

## 1: World War II - HISTORY

*Japan entered the war on the side of the Allies on 23 August , seizing the opportunity of Imperial Germany's distraction with the European War to expand its sphere of influence in China and the Pacific.*

For operations against Japanese aircraft and naval units by squadrons based in Ceylon during the Japanese attacks of April Indian Ocean naval campaigns 45[ edit ] Main article: The Japanese minesweeping capability was never great, and when confronted with new types of mines they did not adapt quickly. Japanese shipping was driven from the Burmese coast using this type of warfare. British submarines based in British Ceylon operated against Japanese shipping. It was only after the war in Europe was clearly coming to an end that large British forces were dispatched to the Indian Ocean again. Following the neutralisation of the German fleet in late and early , forces from the Home Fleet were released, and the success of Operation Overlord in June meant even more craft could be sent, including precious amphibious assault shipping. During late , as more British aircraft carriers came into the area a series of strikes were flown against oil targets in Sumatra , such as Operation Meridian. The oil installations were heavily damaged by the attacks, aggravating the Japanese fuel shortages due to the American blockade. The final attack was flown as the carriers were heading for Sydney to become the British Pacific Fleet. After the departure of the main battle forces the Indian Ocean was left with escort carriers and older battleships as the mainstay of its naval forces. Nevertheless, during those months important operations were launched in the recapture of Burma, including landings on Ramree and Akyab and near Rangoon. Command structures[ edit ] Allied command structure[ edit ] At the start of the war the British had two commands with responsibilities for possessions in the theatre. In August the Allies formed a new South East Asian Command to take over strategic responsibilities for the theatre. The reorganisation of the theatre command took about two months. On 15 November, Auchinleck handed over responsibility for the conduct of operations against the Japanese in the theatre to Mountbatten. SEAC was disbanded on 30 November Command problems with General Stilwell and his interactions with the U. Joint Chiefs of Staff had precipitated the change. It was commanded by General Count Hisaichi Terauchi , who commanded it from to These consisted of 11 infantry divisions, six independent infantry brigades, and six tank regiments, plus artillery and support troops. The Japanese extensively used bicycle infantry , which allowed them quick movement over vast distances.

## 2: Japanese entry into World War I - Wikipedia

*Chris Cook is head of the Modern Archives Unit at the London School of Economics. He is the author, editor, and/or compiler of many previous international political reference books, including Facts on File's Asian Political Almanac and The Making of Modern Africa.*

Visit Website Did you know? As early as 1919, in his memoir and propaganda tract "Mein Kampf" My Struggle , Adolf Hitler had predicted a general European war that would result in "the extermination of the Jewish race in Germany. In the mids, he began the rearmament of Germany, secretly and in violation of the Versailles Treaty. After signing alliances with Italy and Japan against the Soviet Union , Hitler sent troops to occupy Austria in 1938 and the following year annexed Czechoslovakia. Hitler had long planned an invasion of Poland, a nation to which Great Britain and France had guaranteed military support if it was attacked by Germany. The pact with Stalin meant that Hitler would not face a war on two fronts once he invaded Poland, and would have Soviet assistance in conquering and dividing the nation itself. On September 17, 1939, Soviet troops invaded Poland from the east. Under attack from both sides, Poland fell quickly, and by early 1940 Germany and the Soviet Union had divided control over the nation, according to a secret protocol appended to the Nonaggression Pact. In fact, the Germans broke through the line with their tanks and planes and continued to the rear, rendering it useless. Hitler now turned his attention to Britain, which had the defensive advantage of being separated from the Continent by the English Channel. To pave the way for an amphibious invasion dubbed Operation Sea Lion , German planes bombed Britain extensively throughout the summer of 1940, including night raids on London and other industrial centers that caused heavy civilian casualties and damage. Arguments between Hitler and his commanders delayed the next German advance until October, when it was stalled by a Soviet counteroffensive and the onset of harsh winter weather. World War II in the Pacific With Britain facing Germany in Europe, the United States was the only nation capable of combating Japanese aggression, which by late 1941 included an expansion of its ongoing war with China and the seizure of European colonial holdings in the Far East. On December 7, 1941, Japanese aircraft attacked the major U. S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, and Germany and the other Axis Powers promptly declared war on the United States. After a long string of Japanese victories, the U. S. Pacific Fleet won the Battle of Midway in June 1942, which proved to be a turning point in the war. On Guadalcanal, one of the southern Solomon Islands, the Allies also had success against Japanese forces in a series of battles from August to February 1943, helping turn the tide further in the Pacific. In mid-1944, Allied naval forces began an aggressive counterattack against Japan, involving a series of amphibious assaults on key Japanese-held islands in the Pacific. The approach of winter, along with dwindling food and medical supplies, spelled the end for German troops there, and the last of them surrendered on January 31, 1945. Soviet troops soon advanced into Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Romania, while Hitler gathered his forces to drive the Americans and British back from Germany in the Battle of the Bulge December 16-1944, the last major German offensive of the war. An intensive aerial bombardment in February 1945 preceded the Allied land invasion of Germany, and by the time Germany formally surrendered on May 8, 1945, Soviet forces had occupied much of the country. Hitler was already dead, having committed suicide on April 30 in his Berlin bunker. Post-war Germany would be divided into four occupation zones, to be controlled by the Soviet Union, Britain, the United States and France. Heavy casualties sustained in the campaigns at Iwo Jima February 1945 and Okinawa April-June 1945, and fears of the even costlier land invasion of Japan led Truman to authorize the use of a new and devastating weapon—the atomic bomb—on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in early August. On August 10, 1945, the Japanese government issued a statement declaring they would accept the terms of the Potsdam Declaration, and on September 2, 1945, U. S. World War II proved to be the most devastating international conflict in history, taking the lives of some 35 to 60 million people, including 6 million Jews who died at the hands of the Nazis. Millions more were injured, and still more lost their homes and property. The legacy of the war would include the spread of communism from the Soviet Union into eastern Europe as well as its eventual triumph in China, and the global shift in power from Europe to two rival superpowers—the United States and the Soviet Union—that would soon face off against each other in the Cold War. Start your free trial today.

