

Chapter Introduction

This chapter will cover the emergence of totalitarian states following World War I as well as some of the key factors leading to World War II and how the United States became involved in it.

- **Section 1:** Dictators and Wars
- **Section 2:** From Isolation to Involvement
- **Section 3:** America Enters the War



Objectives

- Explain why Japan decided to attack Pearl Harbor, and describe the attack itself.
- Outline how the United States mobilized for war after the attack on Pearl Harbor.
- Summarize the course of the war in the Pacific through the summer of 1942.



Terms and People

- **Hideki Tojo** – Japanese general and prime minister during World War II
- **Pearl Harbor** – site in Hawaii of the United States Navy's main Pacific base
- **WAC** – Women's Army Corps; volunteer organization that provided clerical workers, truck drivers, instructors, and lab technicians for the army
- **Douglas MacArthur** – general who served as commander of United States Army forces in Asia

Terms and People (continued)

- **Bataan Death March** – grueling march in which Japanese troops forced sick and malnourished prisoners of war to walk more than 60 miles to prison camps
- **Battle of Coral Sea** – battle that provided a strategic American victory and marked the key role of aircraft carriers and fighter planes in the war in the Pacific



How did the United States react to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor?

A surprise attack on the American naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, ended the debate between isolationists and interventionists.

The United States was going to war.

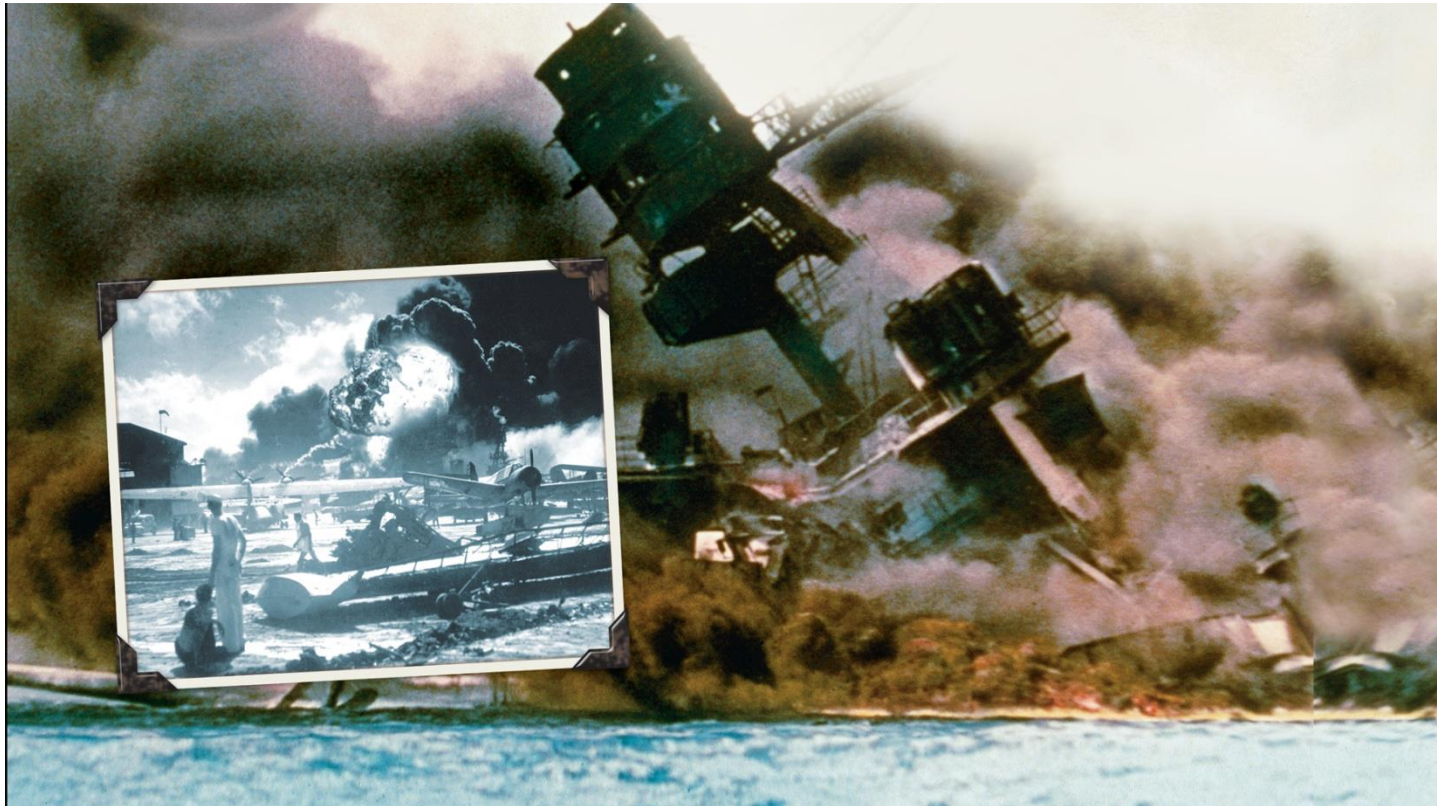
Tensions mounted as Japan continued its march into new lands, gaining territory and valuable natural resources.

