

Attack on Pearl Harbor

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The Attack on Pearl Harbor: Japan attacked Pearl Harbor naval base in Honolulu Hawaii on the morning of December 7, 1941. Leading up to the attack Japan saw Pearl Harbor as an easy target. The US Pacific fleet was stationed in Pearl Harbor as tensions arose between Admiral Husband E. Kimmel and Lieutenant General Walter C. Short as warning came of possible war. The response after the attack that the US congress declared war on Japan. There were many investigations and accusations of what took place and why the attack on Pearl Harbor actually happened. Although the United States planned to stay out of World War II, the attack on Pearl Harbor enraged the Americans causing the US to declare war on Japan, because Japan had severely damaged American Military Power, united Americans in a common desire for military victory, and ultimately led to the development of the atomic bomb. In 1940 president Franklin D. Roosevelt became president and he has assured the U.S. people he would stay neutral with the war. He stopped all trading with countries involved in the war. However, he lent money to Britain through a Lend- Lease Act which congress passed and he signed into law in March of 1941. The Lend- Lease Act allowed the British to get weapons without cash but with the understanding that they would pay America back at the end of the war (Roark et al., 2020). Even with this Britain continued fighting the war they continued to run out of money. President Roosevelt tried to practice neutrality as much of Europe was at war. The Neutrality Act was passed in 1937 but was revised to allow Britain and France to purchase American war supplies but they had to carry the goods on their own ships across the Atlantic Ocean (Roark et al., 2020). It seems like Roosevelt sided with Britain and France and even knew Britain was out of money and could no

longer use cash and carry Neutrality Law. Roosevelt delivered fifty old destroyers to Britain in 1940. This was with the understanding America would have access to the British bases in the Western Hemisphere. I feel as if this may have been Japans way of seeing the Americans helping Britain to defeat in the war. The British also asked for help of American scientists to help improve their radio- wave transmitters so they could detect German bombers and submarines (Roark et al., 2020). As the war continued to progress it became clear to Roosevelt that he needed to denied access to oil, scrap iron and other goods the Japanese needed for their war machines.

I perceive this as to what made the Japanese want to attack the U.S. Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbor. However Japanese ambassadors had requested an interview with Secretary of State Hull at 7:30am December 7, 1941. This was a pretty clear indication that war was coming to the U.S soil (The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2020). With the amount of time it took for the notification to reach Hull we had an attack on our hands, with no warning. However, a Japanese submarine was spotted four hours before the attack by the USS Condor. Also, there was mis communication of large planes in the area on radar and it was disregarded as a B-17 U.S. bomber as it was due in that area at that time. This was actually the first wave of attacks on Pearl Harbor.

The base as Pearl Harbor at the time of attack had twenty vessels, eight of which were battleships, and over three hundred airplanes stationed there. Honolulu, Hawaii being approximately four thousand miles from Japan and two thousand miles from the main land of the United States, was a easy target for Japan. The Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor at eight o'clock on

the morning of December 7, 1941. The attack destroyed twenty ships and three hundred or more airplanes. This attack also killed 2403 people from sailors to civilians. It also injured over one thousand people. Japan knew they had crippled the Pacific fleet. The USS Arizona, USS Oklahoma, USS California, USS West Virginia, USS Utah, USS Maryland, USS Pennsylvania, USS Tennessee and the USS Nevada all had lots of damages. However, all were repaired but the USS Arizona and the USS Utah. Japan knew this was an easy attack and America would not be able to retaliate easily. The attack dropped bombs weighting eighteen thousand pounds and lots of bullets. Another round of attack came at eight fifty in the morning.

As all the details unfolded about what had taken place on December 7, 1941 President Roosevelt proposed to congress on December 8, 1941 to declare war on Japan (History.com Editors, 2009). Japan had failed to destroy the whole Pacific fleet by missing oil tanks, ammunition sites and repair facilities, this allowed the United States to fight back with ease. As the decision was made that Roosevelt would attack Germany before Japan. Roosevelt chose to take out Germany as they had much control over Europe and the Atlantic Ocean. Also, Germany was a more advanced industrial nation. Germany had many scientists and engineers that had the ability to make deadly weapons and atomic bombs as the United States had already created. Britain joined the United States in the fighting Germany as they had been fighting for their lives against them. Having the United States on their side was huge in coming to win the battle. Germany would now have to fight two fronts, the west and the east. Once they were able to take over German lands, in June 1942 the United States forces received victory in the Battle of the Midway which then the United States turn the war towards the Pacific. In August of 1945 the United States told Japan if they did not surrender there would be lots of destruction. The United

States dropped the atomic bombs which in turn ended the war with Japan as The United States had finally won.

Pearl Harbor brought the formation of the Manhattan project in December of 1942. Roosevelt brought various scientists and military officials to the United States to work on nuclear research. The Atomic bomb was developed in 1945. The two names they used to decipher them were “the Little Boy” and “the Fat Man” (*The atomic bomb & The Manhattan Project*). The first atomic bomb was dropped over Hiroshima, Japan on August 6, 1945. This was the bomb called the Little Boy and it is said to have leveled a five-mile radius and killed 80,000 people instantly. Three days later as Japan did not surrender the United States dropped the Fat Man which killed another 40,000 people on impact. Japan surrendered on August 15, 1945 as they knew the United States was able to make atomic bombs with ease as we had access to the raw materials needed to make them.

The attack on Pearl Harbor has made the United States who we are today. We have continued to develop our technology in our bomb making. I feel like our military is huge and not too many other countries have the reserves that we do. I feel like the United States is able to provide well if we went into war again. If an attack on Pearl Harbor was to happen today, we would be able to fight back immediately. However, with our technology today we would most likely see an attack coming before hand. Today we can receive a message from around the world in just a matter of seconds, unlike in 1941 when they had to wait for a telegram to come which

could take days. With this all being said so many lives were lost during this war but we came back to fight and win the war.

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