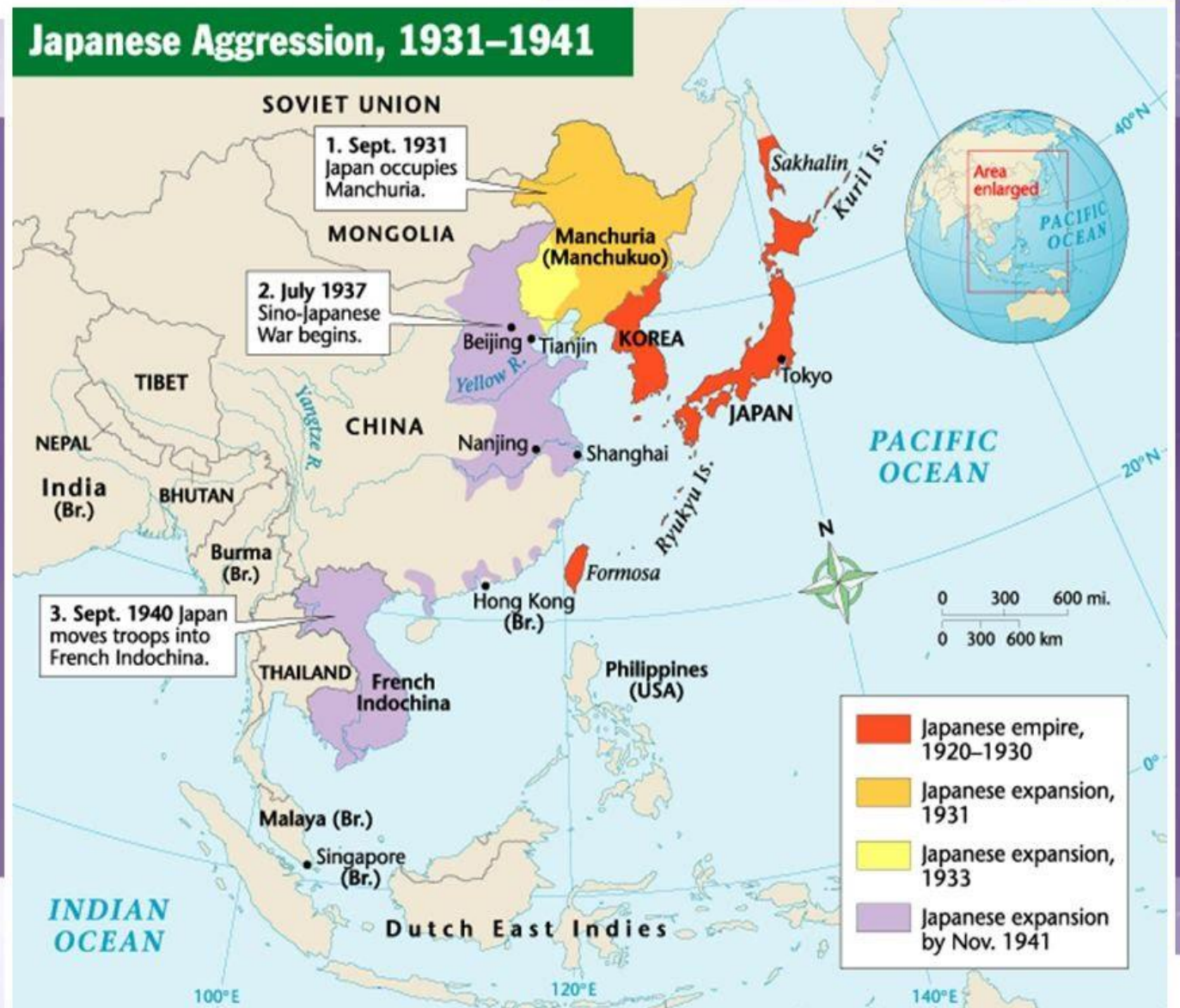
In July 1940, Roosevelt declared an embargo on the shipment to Japan of premium grades of scrap iron and steel, as well as high-octane aviation gasoline, but not yet oil.

Japan started to look for resources in Indochina.

(Freedom From Fear, p. 505)

Map of the Japanese Aggression, 1931-1941

Japanese Aggression, 1931-1941



SMASH JAPANESE AGGRESSION!

Disputes with Japan



Meanwhile, through 1940 and 1941, U.S. relations with Japan were becoming increasingly strained as a result of Japan's invasion of China and ambitions to extend its conquests to Southeast Asia. Beginning in 1940, Japan was allied with Germany and Italy as one of the Axis powers. Hitler's success in Europe enabled Japanese expansion into the Dutch East Indies, British Burma, and French Indochina – territories still held as European colonies.

