

Our Class

Begins with a brief history of Japan 800-1945

Discusses the factors leading to World War II

Closely reviews the events ending the war

describing events you never knew happened

Takes a long look at the role of Douglas MacArthur
in creating the modern Japan we know today

Some Japanese History

Japan was organized society in 9th Century with
a centralized government headed by the
Emperor

Imperial capital established in what is Kyoto
today





Some Japanese History

Power of the Emperor gradually declined and shifted to the “samurai” warrior class

Local lords called “shogun”

Golden period of old Japan ended in 1185 with civil war between shoguns

Around 1600 power consolidated under Tokugawa who was named shogun by Emperor

Capital moved to Edo (modern day Tokyo) and Tokugawa cut Japan off from the outside world

Isolation ends with arrival of American Commodore Perry 1854



Some Japanese History

1854 Japanese trade opens to the US

1868 shogun in Kyoto pledges loyalty to Emperor

Japan seeks to become a power by gaining technology from Europe

artillery from France, naval architecture from Germany



Some Japanese History

A modernized Japanese navy launches surprise attack on Czarist Russian fleet at Tsushima 1905

First modern victory of an Asian power over European power

Shifts balance of power in Asia - jolts Europe

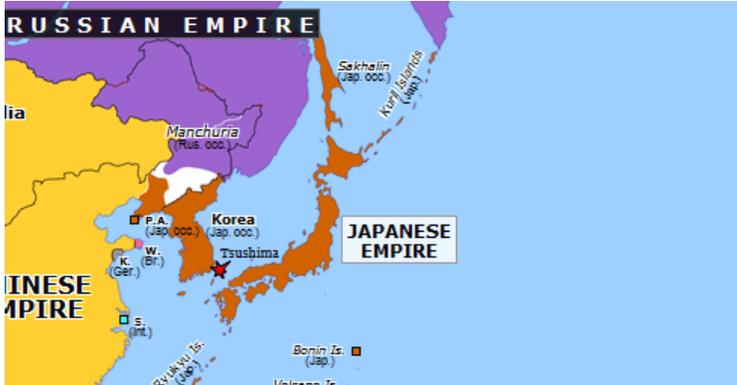
Japan now a power to be reckoned with



Theodore Roosevelt mediates settlement in Russo-Japanese war. Gives Japan nod to occupy Korea



Japanese Expansion - 1905



The Great War 1914-1918

Japan sides with Allied Powers

No combat in Pacific area

Does send naval squadron to the Mediterranean

Is very disappointed with Treaty of Versailles as one of three Allied power who received nothing

US didn't want anything

Italy wanted possessions in Adriatic

Japan's Economic Bind

Had none of the natural resources needed for industrial (and military expansion)

no oil, iron and steel, or rubber

Had growing population with limited land for housing and agriculture

Militarists seize power in 1920's and set Japan on a course for militarization and expansion in Asia

Japanese Expansion - 1931

Invades
China 1931

Seeking iron
and coal

Expands war
inland 1935



done by military without civilian approval

Japanese Expansion - 1937

Expands
southward in
1935

Expands war
inland 1935

Brutal
occupation of
Nanking



Japanese atrocities in Nanking shock the world



Strategy Disagreements

Old line admirals view the battleship as key

Young Yamamoto argues for aircraft carriers

Not unlike the same disagreement in USA

Gen Billy Mitchell argues with Navy brass

Mitchell is court-martialed, Yamamoto is listened to, at least partially

Fundamental disagreement will still cause problems

Deteriorating Relations

Japanese bomb USS Panay evacuating citizens from Nanking

1937 “Marco Polo Bridge” incident plunges Japan and China into full-scale war

1940 Japan makes deal with Vichy France

Announces “**Greater East Asia Co-Prosperty Sphere**” and intent to drive West out of Asia

FDR Reacts to Japan

Seeking iron and coal Japan expands war inland 1935

Brutal occupation of Nanking

1941 FDR provides Lend-Lease aid to China

July 1941 FDR freezes Japanese assets

Then cuts off steel and oil exports

The Emperor

Hirohito becomes Emperor
in 1926

Quiet man more interested
in marine biology

Names his era "Showa"
meaning "Peace"

Believed to be a living god



Hard Line Militarists Rule

October 1941

General Hideki Tojo
becomes Prime Minister

Sets Japan on a course
for war with USA



PM Hideki Tojo

Japanese Plans

Plan to go south into French Indo-
China and Dutch East Indies

Know US Pacific Fleet could be largest
deterrent

Directs Admiral Yamamoto to develop
plan to neutralize US Navy in Pacific

Yamamoto had studied at Harvard and
knew the US



Adm Isoroku
Yamamoto

Yamamoto's Warning

Fears US industrial capacity more than US Navy

Tells Japanese political leaders the war must be won in less than 6-12 months

Before US industrial capacity can be brought to bear



"In the first six to twelve months of a war with the United States and Great Britain I will run wild and win victory upon victory."

"But then, if the war continues after that, I have no expectation of success".