Roosevelt **condemned Japanese aggression.**

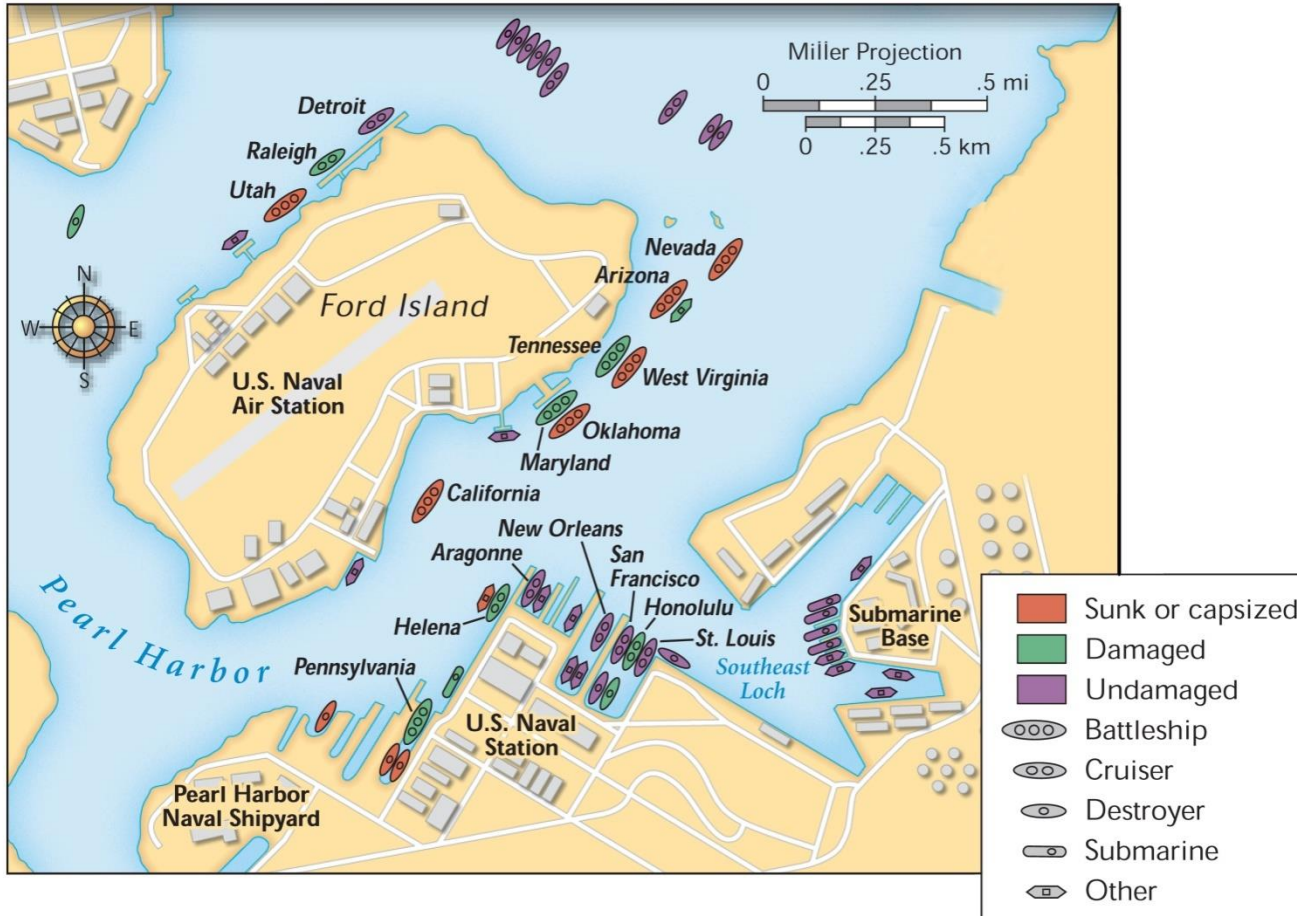
He worked to slow Japan's expansion with an **embargo.**

Angered by American interference, Prime Minister **Hideki Tojo** decided it was time to **eliminate the U.S. presence in the Pacific.**

On December 7, 1941, Japanese fighter pilots attacked the American naval base at **Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.**



Damage at Pearl Harbor



The United States suffered terrible losses.

