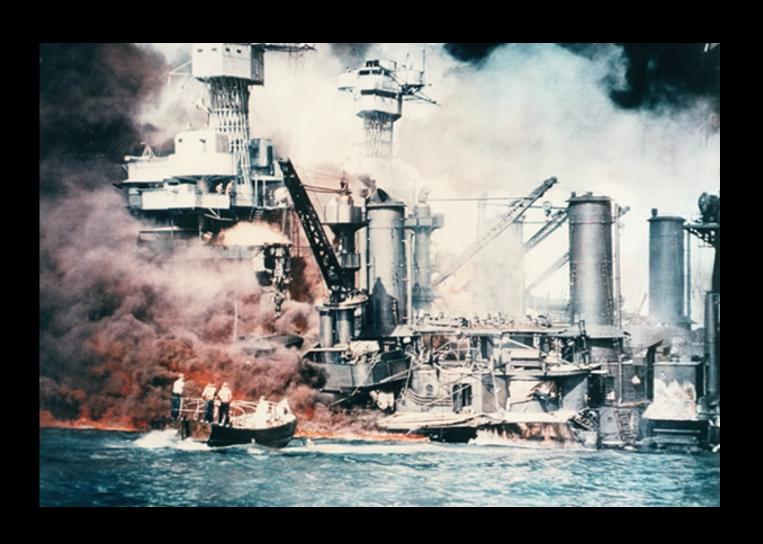
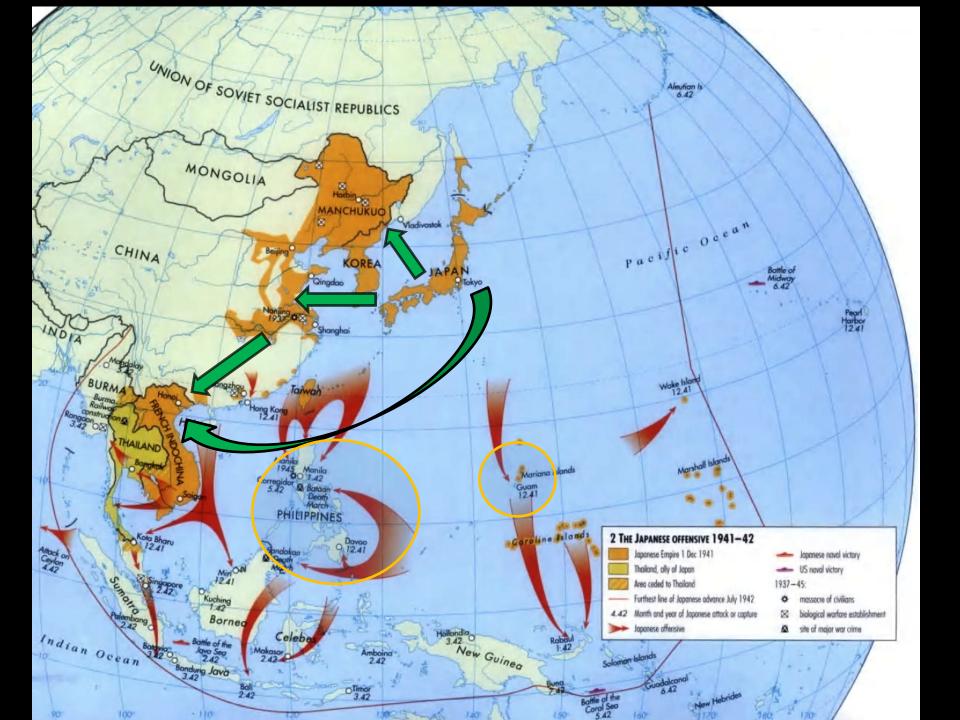
# Attack on Pearl Harbor



# Background

1931

- Japanese troops sweep into Manchuria in northeastern China.
- 1937→ Japan invades central China.
  - Expect quick victory, Chinese resistance leads to drawn out conflict
  - Need more resources so Japan invades the rich European colonies of Southeast Asia.
- 1940→ U.S. had cracked the Japanese code and were aware of their plans for Southeast Asia.
  - If it occurred, it would threaten the American- controlled Philippine Islands and Guam.
  - FDR begins a series of trade restrictions with Japan in order to persuade them to not invade Southeast Asia.



#### **Background**

#### October 1940- July 1941

- Japanese overrun French Indochina
  - Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos
- September 1940 

  The U.S. placed an embargo on Japan
  - Refuse to export steel, scrap iron, and aviation fuel to Japan
- Roosevelt cuts off oil shipments to Japan. War becomes inevitable.
  - U.S. is the number one supplier of oil to Japan.
  - Only 2 years of oil reserves in peacetime
  - 1 year if they went to war due to the increased naval traveling
  - Time is critical

# Background September 1941

 By September 1941, Japanese oil reserves had dropped to 50 million barrels, and their navy alone was burning 2,900 barrels of oil every hour.

