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DBQ Rewrite

In the mid 1930's, the world had just ended World War I and had established the League of Nations to resolve future world problems. The United States did not join the League of Nations and made the Japanese suspicious. This was not the time to upset Japan because they started gaining military power and were becoming angry over the United States' strong demands on them. Several political, social, and economic factors led to the Attack on Pearl Harbor, including United States' withdrawal of troops from Japan, the Japanese' cultural belief in the Yamato's superiority, and their desire to grow as an empire.

CV

2

Why Did Japan Attack Pearl Harbor DBA

mention WWI?

During the early 20th century, the major parts of the world had formed the League of Nations, thinking it would solve future world problems. The United States did not join and made Japanese leaders suspicious. As time progressed Japan gained military power and jealousy over the United States' power. Several political, social, and economic factors led to the attack on Pearl Harbor, including United States' withdrawal of troops from Japan, the Japanese' cultural belief in the Yamato's superiority, and their desire to acquire more land.

CV

Chastin: your contextualization could have included prior knowledge. Overall good job.

Helena: the thesis was good. For the contextualization you could have added in WWI and the fact that Japan attacked China in an effort to expand their empire.

Myron: Great job solid 9

Adam: Overall, you did a great job, just add some event or a date that would help strengthen your context.

On December 7, 1941, Japanese planes and submarines made a surprise attack on the base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The following day, President Roosevelt, supported by Congress, declared war on Japan. It marked the beginning of America's direct involvement in World War II. Why did the United States enter a war that was smaller than Civil War, after the war had started?

- 1. The New World Order
- 2. Japan's Expansion (Imperialism)
- 3. American and Japanese Imperialism
- 4. The League of Nations
- 5. The Attack on Pearl Harbor

Why Did Japan Attack Pearl Harbor?



Overview: On December 7, 1941, Japanese planes and submarines made a surprise attack on the United States at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The following day, President Roosevelt, supported by Congress, declared war on Japan. It marked the beginning of America's direct involvement in World War II. Why did this island nation with a land area smaller than California, attack the United States at Pearl Harbor?

The Documents:

- Document A: The New World Order
- Document B: Japan's Expansion (map)
- Document C: Actions and Reactions (timeline)
- Document D: US Embargo on Oil, Steel, and Scrap Iron (chart)
- Document E: Hideki Tojo: Imperial Conference, Nov. 5, 1941

A Mini Document Based Question (Mini-Q)

Hook Exercise: Pearl Harbor

Directions: In 1924 the United States Congress passed the Immigration Quota Act. The new law sharply restricted the number of immigrants from eastern and southern Europe. It also denied immigration to Indians, Chinese, and Japanese. Below is a response from a Japanese newspaper. Read the passage and then consider the three questions that follow.

background

Japan Times and Mail, April 19, 1924

"The Senate's Declaration of War"

There is no denying that the adoption by the American Senate of the exclusion amendment to the Immigration bill has given a shock to the whole Japanese race such as has never before been felt... (T)he Senate has passed, with an almost overwhelming

majority, an amendment they know is a most humiliating one to the Japanese race. And the event cuts the Japanese minds deep, a wound that will hurt and rankle for generations and generations.

Questions

1. Much of the anti-Japanese feeling in the United States in the 1920s was in California. The opposition included California labor organizations. Why would California workers be against Japanese immigration? *they were against it because they felt that the Japanese were taking their jobs?*
2. Why does the headline in the *Japan Times and Mail* call the Senate vote a "Declaration of War"? *this was what the Japanese considered the start of the war*
3. Seventeen years after this vote and this article, Japan attacked the United States at Pearl Harbor. Is there a possible connection between the Immigration Quota Act of 1924 and Pearl Harbor? Explain.

Why Did Japan Attack Pearl Harbor?

It is possible to argue that the most memorable day in United States history was Sunday, December 7, 1941, the day Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. Within hours America was deeply embroiled in World War II, both in the Pacific against Japan, and in Europe against Japan's ally, Nazi Germany. The world would never be the same.

To begin to understand why Japan attacked Pearl Harbor one must step back at least a few years to the end of an earlier war. In 1919 many of the major world powers met in Versailles, France, to sort out the wreckage of World War I. Among those present were Japan and the United States. One of Japan's interests was to hold on to some islands in the Pacific it had picked up from Germany.

President Woodrow Wilson led the American delegation. Wilson's special interest was the creation of a League of Nations, an organization to solve future world problems.

In fact, a League of Nations was established. Many nations joined, including Japan. Surprisingly, the United States did not join. Some American leaders simply did not want to get tangled up in the world's problems. The failure of the United States Senate to vote for the League got a mixed reaction in Japan. Some Japanese leaders were quite shocked and disappointed. Others, however, were not surprised. They were suspicious of the United States. And besides some Japanese leaders had been resentful of the Versailles Treaty. They had always seen it as a way for the Europeans and the Americans to maintain the status quo - to keep the world divided between the haves and the have-nots. And in the 1920s, Japan was still one of the have-nots.