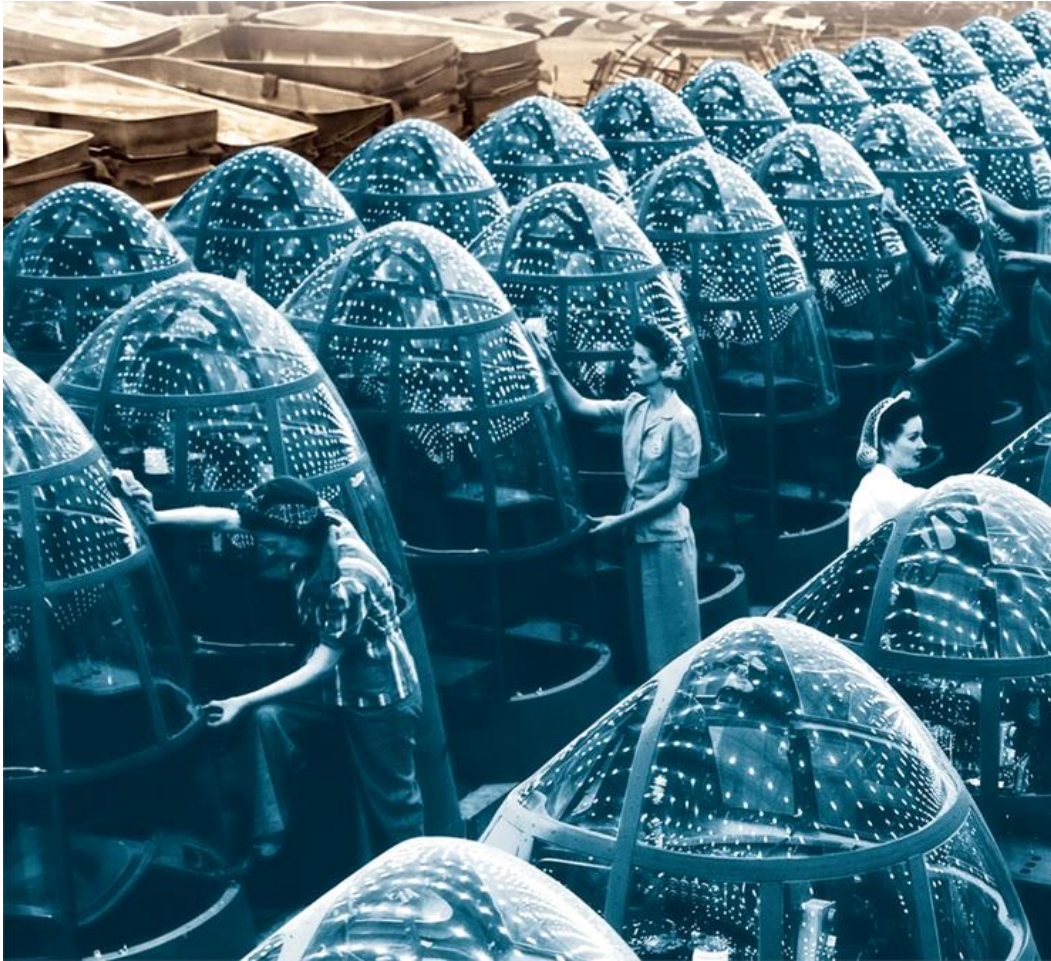
**After the
attack, the
United States
declared war
on Japan.**

Japan's allies,
Germany and
Italy, then
declared war
on the United
States.

A wave of patriotism swept the United States following the attack.



- Americans joined the **military**, the **Red Cross**, and other organizations.
- Women responded by joining the **Women's Army Corps**, **Army Nurse Corps**, and other military auxiliaries.
- Americans took new **jobs making weapons and supplies** that supported the war effort.