3: Crisis and Controversy: Essays in Honour of [www.enganchecubano.com](http://www.enganchecubano.com) - Google Books

*The Writings of Ian Nish BOOKS Anglo-Japanese Alliance, (London, ). The Story of Japan (London, ). Alliance in Decline (London, ). Japanese Foreign Policy, Kasumigaseki to Miyakezaka (London, ). The Origins of the Russo-Japanese War (London, ).*

Additional Information In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content: It became a war aim which gave heart to the Japanese people themselves and served as a slogan to enlist the support of countries occupied or about to be occupied by the Japanese armies. It was therefore a form of coalition, in the sense not that it was ever a binding treaty but that it was a doctrine appealing to peoples in Japanese-occupied areas against imperialism or colonialism and an idea intended to mobilize them for peace or war in the interest of the Japanese. Two of these ideas call for special mention here: There is no more effective form of coalition than one that appeals to the economic interests of all concerned. Napoleon used this in his Continental System which had appealed to the self-interest of the merchant communities throughout Europe and had been one of the morale-boosting tactics he used to claim Europe for France during the Napoleonic wars. The converse is also true. The present American-Japanese Security treaty is gravely weakened when the economic element is one-sided or lacking. Naturally the idea of "mutual prosperity" is one that has a wide-ranging appeal. The problem in the case of Japan was whether the "mutual prosperity" was credible: Did it also serve the economic interests of the occupied countries? The other ingredient was ethnic. In any coalition, linguistic-racial-religious ties between the partners can be an important factor. Ocha no Mizu Shobo, Shiels, Tokyo and Washington Toronto: An Uneasy Accord to a regional mentality, to the notion of brotherhood and partnership between Japan and China and later by extension southeast Asian countries. It was therefore pan-Asian in origin. In the view of some Japanese, it was intended to imply racial equality within Asia. On the other hand, it was racially exclusionist. Its object was to oust Britain and America from Asia haigai shugi—anti-foreignism and to set up an all-Asian sphere for co-existence and co-prosperity. Sometimes these objects were conflicting and deliberately wrapped in vagueness. One aspect of Japanese decision-making is that it relies on consensus, the result being that conflicting ambitions often appear side by side in the same document. At its most extreme, how could one reconcile Japanese leadership and Asian partnership? Conflicting strains were at work all the time. The Co-prosperity Sphere was not something dreamt up after Pearl Harbor, but it had emerged in stages. It was being refined in Japanese minds for most of the 1930s and was not unfamiliar to the Japanese public when it finally emerged in 1940. In brief, Japan succeeded in the Manchurian crisis in bringing about an economic and defensive amalgamation of Japan and Manchukuo, and during the first two years of her war with China, Japan extended this to parts of northern and central China. This doctrine of the New Order—economic, military, and political—led on to the softer notion of coprosperity as war approached with the Western democracies. Some Japanese historians would dispute the use of this term on the ground that Japan was not legally at war between 1937 and 1941; it is also arguable that she was not, by the criteria of international law, a belligerent even after 1941, that is, she had not declared war on another country. This was a period when the army and navy were increasingly on the move and were a powerful, though not unchallenged, force in the Japanese Empire. You are not currently authenticated. View freely available titles:

## 4: The Cause of and Events Leading up to the Sino-Japanese War of ( )

*War in the Pacific: Outbreak of the War. History of the Outbreak of the War in the Pacific. The underlying causes of the outbreak of the war in the Pacific relate to Japan's desire to effectively compete with the industrialized nations of western Europe and the United States.*