(Freedom From Fear, Chapter 15 "To the Brink", p. 465-515)

Negotiations



Both sides realized that Japan needed oil to fuel its navy and air force. If the U.S. embargo on oil did not end, Japan would likely seize the oil resources in the Dutch East Indies. Roosevelt insisted that Japan pull its troops out of China, which Japan refused to do. In October, a new Japanese government made a final attempt at negotiating an agreement. Neither side, however, changed its position. U.S. military leaders hoped to delay armed confrontation with Japan until U.S. armed forces in the Pacific were strengthened. Japan however believed that quick action was needed because of its limited oil supplies.

(Freedom From Fear, Chapter 15 "To the Brink, p. 465-515)

Pearl Harbor



The U.S. fleet in the Pacific was anchored at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. On Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, while most American sailors were still asleep in their bunks, Japanese planes from aircraft carriers flew over Pearl Harbor bombing every ship in sight. The surprised attack lasted less than two hours. In that time, 2,400 Americans were killed, almost 1,200 were wounded, 20 warships were sunk or severely damaged, and approx. 150 airplanes were destroyed.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A2kSnIS4xX8>

Declaration of War



Addressing Congress on the day after Pearl Harbor, Roosevelt described December 7th as “a date which will live in infamy”. On December 8, Congress acted immediately by declaring war. Three days later, Germany and Italy honored their treaty with Japan by declaring war on the United States.

Soviet Union was invaded by Nazi Germany (Operation Barbarossa). Thus, the principal Allies fighting Nazi Germany from 1942-45 were Britain, the U.S. and the Soviet Union.

(Freedom From Fear, Chapter 16 “War in the Pacific”, p. 516-564)

What Had Japan Achieved by Getting Into War



In May 1942, after Wainwright's surrender in the Philippines, Japan had concluded the first phase of the Southern Operation, which included:

1/ The occupation of territories from Burma through the Dutch East Indies and the exploitation of their natural resources.

2/ Securing a defensive perimeter in the Pacific Ocean, across thousands of miles of ocean, against the inevitable American counterblow.

(*Freedom From Fear*, Chapter 16 "War in the Pacific", p. 516-564)

WWII: THE HOME FRONT

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY



U.S. industries did a booming business. The depression was over. By 1944, unemployment has practically disappeared. War-related industrial output in the U.S was astonishing. By 1944, it was twice that of all the Axis powers combined. Instead of automobiles, tanks and fighter planes rolled off the assembly lines. American factories produced over 300,000 planes, 100,000 tanks, and ships with a total capacity of 33 million tons.

(Freedom From Fear, Chapter 18 "The War of Machines", p. 615-668)

WWII: THE HOME FRONT



More than any other ethnic group, Japanese Americans suffered from their association with a wartime enemy. almost 20,000 native-born Japanese served loyally in the military. Nevertheless, following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Japanese Americans were suspected of being potential spies and saboteurs, and a Japanese invasion of the West Coast was considered imminent by many. In 1942, these irrational fears as well as racism prompted by the U.S. government to order over 100,000 Japanese Americans on the West Coast to leave homes and reside in the barracks of internment camps.

(Freedom From Fear, Chapter 21 "The Cauldron of the Home Front, p. 746-797)

Anti-Japanese war propaganda

https://www.google.co.il/search?q=american+anti+japanese+war+propaganda&safe=strict&tbm=isch&sxsrf=ACYBGNSaczaMU3ffxGxfRJgQyUFsSGgUjA:1572779677796&source=lnms&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiL4oTw9M3IAhUztXEKHaXxBB4Q_AUICigB&biw=1280&bih=610&dpr=2.5

Japanese internment camps in America:

https://www.google.co.il/search?q=Japanese+camps+in+america&safe=strict&sxsrf=ACYBGNQ84sJnz-KBJk0N-Gl_Cun5eGwCdg:1572781296128&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj9tVz-s3IAhWCr3EKHZaDB9oQ_AUIEigB&biw=1280&bih=610&dpr=2.5

Fighting Japan



In Europe, British, Soviet and U.S. forces were jointly responsible for defeating Germany, but in the Pacific, it was largely the U.S. armed forces that challenged the Japanese. After the Pearl Harbor attack, Japan seized control of much of East Asia and Southeast Asia. By early 1942, Japanese troops occupied Korea, eastern China, the Philippines, British Burma and Malaya, French Indochina (Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos), the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia) and most of the Pacific Islands west of Midway Island.