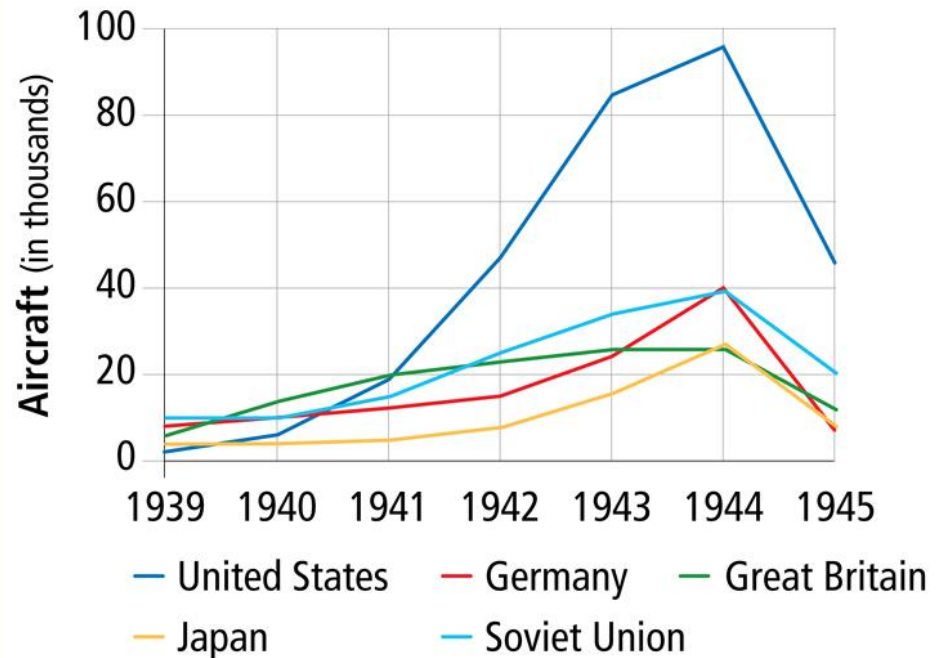
The peacetime economy soon shifted to a wartime economy.

Companies that once produced consumer goods mobilized to build ships, planes, and tanks.

The money poured into defense spending finally ended the Great Depression.

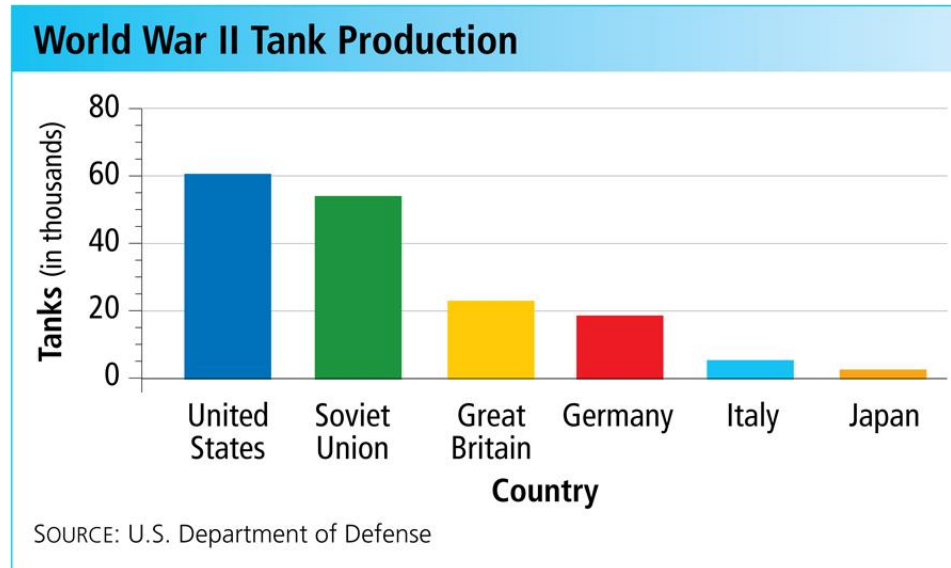
American workers could once again find **jobs.**

World War II Aircraft Production



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Defense

In 1944, American production levels were double those of all the Axis nations combined.



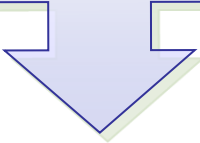
This “production miracle” gave the Allies a crucial advantage.

In the early years of the war, the outlook for the Allies was grim.