Success at Pearl Harbor

Complete surprise

US aircraft carriers are at sea

Japanese do not follow up with strikes on fuel and maintenance facilities



Japanese Conquests

Hong Kong, Singapore, Malay Peninsula

Philippines, Dutch East Indies (Indonesia)

MacArthur is ordered to Australia

Island after island falls across the Pacific

Most of New Guinea falls, Australia is threatened

Yamamoto is indeed "running wild" in the Pacific

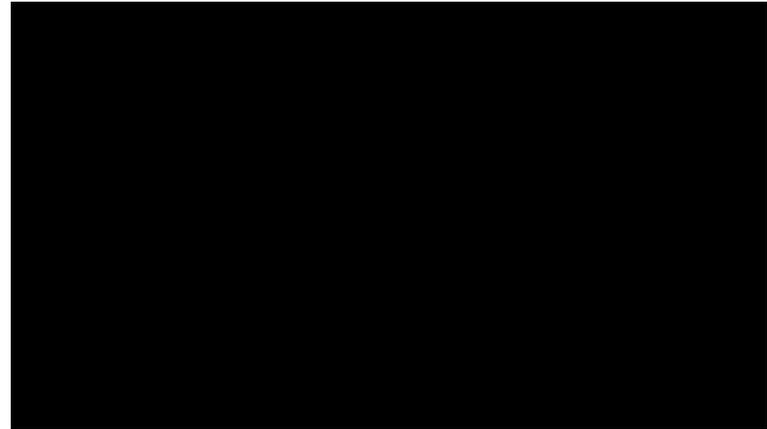
US Strikes Back

An angry FDR orders US military to develop a plan to strike back at Japan

In amazing Army-Navy cooperation a plan is developed

Use land-based B-25 medium bombers to fly off aircraft carriers near Japan

Mission is led by Colonel Jimmy Doolittle



Impact of Doolittle Raid

Raid itself did little significant military damage

Prime effect was psychological - on both sides

Big morale lift to USA

Japanese leaders will restrict Yamamoto's aggressive plans for 1942

Now have to worry about the home islands

Importance of Codes

US had broken Japanese *diplomatic* code in November 1941

knew some Japanese move in early December
- but where?

Japanese *operational* code not broken until January 1942 - too late to help at Pearl Harbor

US was now able to intercept messages to Japanese naval, air, and army units

Midway: June 4-7, 1942

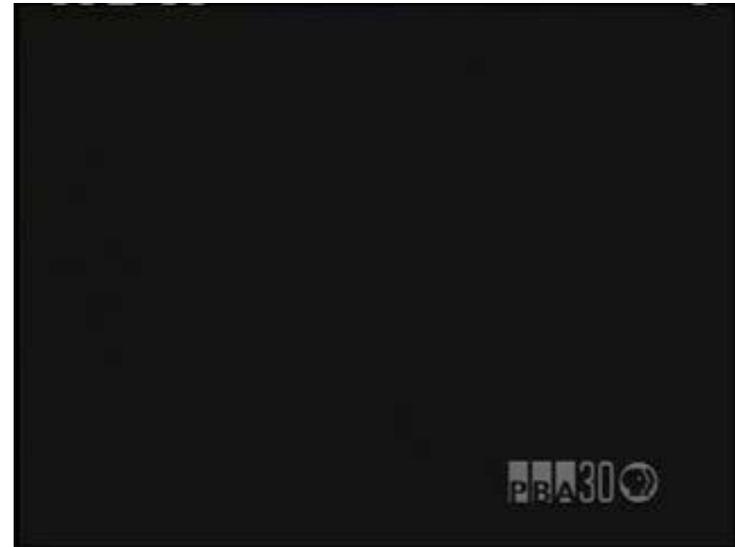
US intercepts and a good hunch identify next Japanese major attack at Midway Island

Admiral Nimitz sets ambush for the Japanese

In a very close battle, US carrier based torpedo and dive bombers sink 4 Japanese carriers

Breaks the offensive capability of Japanese navy

Yamamoto's prophecy comes true for Japan



Height of Japanese Expansion



Progress of Second World War

After Midway Japanese fortunes ebb

US launches massive military buildup

Begins recapturing Japanese conquests

First US victory is at Guadalcanal

After the loss of Saipan in 1944 political change in Tokyo

Progress of Second World War



1944 - New Japanese PM

Japanese people being told they are winning the war

By 1944 senior political leaders know better

Tojo is ousted after fall of Saipan



General Kuniaki Koiso

Tactics of Desperation

Onishi commands First Air Fleet

Now reduced to ~100 planes

As Americans approach Leyte in the Philippines he develops a new strategy



Admiral Onishi

Onishi launches suicide planes against US ships





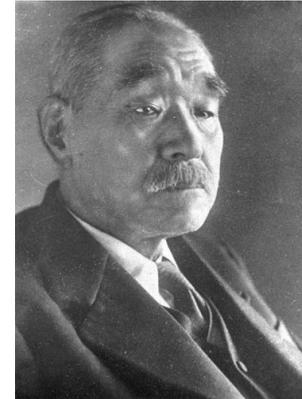
1945 - Another PM

PM Koiso insists on having a role in military decision-making

Military leaders refuse

He resigns and is replaced by aging Admiral Suzuki

Emperor is comfortable with Suzuki - hints he is leaning to surrender



Adm Kantaro Suzuki

What We Believe About End

US and Britain planned to invade Japan in November

Atomic bombs did it all

Hiroshima August 6, 1945

Nagasaki three days later

Japanese sue for peace

What happened was much more complicated



Break