

# Teaching World War 2

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# Undergraduates

- Need linear narrative, structure, and cause-and-effect (not theme-based lectures)
- Lack a philosophical appreciation of war as an application of state violence (see events as caused by terms of bad people, not as rational actors using force to achieve goals)
- Human experience: Like war stories, but want them integrated into historical context
- Are visual: maps, selected pictures

# Problems Teaching WW2

- Context
- Scale of war

	Dead	Combat Deaths	Civilian dead
USA	405,000	292,000	minimal
Total	60-70 million	22-25 million	37-58 million
USSR	26,000,000	8-10 million	12-13 million
China	10-20,000,000	3-4 million	7-16 million
Murdered by Nazis			11,000,000

# Integrating non-textbook sources

- Use in moderation and provide clear instructions on what students should be looking for
- Provide background (why this movie/novel/document?; what are historical events that source/s illustrate?)
- Make students produce a result (submit a summary based on specific question/s)

# Pacific War Lecture

- Theme: Why do the Japanese believe they can defeat the USA?
- Strategic Goals: China-Southeast Asia-Pacific economic resources; political hegemony in Asia-Pacific
- Strategic Plan: Barrier (naval-air bases) and Javelin (battle fleet)

# THE BARRIER



RUSSIA

MONGOLIA

CHINA

MANCHURIA (MANCHUKUO)

Jehol

MUKDEN

PEKING

KOREA

SEOUL

TIENTSIN

YOKOYAMA

JAPAN

TOKYO

SEA OF JAPAN

PACIFIC OCEAN

INDIA

BURMA

THAILAND

INDO-CHINA

SAIGON

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

MANILA

SAIPAN

Mariana Islands

GUAM

YAP

PALAU IS.

Caroline Islands

TRUK

MAJURO

Marshall Islands

Gilbert Is.

TAJAKA

Phoenix Is.

Samoa Is.

Society Is.

COOK IS.

TONGA IS.

Kermadec Is.

Norfolk Is.

NEW ZEALAND

AUCKLAND

SYDNEY

CANBERRA

MELBOURNE

ADLAIDE

PERTH

Western Australia

Queensland

South Australia

New South Wales

Dutch East Indies

Sumatra

Java

Borneo

Timor

Timor Sea

Arafura Sea

Port Moresby

Papua

New Guinea

NEW BRITAIN

NEW IRELAND

NEW GEORGIA

BOUGAINVILLE

Solomon Is.

GUADALCANAL

ESPIRITU SANTO

NEW CALEDONIA

NOUMEA

HEBRIDES

FIJI IS.

SUVA

MAURITIUS

REUNION

SEYCHELLES

CHAGOS

JARVIS

MALDEN

VICTORIA

SAMOA

COOK IS.

SOCIETY IS.

Kermadec Is.

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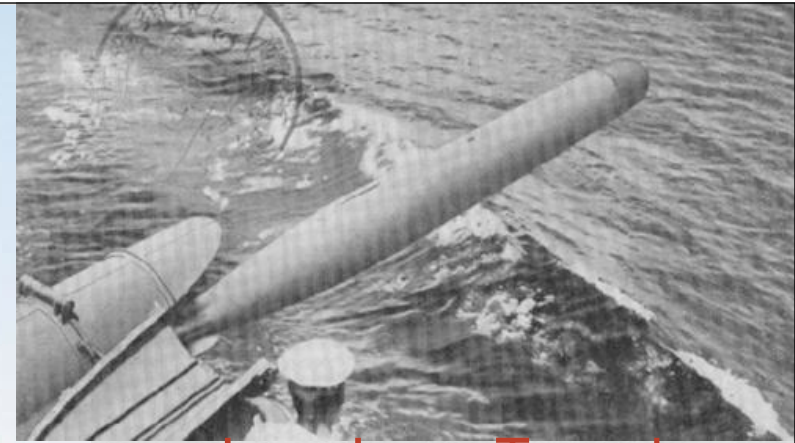
CHAGOS</

JAPANESE EMPIRE, 1933  
OCCUPIED BY JAPAN  
7 JULY 1937 – 7 DEC 1941  
AREA UNDER JAPANESE CONTROL  
7 DECEMBER 1941  
MERCATOR'S PROJECTION



