

STUDY PACK 24

WORLD WAR II IN ASIA

“The limited success achieved by the Pearl Harbor attack was a woefully small military return for the political risk of treacherously attacking an enormous, intensely moralistic nation like the United States before a formal declaration of war.” ~ Paul Johnson, *A History of the American People*, p. 779 ~

I. PEARL HARBOR

In Japan, the royal family was being manipulated by several warlords in charge of the military. These warlords claimed the goal of bringing _____.

The United States aided the Chinese resistance of a Japanese invasion. The Japanese called for a peace conference in Washington, D.C. While the peace conference was taking place (on December 7, 1941), the Japanese attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor. Half the Pacific Fleet was crippled and thousands of Americans were killed. President Franklin Roosevelt called December 7, 1941 “_____” Japan launched attacks on U.S., British, Dutch, and French possessions throughout the Pacific. The next day the U.S. declared war on Japan as did England. Germany and Italy had a mutual defense treaty with Japan and both nations declared war on the U.S. Many Latin American and British Commonwealth nations (called the Allies) declared war on Japan, Germany and Italy (called Axis Powers). By January 2, 1942, twenty-six nations were allied to fight against Hitler and his allies.

Churchill declared that the Japanese had “_____.” The Japanese swept through the Pacific capturing the Philippines, Singapore, Hong Kong, and many islands. The American people rallied to the war effort and the factories of the U.S. geared to producing military supplies. The world was astonished as the United States produced _____. The American people were united in a way they had never been before or since. America’s housewives went to work in her factories. People accepted higher taxes and rationing. Millions of young men served in the military. Thousands of young women volunteered for women’s auxiliary programs. Everyone wanted to do their part for the war effort. The United States prepared to fight two wars at the same time, one in Europe and one in the Pacific Ocean.

II. AMERICAN MOBILIZATION FOR THE WAR

The Roosevelt administration moved quickly to _____. Using the many agencies of the New Deal, _____. Because of the war effort, there was not as much opposition to these measures as before. The draft was expanded, and before the war was over, _____. They were joined _____. Many women also volunteered for the military and served as nurses, clerks, and jeep drivers.

American industry geared up for _____. Soon American factories were producing weapons and supplies at an astonishing rate. The world looked on in wonder at the productive capacity of American factories. The whole population felt like they were participating in the war effort. By 1945, American shipyards were producing _____!

To finance the war, taxes were greatly raised. Tax payments began to be withheld from regular paychecks. The national debt grew by 500 percent during the war! Many goods were rationed. Tires, gasoline, sugar, shoes, fuel oil, and coffee were rationed. All automobile production for private use was halted in 1942.

III. TURNING THE TIDE IN THE PACIFIC

The United States began to take control of the Pacific Ocean from Japan _____ . The Battle of Midway turned the tide against Japanese Naval power. At the Battle of Coral Sea aircraft carrier planes attacked each others' fleets. Coral Sea was the first naval battle in the world where the opposing ships never sighted each other. At Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands, and in the Philippines, the Americans invaded and the Japanese resisted furiously. But more and more American troops kept arriving until these islands were taken.

By October, 1944, the Americans had retaken the Philippine Islands. By 1945, the United States Navy _____ . They were _____ . Soon they were bombing Japan itself.

The United States moved closer and closer to Japan itself. Japan became increasingly desperate and began to commission " _____ ." These suicide pilots attempted to crash their planes into American shipping. Even though they scored almost 300 hits on American shipping, they could not turn the tide of the American advance. Eventually, the Americans invaded Iwo Jima and Okinawa, the last two outposts before Japan itself. Again, the Japanese fought bravely and desperately. Many refused to surrender. Again, the U.S. secured control of these islands.

IV. THE ATOMIC BOMB

The United States began to prepare for an invasion of Japan. Military planners estimated that there would be over _____ as well as several million Japanese casualties. It was also estimated that over 400,000 British, American, and Dutch prisoners held by the Japanese would be executed.

American scientists (aided by German scientists who had fled Germany before the war) had developed an atomic bomb. New U.S. President Harry Truman decided to use the atomic bomb to end the war. On August 6, 1945, the U.S. dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. Over 60,000 people (_____) were killed, 100,000 wounded and 200,000 more were left homeless. The Japanese still refused to surrender. Three days later a second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki with similar results. The Japanese agreed to an unconditional surrender. Victory over Japan was celebrated on September 2, 1945.

A war in which over 60,000,000 had died had finally come to an end.