

Why did Japan Attack Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sv1niwxQgoY>



A black and white photograph showing the upper part of a ship's superstructure, including masts and rigging. In the background, a large plume of dark smoke rises into the sky, suggesting a fire or explosion. The foreground shows the water of the harbor.

Pearl Harbor

- U.S. Naval Base – Hawaii
- Surprise attack by Japan
- 2,403 Americans died and
- 1,178 were wounded.
- Eighteen ships were sunk or run aground, including five battleships.

WHY?



Reasons Japan attacked Pearl Harbor

- Japan needed natural resources – U.S. oil embargo
- Feared U.S. interference in Japanese expansion
- Weaken U.S. navy in the Pacific

1941

(Mouse-over for Previous Year)
(Click for Following Year)



Reasons for U.S – Japanese conflict

- Stand up to Japanese aggression
- Prevent Japanese expansion in Asia
- Protect American interests (colonies) in Asia

- If Japan hadn't attacked Pearl Harbor – would these have been good reasons to go to war?



If you were an advisor to the Japanese military
– would you have advised an attack on Pearl
Harbor?

1941

(Mouse-over for Previous Year)
(Click for Following Year)



- <https://wwiimaps.homestead.com/world39.html>

Roosevelt Speech

- “A Date Which Will Live in Infamy:
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xtjnoUZ17zg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ycGGrzV-IM>

Roosevelt Speech

- “A Date Which Will Live in Infamy”:

U.S. Entry Into World War II

- **December 7, 1941** – Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor
- **December 8** - United States declared war on Japan
- **December 11** - Germany and Italy declared war on the U.S.



JAPANESE PLAN AND TROOP DISPOSITION
 November 1941

— Defensive Perimeter Plan

0 1600
 Miles at the Equator



SOUTHERN ARMY
 14th Army - to Philippines
 15th Army - to Thailand
 16th Army - to East Indies
 25th Army - to Malaya