# THE JAVELIN

Mitsubishi Zero

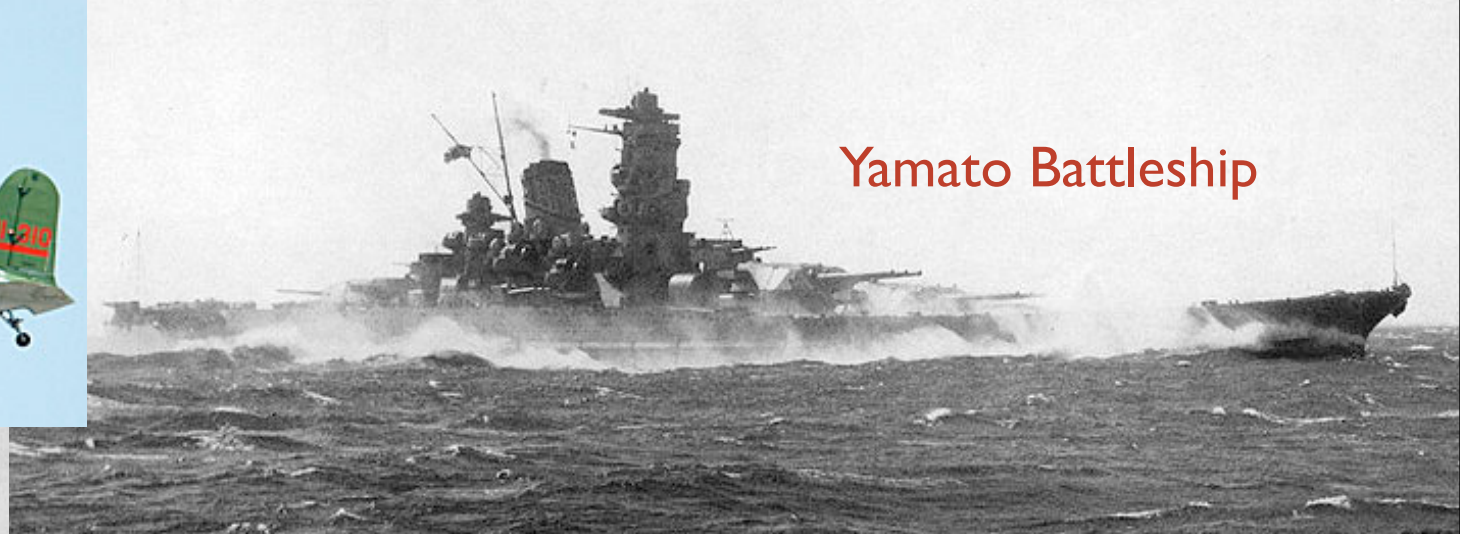


Long Lance Torpedo

Torpedo Bomber

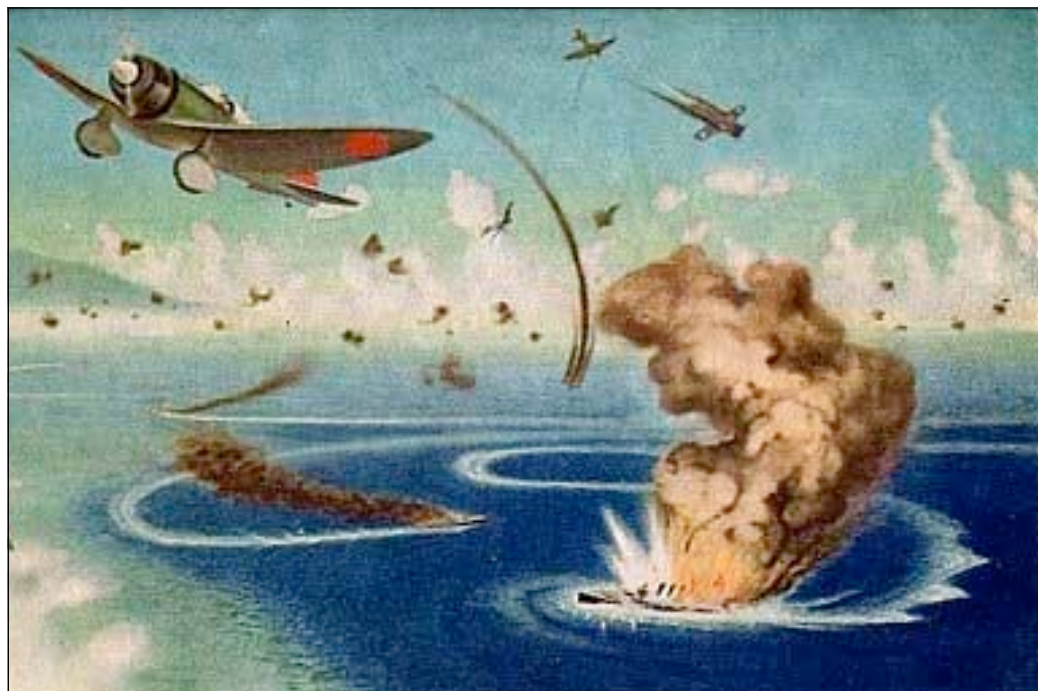


Yamato Battleship



Long Lance Torpedo





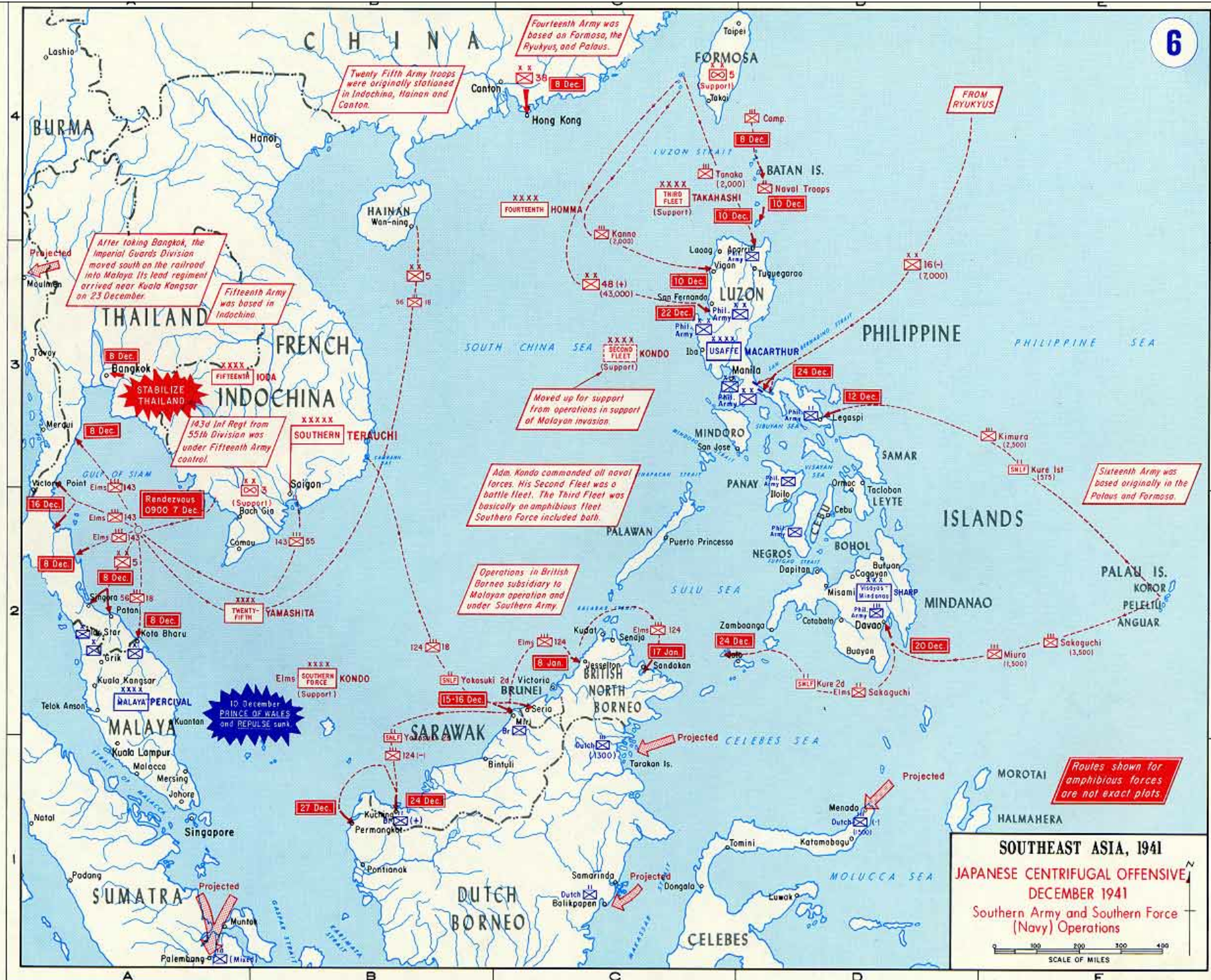
