

## Causes of WWII - Asia

### Background

Understanding the relationship between Japan and China is the key to understanding the roots of the Pacific War.

For most of its history, Japan was a client state of the mighty Chinese Empire.

That changed in the Nineteenth Century!

Within a single generation, European imperialists brought the Chinese Empire to its knees.

Japan learned an important lesson from China . . . the weak get eaten!

The Japanese abandoned their feudal traditions, and took a path towards rapid industrialization.

The Japanese Navy was modeled on Great Britain. The Japanese Army was modelled on Germany. The Japanese education system was modeled on America.

Japan emerged a great power . . . devoted to independence and imperialism!

The rise of Japan seemed to end with the Great Depression.

Its economy buckled.

After a short experiment with deficit financing, the military unleashed a campaign of conquest in China. There never was a revolution in Japan, but the military was in firm control after the invasion of Manchuria.

A small group of senior officers ran the country with approval from the Emperor.

Japan now began setting up the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere, which was nothing more than a quest for Japanese supremacy in the Pacific.

America watched with alarm.

Americans considered the Pacific to be their sphere of influence. They responded with a crippling trade embargo.

Japan was desperate . . . they could not fight a war without metal, oil, and rubber

The stage was now set for a serious conflict between Japan and America.

It came at Pearl Harbor!

**Assignment**

1) Describe the impact of the Great Depression on Japan.

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2) Describe the first method Japan used to break out of the Great Depression.

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3) Describe the second method Japan used to break out of the Great Depression.

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4) Describe the struggle between the civilian and military leadership in Japan.

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5) Did they end the Great Depression in Japan?

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6) Explain how America justified its support for China against Japan.

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7) Describe the Greater East Asian Co-Prosperity Sphere.

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8) Describe the American response to the Greater East Asian Co-Prosperity Sphere.

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9) Explain why Japan attacked Pearl Harbor.

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10) Describe the significance of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

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