The photograph is especially poignant because Vasey did not survive the war. This limited Australian defence expenditure and led to a decline in the size and effectiveness of the armed forces during the s. In , the Statute of Westminster granted the Australian government independence in foreign affairs and defence. Nevertheless, from the mids, Australian governments generally followed British policy towards Nazi Germany , supporting first the appeasement of Hitler and the British guarantee of Polish independence. In some other Commonwealth Dominions , such as South Africa and Canada , there were intense parliamentary debates before the declaration of war was accepted. This position was generally accepted by the Australian public, although there was little enthusiasm for war. The Royal Australian Navy RAN , the best-prepared of the three services, was small and equipped with only two heavy cruisers , four light cruisers , two sloops , five obsolete destroyers and a number of small and auxiliary warships. The AIF was institutionally separate from the CMF, which was legally restricted to service in Australia and its external territories, and was formed by raising new units rather than transferring CMF units. On 15 November, Menzies announced the reintroduction of conscription for home-defence service, effective 1 January Men volunteered for the AIF for a range of reasons, with the most common being a sense of duty to defend Australia and the British Empire. The 6th Division formed during October and November and embarked for the Middle East in early to complete its training and to receive modern equipment after the British Government assured the Australian Government that Japan did not pose an immediate threat. The division was intended to join the British Expeditionary Force in France when its preparations were complete, but this did not eventuate as Axis forces conquered France before the division was ready. All of these divisions and the majority of the support units deployed overseas during and While many of these men were posted to Australian Article XV squadrons , the majority served with British and other Dominion squadrons. Moreover, these nominally "Australian" squadrons did not come under RAAF control and Australians often made up a minority of their airmen. In line with this, most Australian military units deployed overseas in and were sent to the Mediterranean and Middle East where they formed a key part of the Commonwealth forces in the area. During the first days of the Battle of the Mediterranean , Sydney sank an Italian destroyer and Voyager a submarine. In the running battle which followed, Bartolomeo Colleoni was sunk. The Australian ships spent much of their time at sea throughout The 6th Division relieved the 4th Indian Division on 14 December. Although the 6th Division was not fully equipped, it had completed its training and was given the task of capturing Italian fortresses bypassed by the British 7th Armoured Division during its advance. Although a larger Italian force manned the fortress, with the support of British tanks and artillery the Australian infantry quickly penetrated the defensive lines. The majority of the Italian force surrendered on 5 January and the Australians took 40, prisoners. Tobruk was secured the next day, with 25, Italian prisoners taken. The 9th Division formed the rear guard of this withdrawal, and on 6 April was ordered to defend the important port town of Tobruk for at least two months. During the ensuing siege of Tobruk the 9th Division, reinforced by the 18th Brigade of the 7th Division and British artillery and armoured regiments, used fortifications, aggressive patrolling and artillery to contain and defeat repeated German armoured and infantry attacks. Waterhen and Parramatta were sunk during these operations. Upon the request of the Australian Government, the bulk of the 9th Division was withdrawn from Tobruk in September and October and was replaced by the British 70th Division. The Allied force deployed to Greece was much smaller than the German force in the region and the defence of the country was compromised by inconsistencies between Greek and Allied plans. Perth also formed part of the naval force which protected the Allied troop convoys travelling to Greece and participated in the Battle of Cape Matapan in late March. The outnumbered Allied force was not able to halt the Germans when they invaded on 6 April and was forced to retreat. The Australians and other Allied units conducted a fighting withdrawal from their

initial positions and were evacuated from southern Greece between 24 April and 1 May. Australian warships also formed part of the force which protected the evacuation and embarked hundreds of soldiers from Greek ports. The 19th Brigade was initially successful in holding its positions when German paratroopers landed on 20 May, but was gradually forced to retreat. The Allied defeat during the Greek Campaign indirectly contributed to a change of government in Australia. The Australian force entered Lebanon on 8 June and advanced along the coast road and Litani River valley. Although little resistance had been expected, the Vichy forces mounted a strong defence which made good use of the mountainous terrain. These changes enabled the Allies to overwhelm the French forces and the 7th Division entered Beirut on 12 July. The loss of Beirut and a British breakthrough in Syria led the Vichy commander to seek an armistice and the campaign ended on 13 July. Following the outbreak of war in the Pacific most elements of the Corps, including the 6th and 7th Divisions, returned to Australia in early to counter the perceived Japanese threat to Australia. This operation ended in failure, and Nestor had to be scuttled on 16 June after being bombed the previous day. After this operation, the three surviving destroyers returned to the Indian Ocean. The lead elements of the Division arrived at El Alamein on 6 July and the Division was assigned the most northerly section of the Commonwealth defensive line. Following this battle the division remained at the northern end of the El Alamein line and launched diversionary attacks during the Battle of Alam el Halfa in early September. After a lengthy period of preparation, the Eighth Army launched its major offensive on 23 October. The 9th Division suffered a high number of casualties during this battle and did not take part in the pursuit of the retreating Axis forces. The corvettes also escorted convoys in the western Mediterranean before returning to the Eastern Fleet. The two Australian fighter bomber squadrons provided close air support to the Allied armies and attacked German supply lines until the end of the war. This special duties squadron dropped men and supplies to guerrillas in Yugoslavia and attempted to supply the Polish Home Army during the Warsaw Uprising in The RAAF, including thousands of Australians posted to British units, made a significant contribution to the strategic bombing of Germany and efforts to safeguard Allied shipping in the Atlantic. An Australian Army forestry group served in Britain between and It was joined by No. These men were not concentrated in Australian units, and were instead often posted to the Commonwealth squadron with the greatest need for personnel where they became part of a multi-national bomber crew. Five Australian heavy bomber squadrons No. The aircraft are painted with invasion stripes. In the view of Paul Hasluck , Australia fought two wars between and In December the Australian Army in the Pacific comprised the 8th Division, most of which was stationed in Malaya, and eight partially trained and equipped divisions in Australia, including the 1st Armoured Division. United States Military units also arrived in Australia in great numbers before being deployed to New Guinea. The Allies moved onto the offensive in late , with the pace of advance accelerating in From the Australian military was mainly relegated to subsidiary roles, but continued to conduct large-scale operations until the end of the war. This strategy involved the construction and defence of a major naval base at Singapore from which a large British fleet would respond to Japanese aggression in the region. To this end, a high proportion of Australian forces in Asia were concentrated in Malaya during and as the threat from Japan increased. Australian units participated in the unsuccessful Commonwealth attempts to defeat the Japanese landings, with RAAF aircraft attacking the beachheads and Vampire accompanying the British battleship Prince of Wales and battlecruiser Repulse during their failed attempt to attack the Japanese invasion fleet. While the Commonwealth forces in Johore achieved a number of local victories, they were unable to do more than slow the Japanese advance and suffered heavy casualties. After being outmanoeuvred by the Japanese, the remaining Commonwealth units withdrew to Singapore on the night of 30â€”31 January. The commander of the Singapore fortress, Lieutenant General Arthur Ernest Percival , believed that the Japanese would land on the north-east coast of the island and deployed the near full-strength British 18th Division to defend this sector. The Japanese landing on 8 February took part in the Australian sector, however, and the 8th Division was forced from its positions after just two days of heavy fighting. The division was also unable to turn back the Japanese landing at Kranji and withdrew to the centre of the island. These escapees included Major General Bennett, who was found by two post-war inquiries to have been unjustified in leaving his command. The role of these forces was to defend strategic airfields which could be used to launch attacks on