(Freedom From Fear, Chapter 16 "War in the Pacific, p. 516-564)

The American Soldier fighting the Japanese



“I wish we were fighting against Germans”, said one marine on Guadalcanal. “They are human beings, like us...But the Japanese are like animals”.

Of the inhumanity of the Japanese-American war, however, the American public as yet knew little. The news that reached home from Guadalcanal presented a different image entirely.

“You felt sorry for the boys”, correspondent John Hersey wrote. “The uniforms, the bravado, the air of wearing a knife in the teeth – these were just camouflage. The truth was all over their faces. These were just American boys. They did not want that valley or any part of its jungle. They were ex-grocery clerks, ex-highway laborers, ex-bank clerks, ex-schoolboys, boys with a clean record and maybe a little extra restlessness, but not killers... They had joined the Marines to see the world, or to get away from a guilt, or most likely to escape the draft, not knowingly to kill or be killed. “

(Freedom From Fear, Chapter 16 “War in the Pacific, p. 516-564)

The American Marines fighting the Japs

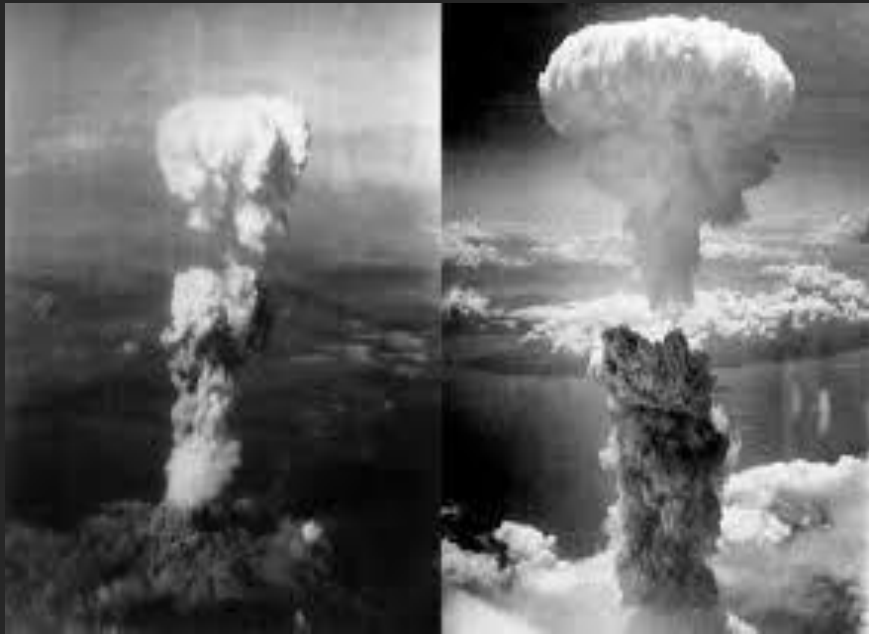


Up and down the beach and out on the reef, a number of amtracs and DUKWs were burning. Japanese machine-gun bursts made long splashes on the water as though flaying it with some giant whip. The geysers belched up relentlessly where the mortar and artillery shells hit. I caught a fleeting glimpse of a group of Marines leaving a smoking amtrac on the reef. Some fell as bullets and fragments splashed among them. Their buddies tried to help them as they struggled in the knee-deep water.

I shuddered and choked. A wild desperate feeling of anger, frustration, and pity gripped me. It was an emotion that always would torture my mind when I saw men trapped and was unable to do anything but watch as they were hit. My own plight forgotten momentarily, I felt sickened to the depths of my soul. I asked God, “Why, why, why?” I turned my face away and wished that I were imagining it all. I had tasted the bitterest essence of war, the sight of helpless comrades being slaughtered, and it filled me with disgust.

Sledge, E.B.. With the Old Breed (p. 61). Random House Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

The A-Bombs as an end to War



Even today, historians continue to disagree over whether or not the Truman administration made the decision to drop the atomic bomb for political reasons—namely, to intimidate the Soviet Union—rather than strictly military ones.

In the years since the two atomic bombs were dropped on Japan, a number of historians have suggested that the weapons had a two-pronged objective. First, of course, was to bring the war with Japan to a speedy end and spare American lives. It has been suggested that the second objective was to demonstrate the new weapon of mass destruction to the Soviet Union.

(Freedom From Fear, Chapter 22 “Endgame” p. 798-851)

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A2kSnIS4xX8>

Sledge, E.B.: *With the Old Breed* (p. 61). Random House Publishing Group, Kindle Edition, 320p