

## Content Outline: WWII in the Pacific

- I. Background Information: Japan
  - A. Japan: expansion into China, wanted to establish an empire
  - B. US “open door” economic policy in China – upsets Japan
    1. Equal opportunities for all countries to trade and invest
  - C. Series of agreements which seemed to settle disagreements between Japan and US
  - D. 1920s: overpopulation, economic depression in Japan
    1. US policies are hard on Japan - immigration restrictions, high tariffs
  - E. 1931: Japanese invade Manchuria (China)
    1. US didn’t do anything (Great Depression, isolationism)
    2. Japan withdraws from the League of Nations, establish their own state in China
    3. International community doesn’t really do anything! Some economic sanctions, but that’s it
  - F. Japanese culture: very militaristic, emperor = god. Different way of fighting - very brutal, concept of “total war”
    1. Hideki Tojo: prime minister
    2. Hirohito: emperor
- II. Initial US Response to Japan
  - A. Limited
    1. Some economic sanctions, limited assistance to China, moral denunciation of Japan
    2. War between Chinese and Japanese, China refused to surrender
    3. Japan: could only win in China if all China’s resources were cut off, couldn’t do this since the US was still providing them with goods
- III. New Developments
  - A. Japan now wants French and English colonies, signs alliance pact with Germany and Italy (Axis Powers)
  - B. Roosevelt’s concerned, but Americans still don’t want to go to war
    1. 1940 economic sanctions – NO scrap iron or steel to anyone in the Western Hemisphere except Great Britain
      - a) Japan was the largest buyer of these goods, very angry about the embargo
    2. 1941: Economic freeze, Japan can’t buy anything from the US
      - a) No more oil, HUGE problem for Japan, could no longer sustain a fight in China
    3. US Pacific Fleet needed to be neutralized – Japan thought they could achieve this by bombing Pearl Harbor
- IV. Pearl Harbor Bombing
  - A. Imperial Conference in Tokyo, September 1941: Japanese leaders meet
  - B. Negotiations fail – FDR had broken Japanese code, knew an attack was coming
    1. US: Leave China and Indochina, and we’ll trade with you
    2. Japan: refuses
  - C. December 7, 1941: Japanese attack Pearl Harbor in Hawaii
    1. Attack on US Pacific Fleet – 200 aircraft destroyed, four battleships sunk, 2,400 people killed
- V. US Enters WWII
  - A. US declares war on Japan, Germany declares war on the US

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