the Australian mainland. While Lark Force was regarded as inadequate by the Australian military, [83] it was not possible to reinforce it before the Japanese South Seas Force landed at Rabaul on 23 January. The outnumbered Australian force was swiftly defeated and most of the survivors surrendered in the weeks after the battle. At the time Darwin was an important base for Allied warships and a staging point for shipping supplies and reinforcements into the NEI. The sloop Yarra was also sunk off the south coast of Java when she was attacked by three Japanese cruisers while escorting a convoy on 4 March. Other Australian warships, including the light cruiser Hobart and several corvettes successfully escaped from NEI waters. An army force made up of elements from the 7th Division also formed part of the ABDACOM land forces on Java but saw little action before it surrendered at Bandung on 12 March after the Dutch forces on the island began to capitulate. Additionally, the Army, although large, contained many inexperienced units and lacked mobility. British Prime Minister Winston Churchill attempted to divert the 6th and 7th Divisions to Burma while they were en route to Australia, but Curtin refused to authorise this movement. By mid the Army had a strength of ten infantry divisions, three armoured divisions and hundreds of other units. Most of these personnel were integrated into existing formations, but a small number of racially segregated units such as the Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion were formed. A number of small units made up of Indigenous Australians were also established to patrol northern Australia and harass any Japanese forces which landed there; the members of these units did not receive pay or awards for their service until Curtin stated in December "that Australia looks to America, free of any pangs as to our traditional links or kinship with the United Kingdom.

## 5: A Guide to the War in the Pacific: Outbreak of the War in the Pacific

*Japan's aggression in China, military alliance with Hitler, and proclamation of a "Greater East Asian Co-Prosperty Sphere" that included resource-rich Southeast Asia were major milestones along the road to war, but the proximate cause was Japan's occupation of southern French Indochina in July, which placed Japanese forces in a position to grab Malaya, Singapore, and the Dutch East Indies.*

Anglo-Japanese Alliance Japan transformed dramatically in the latter 19th century from an almost totally closed in society to a modern industrialized, Empire building and militarily aggressive new nation. It seized colonies such as Okinawa, it defeated China in a major war in 1895, and to the astonishment of the world it defeated Russia in a full-scale war in 1905. It made aggressive demands, took full control of Korea, was expanding into Manchuria, and was demanding special privileges in the Chinese economy. Japan and Great Britain had both avoided military alliances before. That changed in 1902 with the signing of a treaty. The alliance was renewed and expanded in scope twice, in 1911 and 1923. The original goal was opposition to Russian expansion. The alliance facilitated Japanese entry into the World War, but did not require Japan to do so. Japan decided that for its own prestige in world affairs it had to join the war effort. However, Britain was increasingly annoyed at Japanese aggression, and quietly warned that it should not occupy German islands in the South Pacific which were desired by Australia and New Zealand, should not become involved in the Eastern Pacific, and should not seize the Dutch East Indies. Japan entered the war without restrictions, but in practice it took German possessions in China, German islands north of the equator, and made serious threats to Chinese autonomy, the Twenty-One Demands. China, feeling the very heavy pressure from Tokyo, and gaining widespread support from all the other Allies, decided it had to enter the war as well. Britain, and the dominions voted no, as did the United States; it never passed and the insult rankled for years. Finally the Japanese intervention in Siberia, while parallel to the interventions by Britain, France and the United States, seemed like too much of a land grab. Japan wanted to renew the basic treaty with Britain, but increasingly vocal opposition came from the dominions, the United States, China, and inside Britain itself. The diplomatic solution was to end negotiations on renewal, and have all the major players endorse the naval limitations agreement of the Washington Conference of 1922. To Japanese disappointment, the treaty expired in 1936. Tokyo now had no allies or real friends. On 7 August, only three days after Britain declared war on the German Empire, the Japanese government received an official request from the British government for assistance in destroying the German raiders of the Kaiserliche Marine in and around Chinese waters. Japan was a signatory of the Treaty of Versailles, which stipulated harsh repercussions for Germany. Chinese outrage over this provision led to demonstrations, and a cultural movement known as the May Fourth Movement influenced China not to sign the treaty. China declared the end of its war against Germany in September and signed a separate treaty with Germany in 1921. This fact greatly contributed to Germany relying on China, and not Japan, as its strategic partner in East Asia for the coming years. Japan occupied the German military colony in Qingdao, and occupied portions of Shandong Province. China was financially chaotic, highly unstable politically, and militarily very weak. China declared war on Germany in August 1914 as a technicality to make it eligible to attend the postwar peace conference, where they hoped to find friends who would help block the threats of Japanese expansion. They planned to send a combat unit to the Western Front, but never did so. They sought to play Japan and the United States against each other, while at the same time maintaining cooperation among all three nations against Germany. They included Japanese control of former German rights, 99 year leases in southern Manchuria, an interest in steel mills, and concessions regarding railways. China did have a seat at the Paris Peace Conference in 1919. However it was refused a return of the former German concessions and China had to accept the Twenty-One demands. A major reaction to this humiliation was a surge in Chinese nationalism expressed in the May Fourth Movement. However, it resented the sense of racial superiority among the white powers.