#### The Warnings

- The U.S. had broken the Japanese diplomatic code and knew an attack was imminent. A warning had been sent from Washington, but it arrived too late.
- Early warning radar was new technology. Japanese planes were spotted by radar before the attack, but they were assumed to be a flight of American B-17s due in from the West Coast

# December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941

 On an otherwise peaceful Sunday morning on the beautiful Hawaiian island of Oahu, the first wave of Japanese airplanes left 6 Japanese aircraft carriers and struck Pearl Harbor a few minutes before 8 AM local time.

First wave: 49 High-altitude bombers, 51 dive-bombers, 40 torpedo planes, 43 fighters.

### **0702 Hours**

- The Army's Opana Mobile Radar Station is one of six radar stations on Oahu.
  - Radar is a new defense tool in Hawaii; the system has been in operation for less than a month.
  - One of the two privates on duty looks at the radar screen and can't believe his eyes.
  - He asks his buddy to take a look—and he confirms the sighting: 50 or more aircraft on a bearing for Oahu. The privates call the Fort Shafter information center, the hub of the radar network.

### 0720 Hours (18 min later)

- An Army lieutenant who is in training at the radio-network operations center gets the Opana radar station report: "the biggest sightings" the radar operator had ever seen.
  - By now the planes are about 70 miles (113 kilometers) away.
  - The lieutenant believes that the radar had picked up a flight of U.S. B-17 Flying Fortress bombers heading from California to Hawaii. For security reasons, he cannot tell this to the radar operators.

All he says is, "Well, don't worry about it."

### 0733 Hours

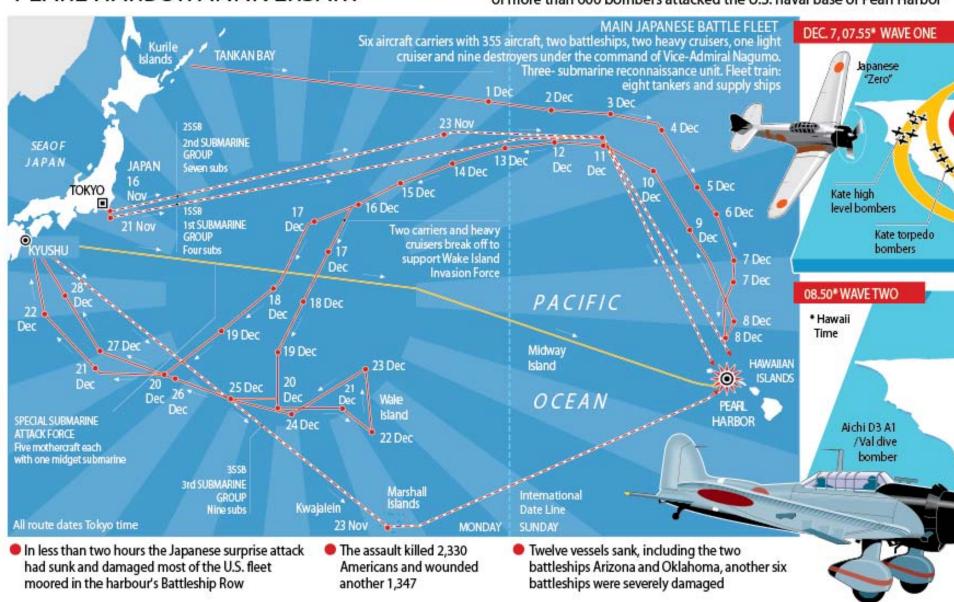
- U.S. code breakers, though stymied by Japanese naval codes, have cracked the Japanese diplomatic code.
  - From a Tokyo-to-Washington message, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Gen. George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff, learn that Japanese negotiators in Washington have been told to break off talks.
  - Believing this may mean war, Marshall sends a warning to Lt. Gen. Walter C. Short, commander of U.S. Army forces in Hawaii.
  - Because of atmospheric static blacks out communications with Hawaii, Marshall's message goes via commercial telegraph. (It will reach Short's headquarters at 1145 hours. He will not see it until about 1500 hours.)

