The Road to Pearl Harbor

Japanese American Relations
1936-1941

America in the 1930s

• American Isolationism
  – America First Committee
  – Charles Lindbergh

• Interventionists
  – President Franklin Delano Roosevelt

Neutrality Act

• Signed in 1935

• Meant to keep U.S. out of war

• Quarantine Speech
Change of Mind

- 1938 → Congress authorizes creation of naval ships
- Cash-and-carry
- “All aid short of war”

The March to War

- 1940 → Roosevelt elected to third term
- Lend-lease Act
  - German U-boats
- Atlantic Charter

U. S. Lend-Lease Act, 1941

Great Britain..........................$31 billion
Soviet Union..........................$11 billion
France..................................$ 3 billion
China...................................$1.5 billion
Other European......................$500 million
South America.......................$400 million

The amount totaled: $48,601,365,000
Japanese Policy

• Defined by Fundamental Principles of National Policy (August 1936)
  – Army
    • Soviet Union is the enemy
  – Navy
    • Focus should be on the South Pacific
  – Compromise
    • Take China, then expand into Pacific “gradually and by peaceful means.”

The army and navy were to be strengthened to a level at which they could “resist the forces of the Soviet Union, and the navy should be expanded to a level sufficient to secure command of the Western Pacific against the U.S. navy.”

Summer of 1940

• Germany’s success has a great effect on Japan.

• Civilian government replaces by aggressive cabinet.

• GOALS:
  – Develop alliance with Axis
  – Seize China
  – Expand Empire to the South
  – Remove all dissent in Japan

Minister of War, Hideki Tojo
Japanese Foreign Policy

- 1940: Japanese facing resistance in China
- GOAL: Stop aid coming to China
- July 1940: Japan demands that British close down the Burma Road

Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis: The Tripartite Pact September, 1940

Foreign Policy (cont.)

- Why sign the pact?
  - They thought it would deter the United States from entering the war.

- Outcomes
  - U.S. sends $70 million to China
  - Oct. 1940: British Reopen Burma Road
  - March 1941: U.S. starts Lend-Lease

- April 1941: Japanese-Soviet Non-aggression Pact signed
Japanese-American Relations 1941

- Japan and the United States meet frequently in 1941.

- Important Events
  - Operation Barbarossa
  - Japan invades Indochina
    - Magic (September 25, 1941)
  - Fall of 1941 → U.S. freezes assets in Japan

Japan Prepares for War

- Early September → Japan decides to be ready for war by October
- Final Diplomatic Efforts
  - Fall 1941: Japan offers to withdraw from Indochina and part of China if U.S. would:
    - Not interfere with peace negotiations with China
    - Normalize trade
    - Support Japan taking over the Dutch East Indies

The End of Talking

- November 25 is set as the date that talks will stop.
- November 26, 1941
  - A Japanese attack fleet sets sail across the Northern Pacific
  - It’s destination: Pearl Harbor
VIDEO!

Pearl Harbor
The Awakening of the
“Sleeping Giant”

The Japanese Gamble

• Situation in Fall of 1941 (3 Options)
  1. Abandon Operation in Pacific.
  2. Compromise with U.S.
  3. Take Military Action

Admiral Yamamoto
Architect of the attack on Pearl Harbor
Admiral Yamamoto’s Plan

- He knew that Japan could not win a protracted war with the United States.
- If Japan were to go to war with the United States, Japan would have to strike a “crippling blow” on the American Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor.
- If this was done, Japan could “run wild” for six months to a year.
- View of Americans played a role.

The Plan

- Simultaneous attacks
  - Wake
  - Guam
  - British Malaya
  - Hong Kong
  - Burma, Dutch East Indies
  - Philippines
  - Pearl Harbor
A New Kind of Naval Warfare

- Japan redefines naval warfare by use of the aircraft carrier.

- Japanese Attack Force
  - 6 Aircraft Carriers, 2 battleships, 8 Destroyers, and 3 Heavy Cruisers
  - 360 Planes (Mitsubishi A6M Zero)

- U.S. Pacific Fleet
  - 100 Ships
  - 8 Battleships, 7 Heavy Cruisers, 3 Aircraft Carriers, Many small vessels, Army Air Corps and navy planes

The Attack

- December 7, 1941

- 7:41am → First Planes Arrive at Oahu

- Tora, Tora, Tora
American Losses

• Staggering Losses
  – 4 of 8 battleships sunk (other 4 are damaged)
  – 3 destroyers sunk
  – 4 smaller ships sunk
  – 3 cruisers damaged
  – 2,400 service personnel killed

• Hickam Field
  • 160 Aircraft Destroyed
  • 128 Aircraft Disabled
  • Positioning of Aircraft

• Japanese only lose 29 planes.
Pearl Harbor from the Cockpit of a Japanese Plane

Pearl Harbor – Dec. 7, 1941

A date which will live in infamy!

USS Arizona, Pearl Harbor
An Incomplete Success

• The 3 American Aircraft carriers were out to sea.
• Seven heavy cruisers were out to sea.
• Only 2 battleships were beyond repair.
• Failed to destroy:
  – Submarine Base
  – Fuel Storage Depot
• Admiral Nagumo hesitated to launch a second attack on Pearl Harbor.

The American Response

• December 8, 1941
  – “A date which will live in infamy.”

• United States declares war on Japan and Germany.

• World War II is now a GLOBAL CONFLICT