## 6: Excerpt - Japan's Decision for War in Some Enduring Lessons

*The war, which remained undeclared until December 9, , may be divided into three phases: a period of rapid Japanese advance until the end of , a period of virtual stalemate until , and the final period when Allied counterattacks, principally in the Pacific and on Japan's home islands, brought about Japan's surrender.*

The below excerpts from the study do not contain endnotes found in the full study Summary The Japanese decision to initiate war against the United States in continues to perplex. Did the Japanese recognize the odds against them? How did they expect to defeat the United States? Though Japanese aggression in East Asia was the root cause of the Pacific War, the road to Pearl Harbor was built on American as well as Japanese miscalculations, most of them mired in mutual cultural ignorance and racial arrogance. Roosevelt to sanction Japan by imposing an embargo on U. Yet the embargo, far from deterring further Japanese aggression, prompted a Tokyo decision to invade Southeast Asia. By mid Japanese leaders believed that war with the United States was inevitable and that it was imperative to seize the Dutch East Indies, which offered a substitute for dependency on American oil. The first was that time was working against Japan--i. The Japanese also assumed they had little chance of winning a protracted war with the United States but hoped they could force the Americans into a murderous, island-by-island slog across the Central and Southwestern Pacific that would eventually exhaust American will to fight on to total victory. The Japanese believed they were racially and spiritually superior to the Americans, whom they regarded as an effete, creature-comforted people divided by political factionalism and racial and class strife. Fleet from southern California to Pearl Harbor, and the dispatch of B long-range bombers to the Philippines all failed because the United States insisted that Japan evacuate both Indochina and China as the price for a restoration of U. The United States demanded, in effect, that Japan abandon its empire, and by extension its aspiration to become a great power, and submit to the economic dominion of the United States--something no self-respecting Japanese leader could accept. Fear and honor, "rational" or not, can motivate as much as interest. Deterrence lies in the mind of the deterree, not the deterrer. Strategy must always inform and guide operations. Economic sanctioning can be tantamount to an act of war. The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, continues to perplex. The United States could out-produce Japan in every category of armaments as well as build weapons, such as long-range bombers, that Japan could not; and though Japan could fight a war in East Asia and the Western Pacific, it could not threaten the American homeland. In attacking Pearl Harbor, Japan elected to fight a geographically limited war against an enemy capable of waging a total war against the Japanese home islands themselves. What could possibly prompt such a reckless course of action as the attack on Pearl Harbor? Was there no acceptable alternative to war with the United States in ? Did the Japanese have a concept of victory, or at least of avoiding defeat? Or were they simply, as New York congressman Hamilton Fish declared the day after Pearl Harbor, a "stark, raving mad" people who, by attacking the United States, had "committed military, naval, and national suicide"? What lessons can be drawn from the Japanese decision for war in ? Had Tokyo confined its aggression to Northeast Asia, it almost certainly could have avoided war with Britain and the United States, neither of which was prepared to go to war over China. In effect, the United States went to war over China rather than Southeast Asia -- a volte-face of enormous strategic consequence since it propelled the United States into a war with Japan over a remote country for which the United States had never been prepared to fight. The fate of China, even of Southeast Asia, did not engage core U. A war with Japan was, of course, a war the United States was always going to win, but Japan was not the enemy the Roosevelt administration wanted to fight. Was denying Japan an expanded empire in Southeast Asia more important, in , than defeating Hitler? The termination of U. A small, resource-poor, and overpopulated island state, Japan in the s sought economic self-sufficiency and great power status via the acquisition of empire--just as Great Britain had done. The United States could preach about the evils of imperialism and "spheres of influence" because, as a huge, resource-rich, continental state, it had no need for an overseas colonial empire; nor was its hegemony in the Western Hemisphere effectively challenged by other great powers. Indeed, the Japanese viewed the Monroe Doctrine as justification for their imperial ambitions. Other countries in Asia were aware of their

backwardness, but nowhere else was this awareness so intense and so paramount that it drove a people with such single-minded determination. There can be no justification for a foreign policy that consciously propels a state into a war against an inherently undefeatable enemy. Japan simply did not have the resources to police Korea and Manchuria, conquer China, invade Southeast Asia, and defeat the United States in the Pacific. Japan lacked the necessary industrial strength, and what modest manufacturing base it did possess critically depended on imported oil and other commodities from the United States. The very fact that Japanese leaders would consider sequential wars with the United States and the Soviet Union at a time when Japan was already militarily overstretched in China testifies to a fatal blindness to the strategic necessity of maintaining some reasonable harmony between political ambitions and military capacity. Like the Germans in both world wars, the Japanese seemed to believe that superior prowess at the operational level of war could and would--somehow--redeem reckless strategic decisions. And again like the Germans, the Japanese, in the celebration of their own nationalism, were utterly insensitive to the nationalism of others. Honor may have dictated the Japanese decision for war in , but "suicide before dishonor" was a policy choice the Japanese might have avoided had Tokyo been willing and able to temper its imperial ambitions and accept some measure of economic dependence on the United States. For Japan, the prosperous and relatively democratic s and the postwar decades as an economic powerhouse and ally of the United States demonstrate 20th-century possibilities other than the path of autarky through aggression. For Japan in the 20th century, good relations with the United States were always a prerequisite for a secure Japan, whereas war with the United States was always going to be a disaster.