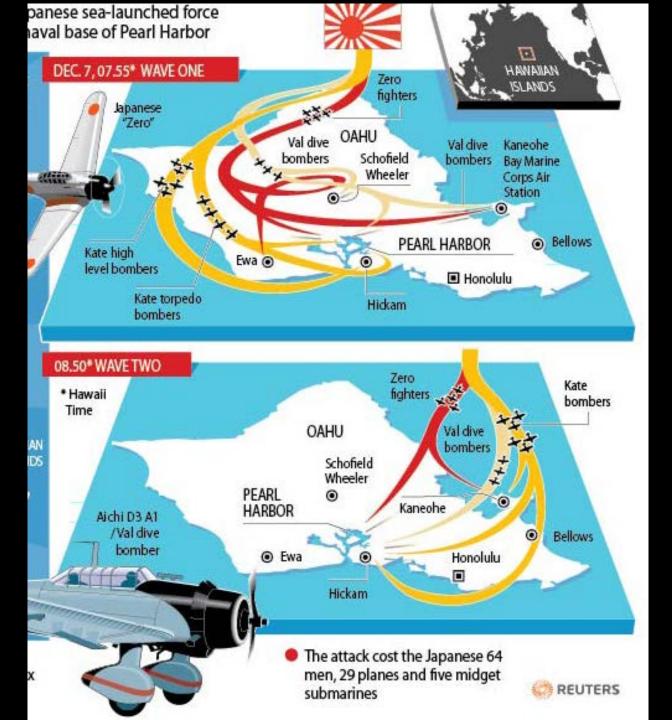
#### From: Tokyo To: Washington Date: 7 Dec. 1941

- Take great pains that this does not leak out. "You are to take the following measures immediately: "
  - 1. With the exception of one copy each of the [omit] codes, you are to burn all telegraph codes (this includes the codebooks for communication between the three departments [HATO] and those for use by the Navy).
  - 2. As soon as you have completed this operation wire the one word HARUNA. "
  - 3. Burn all secret records of incoming and outgoing telegrams. "
  - 4. Taking care not to arouse outside suspicion, dispose of all secret documents in the same way. "Since these measures are in preparation for an emergency, keep this within your consulate and carry out your duties with calmness and care."

#### PEARL HARBOR ANNIVERSARY

Shortly after dawn on December 7, 1941, a Japanese sea-launched force of more than 600 bombers attacked the U.S. naval base of Pearl Harbor





 Most U.S. planes have been parked wingtip-to-wingtip in neat rows to make it easy to guard them against sabotage. Most are destroyed





### **0810** hours

- An armor-piercing bomb, dropped by a high-altitude bomber, pierces the forward deck of the *Arizona*, setting off more than a million pounds of gunpowder, creating a huge fireball, and killing 1,177 men.
- A sailor on the torpedoed battleship Nevada sees the Arizona
  "jump at least 15 or 20 feet upward in the water and sort of
  break in two." In nine minutes the Arizona is on the bottom
  on the harbor.





### **0854** hours

• The second wave—35 fighters, 78 dive-bombers, and 54 highaltitude bombers—meets heavy antiaircraft fire.

- In two waves lasting two long hours, the Japanese killed or wounded over 3,500 Americans and sank or badly damaged 18 ships
  - including all 8 battleships of the Pacific Fleet
  - 350 destroyed or damaged aircraft.
  - At least 1,177 lives were lost when the Battleship U.S.S. Arizona exploded and subsequently sank.

# VERY Large Mistake

- 1. Did not sink any of our Pacific aircraft carriers
- 2. They left most of the fuel intact that was needed to win the war in the Pacific.

 Japanese pilots push for a third wave but the commanders call it off because the whereabouts of the U.S. aircraft carriers are still unknown.

#### Interesting to know....

- In the 44 months of war that will follow, the U.S. Navy will sink EVERY ONE of the Japanese aircraft carriers, battleships, and cruisers that had a hand in this strike force.
- And when Japan signs the surrender document on September 2, 1945, among the U.S. warships in Tokyo Bay will be a victim of the attack, the U.S.S. West Virginia.

# USS Arizona Memorial







## **USS** Oklahoma

 Hit by three torpedoes in very beginning of attack.



- She began to capsize, two more torpedoes struck home, and her men were strafed as they abandoned ship.
- within 12
  minutes after
  the attack began,
  she had rolled
  over until halted
  by her masts
  touching
  bottom, her
  starboard side
  above water, and
  a part of her keel
  exposed.
- 429 crew died when she capsized in Battleship Row.

### **USS** Oklahoma



### Then vs. Now



Defenders on Ford Island watch for planes during the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor.



The battleship USS California (BB 44) burns in the foreground as the battleship USS Arizona (BB 39) burns in the background after the initial attack on Pearl Harbor.



The Mahan-class destroyer USS Shaw (DD 373) explodes in the background after the attack on Pearl Harbor.



Sailors on Ford Island look on as the Mahan-class destroyer USS Shaw (DD 373) explodes in the background after the attack on Pear Harbor.

# December 8<sup>th</sup>, 1941, 1229 hours

- The President, entered the Chamber of the House, was introduced briefly by Speaker Sam Rayburn, and received a thunderous ovation.
- For the past nine years, Republicans had shown little enthusiasm toward the President when he addressed a Joint Session of Congress.
- This time, the Republicans joined in, signifying the nation's sudden unity.
- Solemnly, he began his speech requesting a declaration of war:

"Yesterday, December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan."

# USS Missouri

"Mighty Mo"