害慘之黨產共！看！看





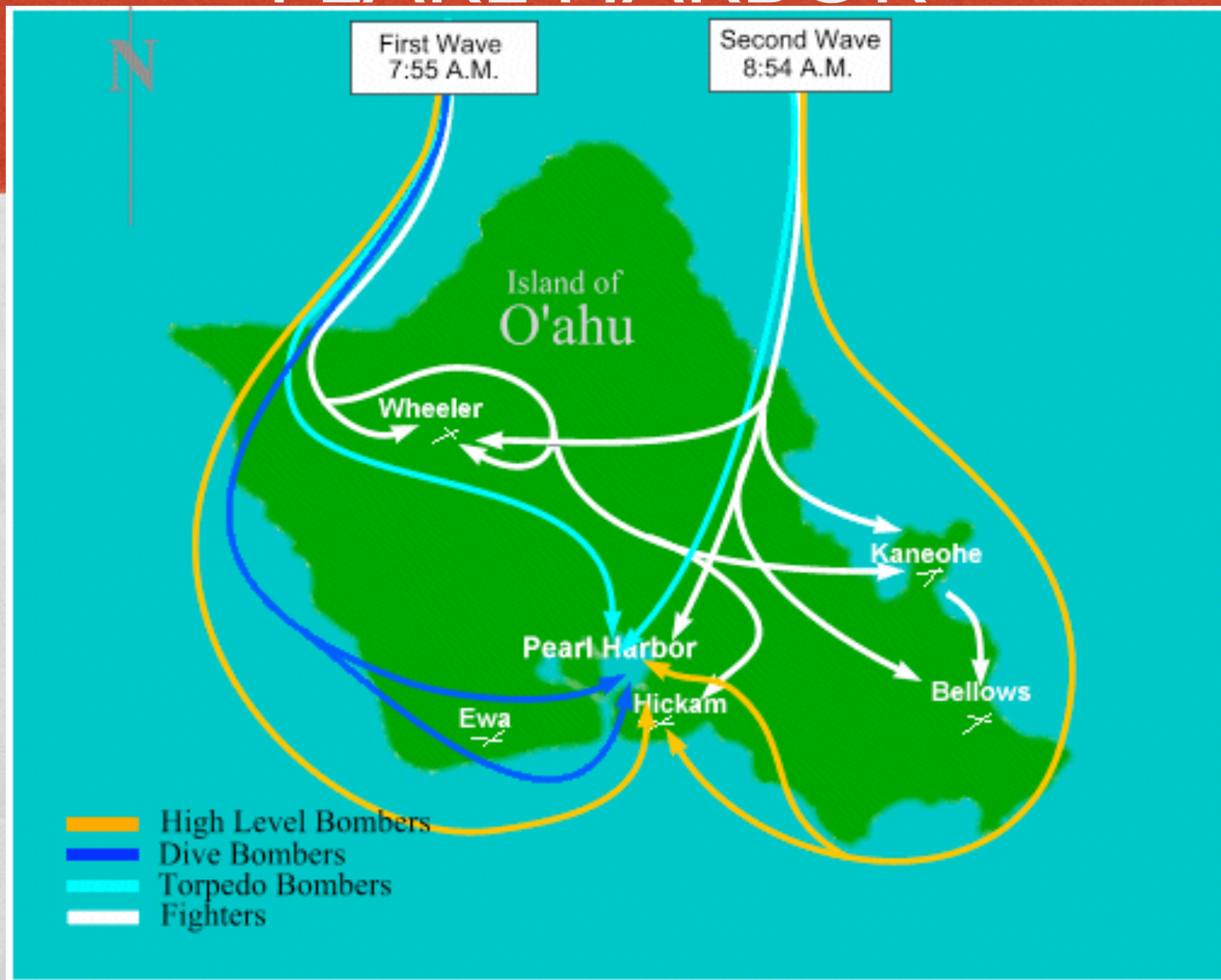
# 1941: The War Begins

- Japanese Strategic Operations
  - Sudden offensive: destroy US fleet (Pearl Harbor)
  - capture SEA resource area
  - establish bases and force US to fight long war of attrition across the Pacific.
  - Assumption: US would accept a negotiated peace accepting Japanese hegemony in Asia-Pacific
- Methods: Better weapons where it matters; better training, better morale