*Preface marks the centenary of the outbreak of war between Russia and Japan, a significant event in the history of both countries. A symposium was held in the Michio.*

The Japanese government tried for several weeks to settle the incident. The establishment of Manchukuo and the creation of the United Front For much of the early 20th century, Japan had exercised effective control of Manchuria, initially through the terms of the Twenty-one Demands and later through its support of Chinese warlord Zhang Zuolin. However, a serious conflict was developing, and the Chinese in Manchuria were especially restive under the privileges held by the Japanese. Chinese citizens formed the vast majority of the population, and the legal title of the region was held by China. Yet Japan controlled much of south Manchuria through its railways and its leasehold on the Liaodong Peninsula and in other ways that compromised Chinese sovereignty. In an attempt to assert their independence, the Chinese began building a series of railroads that would in part encircle the Japanese lines and terminate at Huludao, a port which the Chinese were developing. In the summer of the friction expressed itself in minor incidents. Those in control of the main body of Japanese forces in Manchuria believed that the time had passed for temporizing and compromise. On the night of September 18, 1931, alleging that Chinese had blown up part of the track of the South Manchuria railway near the city, the Japanese seized Mukden Shenyang. Facing little resistance from Nationalist forces, the Japanese established the puppet state of Manchukuo in and installed the deposed Qing emperor Puyi as its titular head. Japan soon demonstrated that it was not content with confining its control of China to regions north of the Great Wall, and in the spring of a pronouncement from Tokyo in effect declared all China to be a Japanese preserve in which no power could take important action without its consent. These territories passed partly into Japanese control, and Suiyuan, Shansi Shanxi, and Shantung Shandong were threatened. Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek did not offer open opposition, preferring instead to pursue his campaign against Chinese communist forces. The conflict quickly ceased to be localized. The Japanese came to feel that since Chiang and the Nationalist government would not yield to their wishes they must be eliminated. To the Japanese, the rising tide of nationalism in China, directed, as much of it was, against them, had become intolerable. Initial Japanese conquests By July practically all Chinese regional military and political groups had rallied to support the Nationalist government and Chiang Kai-shek in their decision to oppose Japan by every means. The communists, who had urged a united front against Japan since, pledged their support and put their armies nominally under command of the government. From a strictly military point of view, however, Japan was so much better prepared than China that its armies achieved rapid initial success. Within the course of two years Japan obtained possession of most of the ports, the majority of the chief cities as far west as Hankow Hankou, and the larger part of the railways. Peiping and Tientsin Tianjin were occupied in July. After fierce fighting, the Chinese armies were driven out of the Shanghai area by the middle of November. Nanking Nanjing, the Nationalist capital, fell in mid-December, and the liquidation of that city and its inhabitants became known as the Nanjing Massacre. As many as 300,000 Chinese civilians and surrendered troops were killed. Moreover, tens of thousands of women were raped on the orders of Japanese commander Matsui Iwane. The capital was moved west to Hankow. The Japanese followed and took that city in October. In the same month, the Chinese lost Canton Guangzhou. The Japanese pressed northward and westward from Peiping along the railway lines into Shansi and Inner Mongolia. They had complete command of the sea. Always superior in the air, before many months they had all but destroyed the Chinese air force and bombed Chinese cities at will. The loss of life, particularly for the Chinese, was enormous. Chiang Kai-shek moved his capital to Chungking Chongqing, in Szechwan Sichuan, at the western end of the Yangtze gorges. Unoccupied China prepared for prolonged resistance. In occupied China, Japan was unsuccessful in inducing many Chinese to take office in the governments that it endeavoured to set up. The communists were particularly successful in using guerrilla methods to resist Japan. The rapid Japanese advances broke down the established patterns of politico-military control. Communist troops and organizers moved into the vast rural areas behind Japanese lines. They organized village self-defense units, created local governments, and