In the early 1930s things changed. The military gained increasing power in Japan. In 1932 the Japanese established a puppet state in Manchuria. When the League of Nations objected, Japan itself left the League. In 1937 Japan invaded China.

The United States and President Franklin Roosevelt were upset and worried about Japan's advances in China, but there was an even bigger concern in Europe. That concern was Adolf



Hitler and Nazi Germany. In 1939, Germany attacked Poland. In the next two years German tanks and planes threatened to conquer most of the European continent. France fell. England held on by a thread. In September 1940, Japan signed a three-way pact with Germany and Italy. This was very upsetting to the United States. Roosevelt realized war with Germany was just a matter of time. He had hoped to avoid a war with Japan. He did not want to fight on two fronts.

But Roosevelt did not get his wish. On December 7, 1941, 361 planes launched from six Japanese aircraft carriers and delivered a surprise attack on the American naval base and airfields at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

But why? At the time Japan had half the population of the United States. In area, it was smaller than Sweden. Japanese leaders knew they were taking a big risk. With all this, why did Japan attack Pearl Harbor?

Handwritten note: * Congress was afraid of losing the power to declare

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Document A

Social / Cultural

Source: Japanese Ministry of Education, excerpts from *The Way of the Subjects*, August 1, 1941.

Note: *The Way of the Subjects* was required reading in most Japanese high schools and colleges.

*Attack was Dec 7, 1941

- An old order ... (European and American) ... is now crumbling.
- The ideals of Japan ... are represented by the principle that the benevolent rule of the Emperor may be extended so as to embrace the whole world.
- Japan is the fountain source of the Yamato race. Manchukuo (Manchuria) is its reservoir and East Asia (including China) is its paddy field.
- The way of the subject is to be loyal to the Emperor in disregard of self, thereby supporting the Imperial Throne coexistence with the Heaven and the Earth.

Note: The Yamato race refers to a pure, unmixed Japanese people.

*Imperialism

Document B

Source: Map created from various sources.



*they haven't
acquired much
territory

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Document C

Political

Source: Chronology adapted from Akira Iriye, *Pearl Harbor and the Coming of the Pacific War*, Bedford/St. Martin's Press, Boston, 1999.

* want to grow bigger
* attacks
* "new order"
* US probably upset Japan
* trying to compete with the US

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| 1932 | Japan completes occupation of Manchuria |
| 1937 | Japan attacks China |
| 1938 | Japan declares its policy to establish a "new order in East Asia" |
| 1939 | US begins an embargo* of aircraft and aircraft parts against Japan |
| 1940 May | President Roosevelt moves US Pacific fleet from California to Pearl Harbor * why so many Japanese in CA |
| July | US Congress passes Naval Expansion Act. Promises to triple fleet size by 1944 |
| 1941 July | The United States freezes all Japanese assets and bank accounts |
| Aug. | The United States imposes an embargo on oil shipments to Japan |
| Dec. | Japan attacks Pearl Harbor |

* Embargo = stopping trade

Document D

source: Adapted from Suzuki Akira, "US Economic Sanctions Against Japan and Its Aid to China during the Sino-Japanese War," *Asia Kenyu*, April, 1986.

Economic

Japanese Imports 1937 - 1941

Petroleum (Oil) in units of 10,000 tons
Steel and scrap iron in units of 1,000 tons

	Petroleum		Steel		Scrap Iron	
	Total	US	Total	US	Total	US
1937	482 ✓	380	995 ~	409	242	178
1938	392 ✓	316	857 ~	310	136	101
1939	343 ↓	291	706 ~	32	256	218
1940	436 ↓	291	690 ↓	...	139	112
1941	141 ↓	88	646 ↓	6	20	11

Note: In 1940 Japan had few oil reserves and produced very little of its own oil.

Document E

Source: Hideki Tojo, comments at Imperial Conference, November 5, 1941. In Akira Iriye, *Pearl Harbor and the Coming of the Pacific War*, Bedford/St. Martins Press, 1999.

Note: Tojo was both Prime Minister and War Minister of Japan. These comments were made in a closed meeting of Japan's top government and military leaders in the presence of the Emperor.

Political ?

The United States has not conceded a single point; it simply makes strong demands on Japan.

... What they insist upon is Japan's acceptance of the principle of the withdrawal of troops.... As I understand it, withdrawal of our troops is retreat. We sent a large force of one million men to China, and it has cost us well over 100,000 dead and wounded, the grief of their bereaved families, hardship for four years, and a national expenditure of several billions of yen. We must by all means get satisfactory results from this.... We can expect an expansion of our country only by stationing troops. This the United States does not welcome.

...(H)ow can we let the United States do as she pleases, even though there is some uneasiness? Two years from now we will have no petroleum for military use. Ships will stop moving. When I think about the strengthening of American defenses in the Southwest Pacific, the expansion of the American fleet, ... I see no end to difficulties.... I fear that we would become a third-class nation after two or three years if we just sat tight.

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