



# Two Theaters of WWII

# World War II: The Pacific Theater

## 1941-1945



# What do We Mean by “Pacific Theater?”





# Event 1: 1931-1937

- Japan invades Manchuria (1931) and China (1937)



# Expansion of the Japanese Empire

- Japan felt cheated by Britain, France, and the US after WWI because it failed to gain much territory
- The Japanese government falls under control of radical nationalists and allies with the army
- Japan begins to expand its empire by invading Manchuria in 1931
- Japan later invades the rest of China in 1937
- “Asia for the Asiatics”

# Why Does Japan Expand?

- Japan was a superior nation and greater nations conquer weaker ones
- Land for Japan's growing population
- Access to natural resources for Japan's military expansion
- Access to new markets to sell surplus goods

# Event 1: Significance/Result

- The invasions strain the Japanese economy and create a need for iron ore and oil to fuel war efforts.



# Event 2: Summer, 1941

- Japan takes French Indochina (Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos)





# “Asia for the Asiatics?”

- Japanese invasion of China consumed many materials, so Japan expanded further to access more natural resources
- Although they claimed to free the Asian people from imperialism, the Japanese often undertook the same policies as the previous rulers

# Japanese Troops Enter Saigon



# Event 2: Significance/Result

- Japan does this because of a need for natural resources
- The Americans respond by cutting off oil shipments to Japan
- This only makes Japan more aggressive for additional territory









# The USS Shaw Explodes

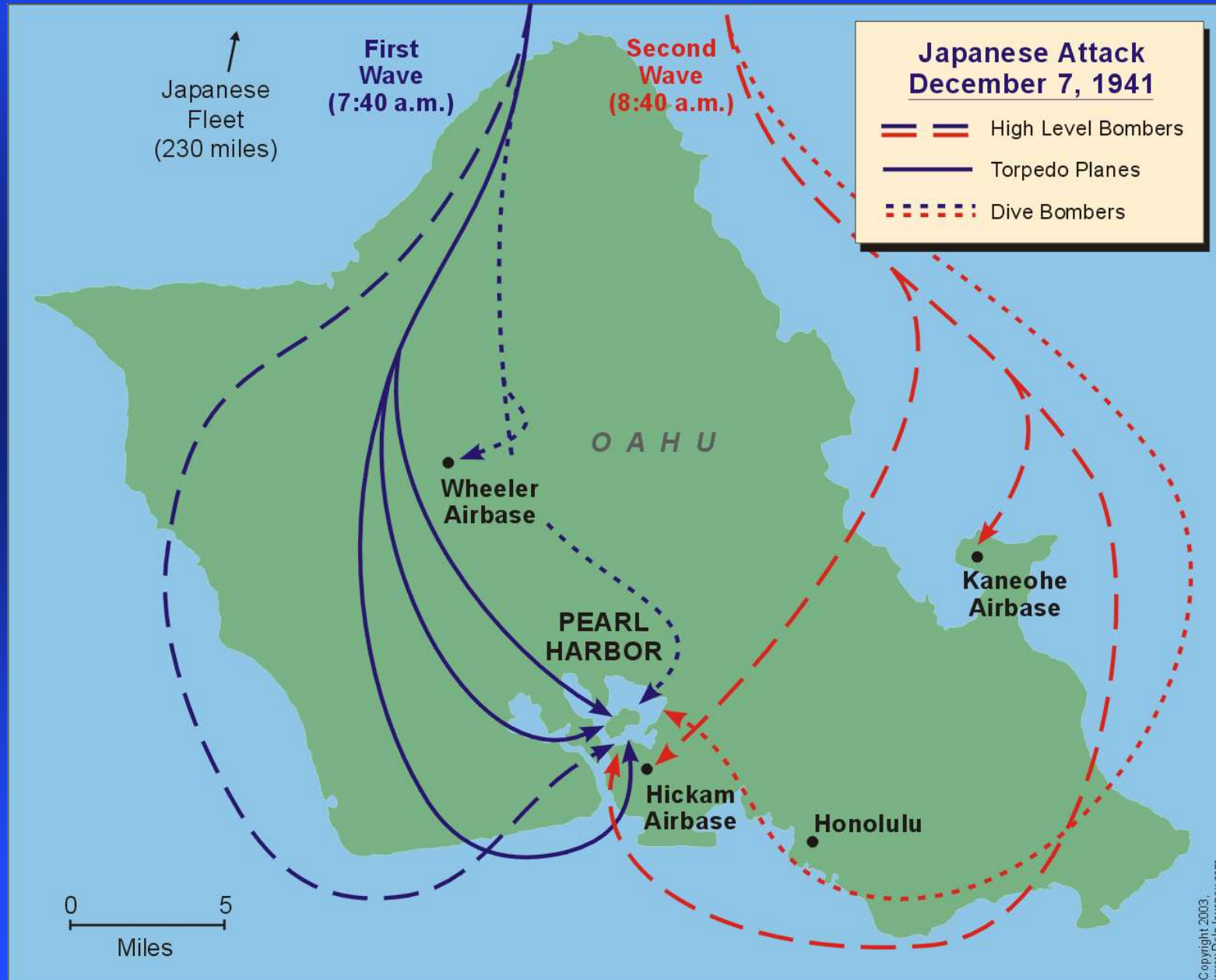
- Over 2,400 Americans were killed and over 1,200 more were injured