expanded their own armies, the Eighth Route Army , operating in the mountains and plains of north China, and the New Fourth Army in the lower Yangtze valley. The Japanese had seized Manchuria in and by occupied much of the coast and North China Plain. Stalemate During the stalemate phase of the war, beginning in , Japan tried to subdue Chinese resistance by blockade. In at least one, Foochow Fuzhou , the occupation was only intermittent , but in most of them it was continuous. Japanese expansion in the late 19th and 20th centuries. Then, following years of increasing tension, came the sudden outbreak of war between the United States and Great Britain on the one hand and Japan on the other. The Japanese, taking advantage of their preparedness and of their favourable geographic position, quickly made themselves dominant on the coasts of east Asia. Their capture of Hong Kong and of Burma in shut doors by which goods had moved in and out of unoccupied China. The only routes that now remained to connect the Chinese with their allies abroad were the long and poorly constructed roads across Sinkiang Xinjiang and the air passage from Assam. Corruption on the part of Japanese officials and the skill of blockade runners allowed some goods to trickle through the Japanese lines along the coast. Lacking modern industry and transport facilities, the western provinces struggled to support the huge armies and the government. The region was crowded with refugees, and some of its cities were bombed. These factors caused great hardship and encouraged hoarding, speculation, and graft. The army, unable to take the offensive against the superior Japanese forces, steadily deteriorated. In the schools and universities, a shortage of books and equipment, malnutrition, and attempted regimentation by the government all had a deteriorating effect. The government, too, was deeply affected by the war. It had lost its industrial and financial base in east China and the flower of its armies. The strong public support it had enjoyed during the early years of resistance waned and turned to apathy or hostility. The government was blamed for the ills of inflation, corruption, and heavy taxation. When the communists began to reappear as rivals rather than subordinates, the Nationalist government retaliated with repressive measures, which it also applied to other groups. Essentially an authoritarian regime, it tended to become more repressive and less efficient as the war dragged on. The scattered areas controlled by the Communist Party and its armies grew during the war until they covered large parts of north and east China. This was partly the result of economic and social reforms, which improved the conditions of the peasantry , and partly the result of the system of local government, which encouraged wide participation of the public through mass organizations even though control was held firmly by the party. The army was also popular because of its good discipline and close relations with the common people upon whom it depended for existence. During the stalemate period, relations between the Nationalists and the communists were embittered by many military clashes for which each side blamed the other. The communists did everything possible to strengthen themselves, whereas the Nationalist government tried to keep them confined by blockade and other means. In effect the Chinese Civil War was merely submerged, after , in the larger war with Japan. In the occupied regions, Japan tried to win support and lessen its military burden by setting up a puppet regime at Nanking To head it, the Japanese selected Wang Ching-wei , once an intimate companion of Sun Yat-sen , whose tradition Wang Ching-wei professed to be continuing. Japan also went through the motions of restoring to Chinese administration the French concession and the international settlement in Shanghai, which it had taken over after the attack on Pearl Harbor. Yet Japan was no more successful than it had been previously in inducing many Chinese of ability and integrity to serve in these administrations. Obviously, too, no important step could be taken by these regimes without the approval of the Japanese authorities. Wang Ching-wei Wang Jingwei , Japanese strongholds were bombed by U. In India the United States also was training and equipping Chinese forces that had taken refuge there after the fall of Burma. Yet the main theatre of war was far from China, whose armies by then were too debilitated to play an important part in the final campaigns. Chiang Kai-shek meeting with his staff during the Sino-Japanese War “ The Nationalist government had been seriously undermined by seven years of war and inflation , while the strength of the communists, under Mao Zedong , had grown. The United States also had wished for China to take a place as a stabilizing influence in eastern Asia after the war. In various ways U. Resumption of hostilities between the Nationalists and the communists seemed inevitable, and the fragile peace of the United Front collapsed shortly after the Japanese surrender on September 2, Mao Zedong Mao Zedong addressing a group of his followers in

## 8: What caused the start of WWII in the Pacific? | eNotes

*1 Strategic Culture and Japanese Military Intelligence during the Pacific War, 1 Douglas Ford During the opening stages of the Pacific War, when Japan achieved a continuous.*

Citation Sea, Land, and Air: Whitehall referred to a clause in the Anglo-Japanese Alliance that established the mutual support of the two countries. Germany must withdraw its fleet from Asian waters and unconditionally hand over its Jiaozhou Bay concession by 15 September. To avoid the advance of the war into its own territory, the Chinese government had announced its neutrality in early August. Before the ultimatum expired, the Germans had prepared for a siege, laying mine barriers and strengthening fortifications against sea and land attacks. The German East Asia Squadron was not at its Qingdao base when the conflict started, so defenders were equipped with only a gunboat, a torpedo boat, and an obsolete cruiser. The Japanese navy, for its part, sent a sizeable fleet of sixty-eight vessels that included six cruisers, thirty-one destroyers and torpedo boats, and a seaplane carrier. The numerical superiority of Japanese ground troops was even more overwhelming. Around five thousand German troops faced a Japanese ground force of nearly 50,000 men, together with a British contingent of about 1,000 soldiers. The Japanese began a naval blockade on 27 August and, six days later, landed their expeditionary force on Chinese territory. On 4 September, the appearance of Japanese airplanes marked the beginning of almost daily air raids against German positions and vessels. Japanese warships and land-based heavy artillery started shelling the town. The Japanese launched their final attack on 29 October. With Japanese shelling eliminating most of the German artillery and supplies running low, the German troops surrendered on 7 November. Even with its limited geographical scope and predictable outcome, the Battle of Qingdao was a harbinger of modern warfare. A pattern had evolved that was soon to wreak havoc on European battlefields as well: Heavy artillery fire bombarded an entrenched enemy while defenders relied on machine guns to fend off advancing infantry. Airplanes as a new weapon proved their worth to watch and strike from the sky, and aerial bombing demonstrated its future potential to inflict material and psychological damage on an unprecedented scale. The fall of Qingdao also had important diplomatic ramifications. Less than three months after the German surrender, Japan issued the so-called Twenty-One Demands, which forced the Chinese government to recognize Japanese control of the occupied Shandong territory. However, in autumn, the main force of the East Asia Squadron was already out of reach, operating in the eastern Pacific and preparing for a breakthrough around Cape Horn into the Atlantic. Yet control of the South Pacific islands was a key target for the Japanese. In August and September, the Japanese navy expeditiously set up two detachments for operations in the South Pacific. The two task forces steamed on a southeastern course for their 4,000-kilometer voyage to the Marshall and Mariana Islands. Yamaya arrived with his three cruisers and two destroyers at the Jaluit Atoll on 29 September. When the Navy Ministry ordered immediate withdrawal, Yamaya complied and fell back kilometers to the Eniwetok Atoll. On 14 October, with the capture of Saipan in the Mariana Islands archipelago, the occupation was complete. Unlike the siege of Qingdao, the South Pacific Islands campaign had been short, with very little publicity and no casualties. Now a numerically inferior Japanese navy was in a position to intercept and weaken the U.S. Navy's *Task Force 11*. *Women Soldiers and Flying Aces*: Since 1937, a well-trained corps of Japanese volunteer nurses had existed for wartime relief. After three years of training, these nurses entered the reserve forces and could be summoned for military service. The Red Cross Society welcomed the opportunity to promote its reputation for humanitarian relief. It quickly put together three squads, each composed of one surgeon and twenty carefully selected nurses, to be sent to Europe on a five-month assignment. The arrival of the nurses received wide press coverage, and their efforts earned much praise. The host countries subsequently asked the Japanese Red Cross teams to extend their relief work to a period of up to fifteen months. Some of them became part of the new myth of the fighter aces who chased the enemy high above the trenches of the stalemated armies. Shigeno Kiyotake, a Japanese nobleman and accomplished pianist, joined the French flying corps in December. He died in combat during the Spring Offensive and was posthumously awarded the Croix de Guerre. Ishibashi Katsunami used his knowledge of French aircraft design to build racing airplanes in Japan, while Moro Goroku embarked on a distinguished