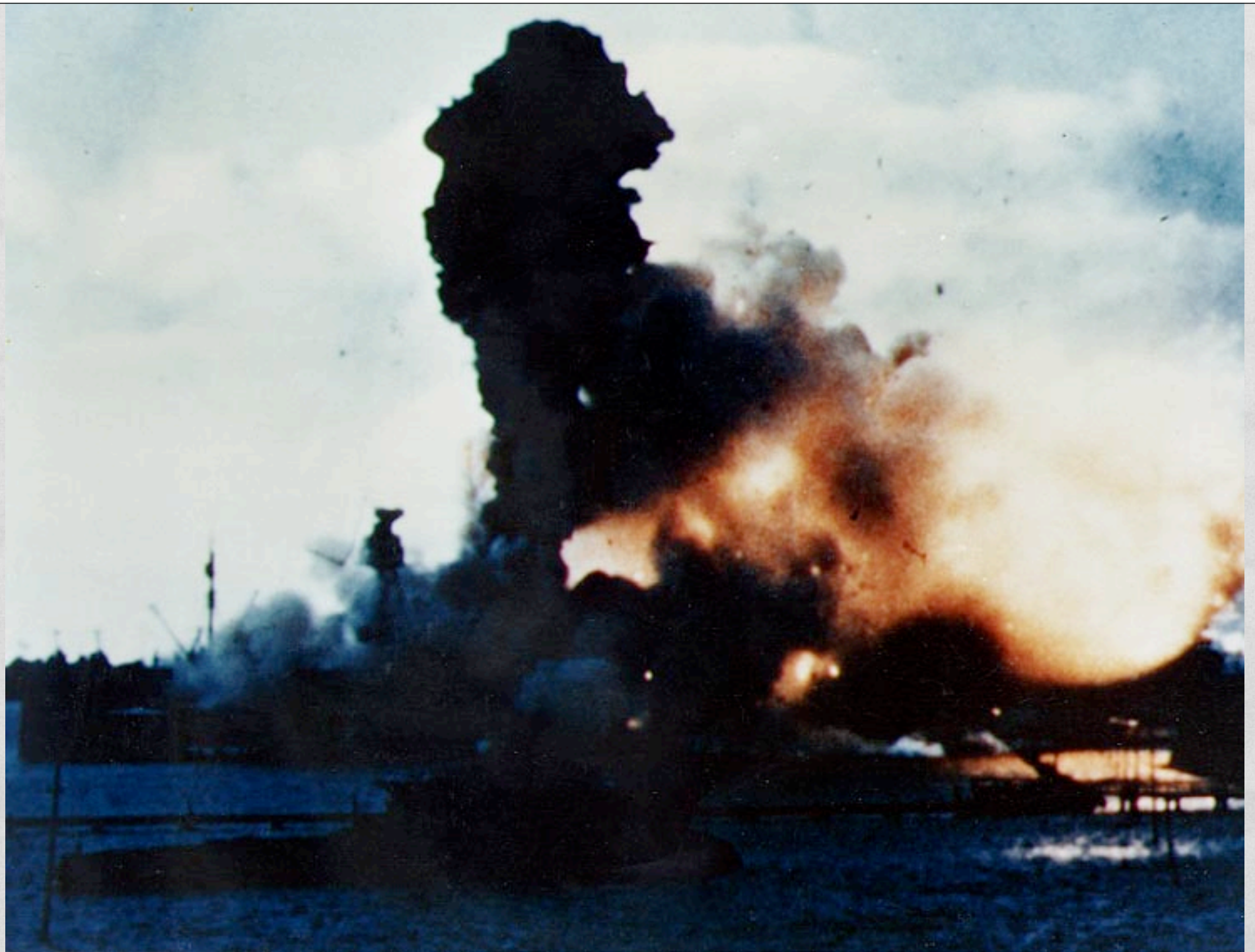




# PEARL HARBOR











# IMPACT OF JAPANESE VICTORIES

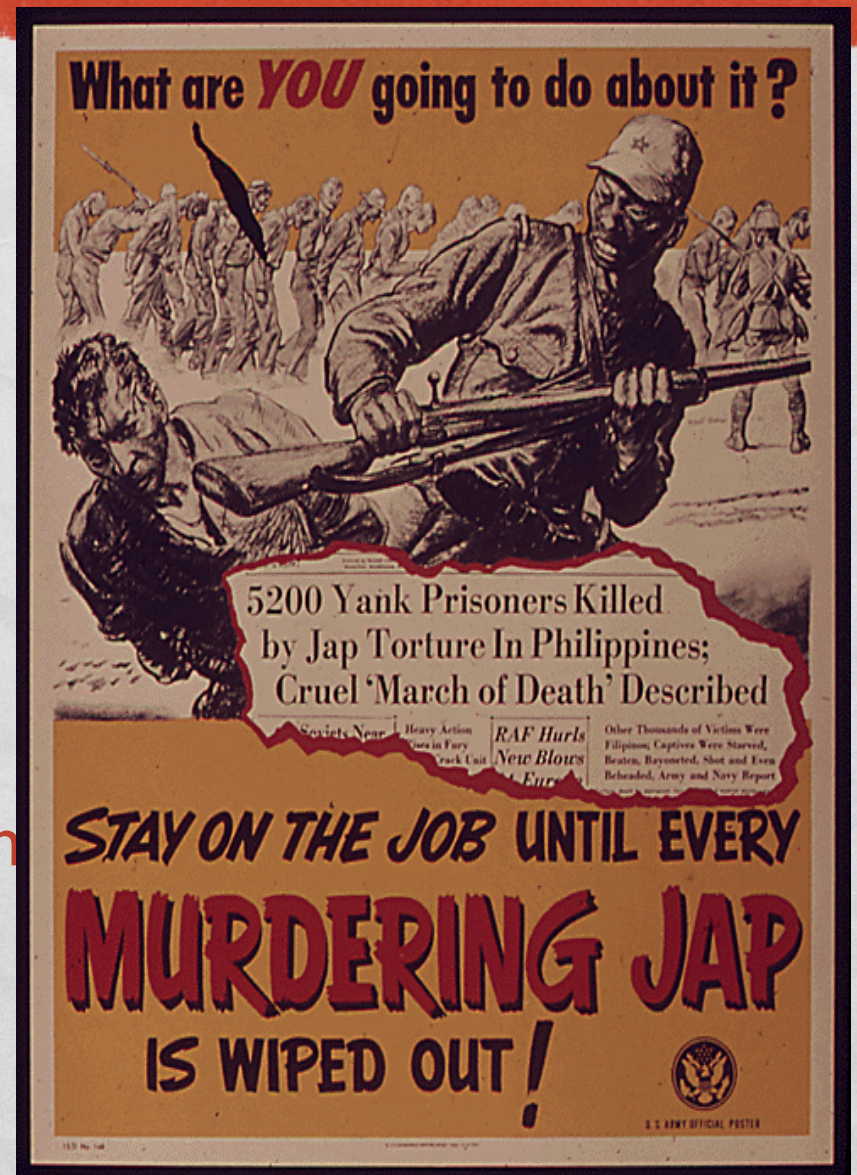
“Sneak attack” and Day of Infamy

Unified Americans behind war

Revenge, no compromise

Demand for complete destruction  
of Japan

In long run was a disaster for Japan





# Where to go from here?

- US response leads to significant commitment to Pacific
- Battle of Midway (June 1942) cuts Japanese superiority in aircraft carriers
- Guadalcanal and New Guinea Campaigns (1942-43) destroy 'Javelin' and fracture the 'Barrier'
- Japan forced into war of resources against Allies

# GUADALCANAL:

## 1942-43: The Toll

### \* UNITED STATES

- \* 1,592 killed: Army/USMC
- \* 4,911 US Navy
- \* 420 dead (aviation)
- \* 29 ships sunk
- \* 615 aircraft destroyed

### \* JAPAN

- \* 26,000 Army killed
- \* 3,500 Navy killed
- \* 1,200 Aviation killed
- \* 38 ships sun
- \* 700-800 aircraft destroyed

# SOURCES

- Movies and Television
- Novels
- Memoirs
- Veterans' Surveys
- Official histories and books
- Combat narratives, intelligence reports, etc.