# The USS Arizona Sinks



# The Attack Plan Targeted Air Bases and the Naval Base, not the Cities



# “A Day That Will Live in Infamy”





# FDR's Ride to Give His Speech (Courtesy of Al Capone)

- Limited by a government regulation that prohibited spending only \$750 for a car, the only bulletproof car they could find was previously Al Capone's but was taken because of tax evasion.



# JAPAN ATTACKS U.S.

**EXTRA**

**The Anderson Independent**

**EXTRA**

South Carolina's Most Interesting Newspaper

ANDERSON, S. C. SUNDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 7, 1941

ONE A WEEK

## PEARL HARBOR BASE BEING BOMBED;

*Congress Likely Declare War Tomorrow*

## AERIAL BATTLE RAGES OVER ISLAND

**350 MEN KILLED AS JAP BOMB HITS ARMY FIELD**

... ..

### LATEST

... ..

**PRESIDENT CALLS CABINET MEETING FOR 8:30 P. M.**

... ..

**How Japan Stacks Up With U. S. Fleet**



**JAPANESE BATTLESHIPS ENGAGED**



**JAPANESE PLANES BEING SHOT DOWN; M-DAY EMERGENCY QUICKLY DECLARED**

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Japan attacked the United States today, striking by air at the great Pearl Harbor naval base at Honolulu and at Manila and other points, indicating that the United States had won the first battle in the new World War.  
The Army and the Navy, it appears, now have the air and sea under control, and an FBI roundup from Honolulu, a few hours after the Japanese opened the attack.  
Adopting Adolf Hitler's surprise tactics of striking over the water and after President Roosevelt's personal last-hour appeal for peace to Emperor Hirohito last night, the Japanese attacked the two bastions of American defense in the Pacific at approximately 9:30 A. M. Honolulu time (3:30 P. M. S. T.).

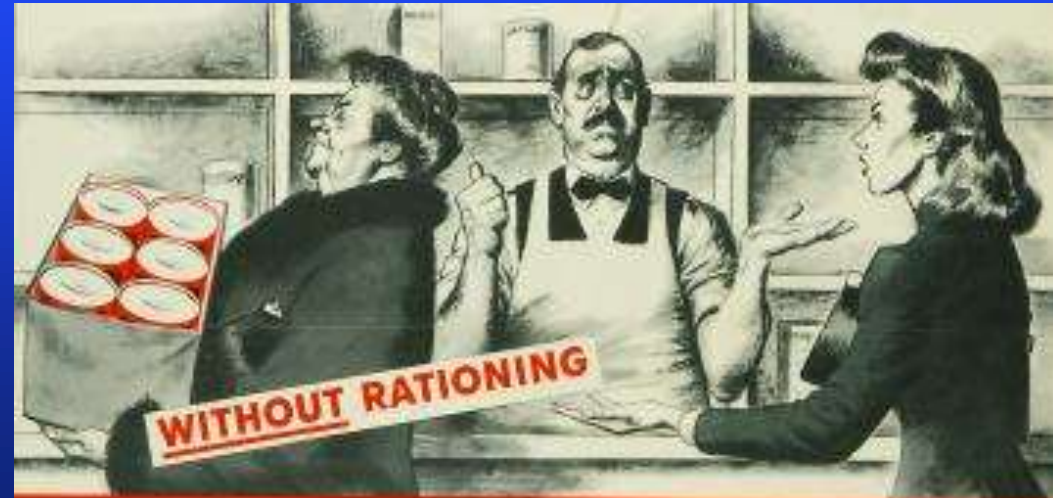
**OBSERVER DECLARES ARMY AND NAVY NOW HAVE SEA AND AIR UNDER CONTROL**

... ..



# Changes on the Home front

- During the war, countries had to ration supplies to ensure that the armies were properly supplied
- The increased industrial production combined with conscription created thousands of jobs for women



Rationing means  
a fair share for all of us



# Fear Spreads Across the Western United States

- Mandatory nighttime blackouts are instituted in Hawaii and California to deceive Japanese pilots if they attempt to attack the United States' mainland.