Japan's Advantages

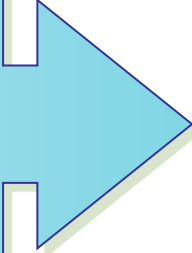
- Dominance of the Pacific
- Technologically advanced weapons
- Highly motivated and well-trained military

Japanese armies quickly took **Guam, Wake Island, and Hong Kong.**



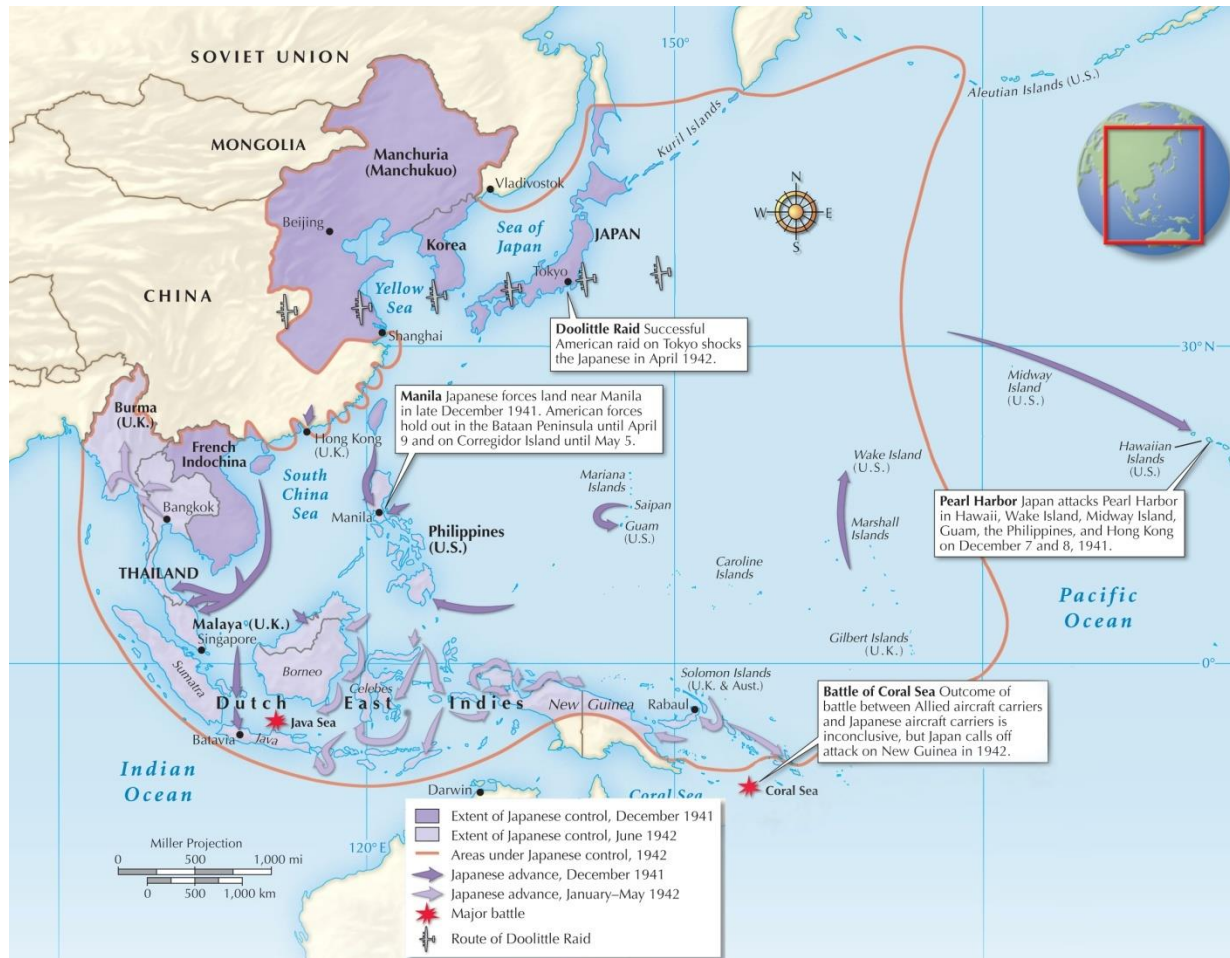
Then they moved into the **Philippines**, forcing American General **Douglas MacArthur** to retreat.

The troops were surrounded, trapped.



After a terrible **siege**, thousands died when they were forced to walk to prison camps during the **Bataan Death March.**

Japanese Aggression, December 1941–June 1942



With hopes for a quick victory fading, Americans finally got some good news.

Colonel James Doolittle's surprise raid on Tokyo

The American victory at the **Battle of Coral Sea**

A long fight lay ahead, but the darkest days of 1942 seemed to be over.