career as a Kawasaki aircraft engineer. Initially, the Japanese government refused to send any troops. The minister shrewdly suggested that such a move would lead to a more cooperative cabinet. On 1 February, Germany announced it would resume its unlimited submarine warfare and intensify attacks on Allied ships. The seventeen warships of the squadron were to provide protection for Allied ships against attacks from German and Austro-Hungarian submarines operating from bases along the Eastern Adriatic coast, in the Aegean Sea, and at Constantinople. The Japanese cruisers and destroyers thus patrolled the main sea routes linking Alexandria, Marseilles, Taranto in Italy, and Thessaloniki that were vital for the transport of troops and supplies. The Japanese navy played a crucial role in one of the most spectacular rescue missions of World War I. On 4 May, the troopship *Transylvania* was hit by a German torpedo. With the help of the destroyers *Matsu* and *Sakaki*, around 3, of the nearly 3, persons on board were saved. During their deployment in the Mediterranean, the Japanese escorted twenty-one British warships and more than Allied transport ships, which altogether carried more than, passengers and sailors. More than 7, crew members and passengers who would otherwise have been casualties of submarine attacks owed their lives to Japanese rescue missions. The commander of the Malta base, George A. He was also impressed by the high operational rate of the Japanese squadron, which even surpassed that of its British counterparts. Upon its return to Japan, the Second Special Squadron brought seven German submarines as war trophies. Much Ventured, Nothing Gained: On 3 December, he suggested deploying Japanese and U. Even though the Japanese cabinet rejected this bold plan, officials of the Japanese army took up the idea of sending troops to Siberia. Prime Minister Terauchi immediately dispatched the cruiser *Iwami* to forestall any unilateral British action. The Japanese warship arrived on 12 January, two days before the *Suffolk*. On 4 April, after an attack on Japanese civilians, Japanese marines occupied Vladivostok and established Japanese control over the city for the next four months. In July, U. President Woodrow Wilson asked for 7, Japanese troops to join an international coalition that was to confiscate a large stockpile of weapons and ammunition and to relieve around 50, anti-Bolshevik Czech and Slav nationalists who hoped to evacuate via Vladivostok. The Terauchi Cabinet was more than eager to comply. On 18 August, the soldiers of the 12th Division landed at Vladivostok and marched north to capture Khabarovsk. Both units carried with them a total of twenty-one aircraft for reconnaissance, propaganda, and bombing missions. Wartime inflation had led to rising food prices, sparking violent protests between July and September. The army deployed more than, troops to put down the riots, and Prime Minister Terauchi resigned. Tanaka Giichi, the newly appointed war minister, then decided to withdraw half of the Japanese troops in Siberia by December. The remaining Japanese units engaged in fighting with Bolshevik partisans, resulting in heavy losses on both sides. In May, Russian partisans killed almost Japanese civilians and soldiers at Nikolaevsk. The Siberian intervention was a dismal failure. Nearly 1, Japanese servicemen lost their lives in combat, and soldiers died from cold or disease. With its expansion into the Chinese mainland, the southern Pacific, and the Transbaikal region, the Japanese military eventually controlled an area nearly as vast as the World War II Pacific War theater. It also granted Japan all German rights in the Jiaozhou Bay concession, very much to the disillusionment of the Chinese delegates, who subsequently refused to sign the treaty. In addition, the treaty gave Japan access to the latest German military technology, including not only submarines, but also airplanes, aero engines, and other aeronautical material. By the early s, relations with Britain and the United States had deteriorated, and Japan turned from an ally to an opponent that threatened British and U. Furthermore, Britain yielded to U. Japan and the Outbreak of War in, in: *Collected Writings of Ian Nish*, part 1, Richmond, pp. *Japan and the Great War*, New York, pp. *Strategy to Defeat Japan*, "Annapolis Nihon kaigunshi [History of the Japanese Navy], volume 2, Tokyo, p. *Women Soldiers Delegated to Europe*. Osaka City University Studies in the Humanities 64. *The Times History of the War*, London, p. *The Way of the Heavenly Sword. Its Rise and Fall*, "Lawrence, p. *Continental Expansion*, in: *The Cambridge History of Japan*, Vol. *The Twentieth Century*, New York, p.

**9: UK - WWII - FE/Pac - E-M**

*The attack on Pearl Harbor served to unify American public opinion in favor of entering World War II, and on December*

*8 Congress declared war on Japan with only one dissenting vote.*

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