**URGENT -:- WARNING -:- URGENT**

"BLACKOUT ENEMY" Planes will Simulate Attack on Your Island, Thursday Night, May 23rd, 1940, sometime between 8:30 and 9:00 p.m. When warning bells are rung or sirens are sounded, IMMEDIATELY put out all lights, inside and outside. TURN OFF ALL SIGNS. Don't use flashlights, matches, etc. **BLACKOUT COMPLETELY.**

While this raid is only make-believe, do your part in this rehearsal for an event we hope will never come.

**"OUTBLACK THE LAST BLACKOUT"**

---

**重要警告**

本島定於五月二十二號(即禮拜四)由八點半至九點鐘舉行防空演習。施行燈火管制。屆時以鳴鐘或響笛為號。無論內外燈火。及各種電器。皆須立即熄滅。甚至電燈火柴等。均在受管制之列。務使安全無虞。切切至望。(防空演習時間內。請各盡職責。惟望真正空襲。本不來臨)。

**「黑暗比前次更黑暗」**

山縣省燈火管制委員會啟

燈火管制についての警告

五月二十二日(即禮拜四)八時半より九時半の間に本島各地に防空演習が行われ、この時には警鐘が鳴り、また笛が吹かれます。この時に行われるのは、本島内外の電燈、電器、乃至電燈、火柴等、一切の電氣器具を、即ち消滅せしめ、安全無虞にする事です。此の演習は、本島に空襲が来るときの準備として行われるもので、決して本島に空襲が来るとは、希望されません。

本島定於五月二十二日(即禮拜四)由八點半至九點鐘舉行防空演習。施行燈火管制。屆時以鳴鐘或響笛為號。無論內外燈火。及各種電器。皆須立即熄滅。甚至電燈火柴等。均在受管制之列。務使安全無虞。切切至望。(防空演習時間內。請各盡職責。惟望真正空襲。本不來臨)。

山縣省燈火管制委員會啟

---

**NAINGET -:- PAKAUNA -:- NAINGET**

"PANAGSIPNGET KABUNOH" NGA AIROPLANOS KASDALA RAOTEN DAYTA ISLA NGA YANMO INTON RABU TI JUEVES, MAYO 23, MANIPOD ORAS TI LAS 8:30 INGANAT LAS 9:00 P.M. INTON MANGNGEGYO DAGITI CAMPANAS NGA AGAWENG KEN PANAGTIBEX DAGITI SILBATOR. IDDEPENYO A DAGOS DAGITI SILAWYO ITI UNEG KEN RWAR. IDDEPENYO AMIN DAGITI MARKA NGA NASILAWAN. SAANKAY NGA AGGAMIT ITI LENTE. GURABIA KEN DAD-DUMA PAY NGA UMAPOY. PAGBALINENYO NGA NASIPNGET.

(No man pay daytoy nga itawat aan nga sapaypayon. aramideng ti rekhegengyo iti daytoy a panag-palaw lapni managreganokayo iti animan a dumotng, sapay koma to aan met la a magsasamak.)

"NASIPNGET PAY KOMA NGEM ITI DAYDI NAUDI A PANAGSIPNGET"

---

**TERRITORIAL BLACKOUT COMMITTEES:**

Ben F. Rush, General Chairman, Honolulu County; H. C. Walters, General Chairman, Hawaii County;  
 Robert E. Hughes, General Chairman, Maui County; William Ellis, General Chairman, Kauai County.



# This Fear Also Resulted in the Internment of American Citizens

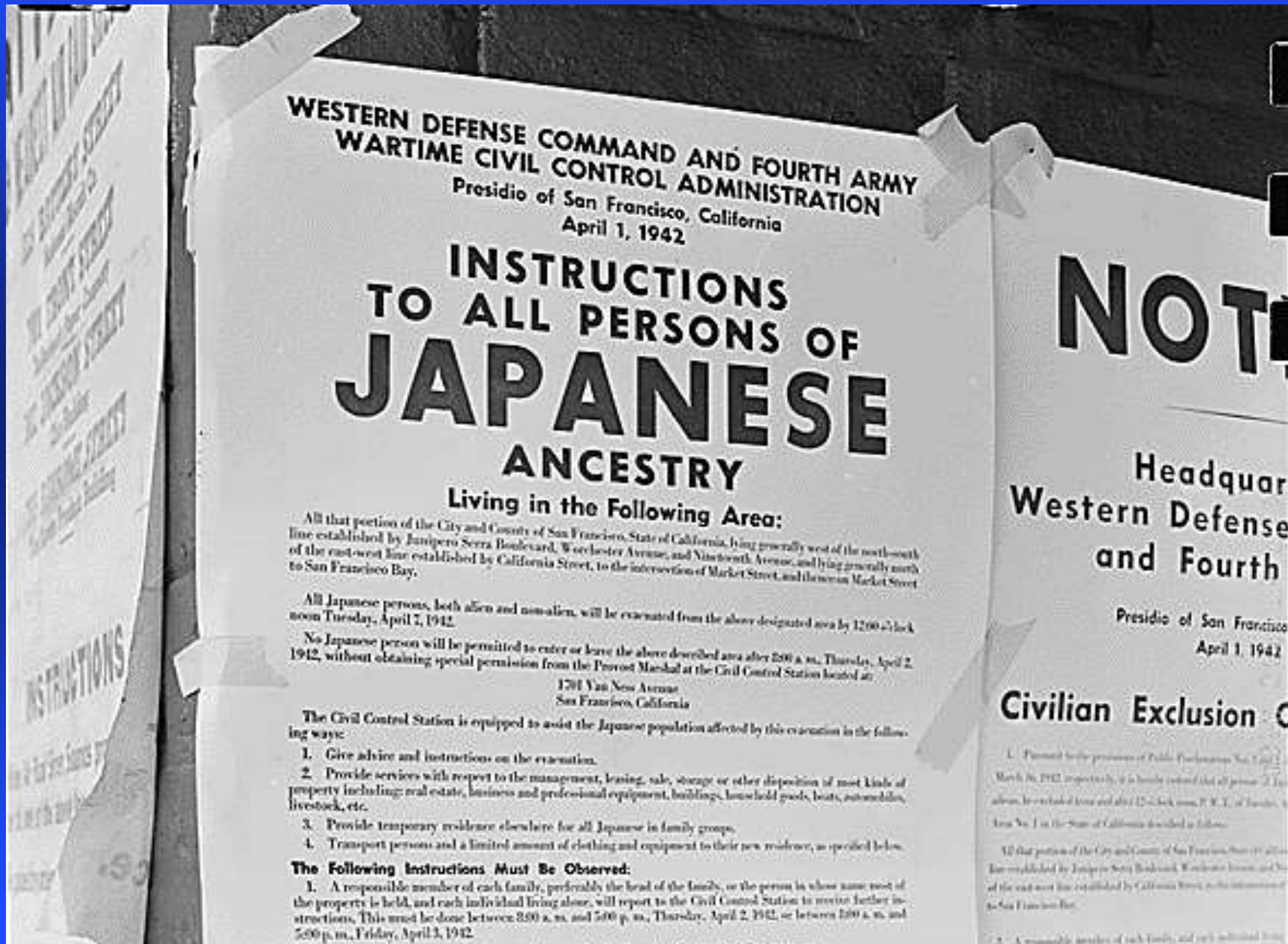
- Fearful of Japanese spies, the United States forces thousands of Japanese-American citizens into Internment Camps.







# Notice for Japanese Internment



# Japanese Internment Camps in the US





# Were Japanese Americans Traitors?

- The most decorated unit in US history is the 442nd regiment, which consisted of Japanese-American volunteers.
  - Won 4,667 major medals, awards, and citations
  - Never had a case of desertion
- The largest Japanese spy ring was in Mexico, not the United States

# Event 3: Significance/Results

- Japanese catch the US completely by surprise
- Japanese severely weaken but do not destroy the US Pacific Fleet
- The US enters World War II



# Event 4: Spring 1942

- Japan takes over Thailand, Burma, Malaya, Philippines, and Dutch East Indies





# The Bataan Death March

- After taking the Philippines, the Japanese army forced 76,000 American and Filipino soldiers to march 60 miles to a Prisoner of War (POW) camp





# General Douglas MacArthur

- MacArthur's forces retreated to the Bataan peninsula, where they struggled to survive.
- In March 1942, on orders from President Franklin Roosevelt (1882-1945), MacArthur, his family and members of his staff fled Corregidor Island in PT boats and escaped to Australia.

# MacArthur Cont'd



- Shortly afterward, MacArthur promised, “I shall return.” U.S.-Philippine forces fell to Japan in May 1942. Declares “I shall return”
- Evacuates the Philippines to get reinforcements

# The March was Known for its Brutality

- Of the approximately 70,000 prisoners who started the march, only 54,000 survived



# Lieutenant John Spainhower's Firsthand Account:

- “I was questioned by a Japanese officer, who found out that I had been in a Philippine Scout Battalion. The [Japanese] hated the Scouts...Anyway, they took me outside and I was forced to watch as they buried six of my Scouts alive. They made the men dig their own graves, and then had them kneel down in a pit. The guards hit them over the head with shovels to stun them and piled earth on top.”



# Event 4: Significance/Result

- The Japanese Empire reaches its peak



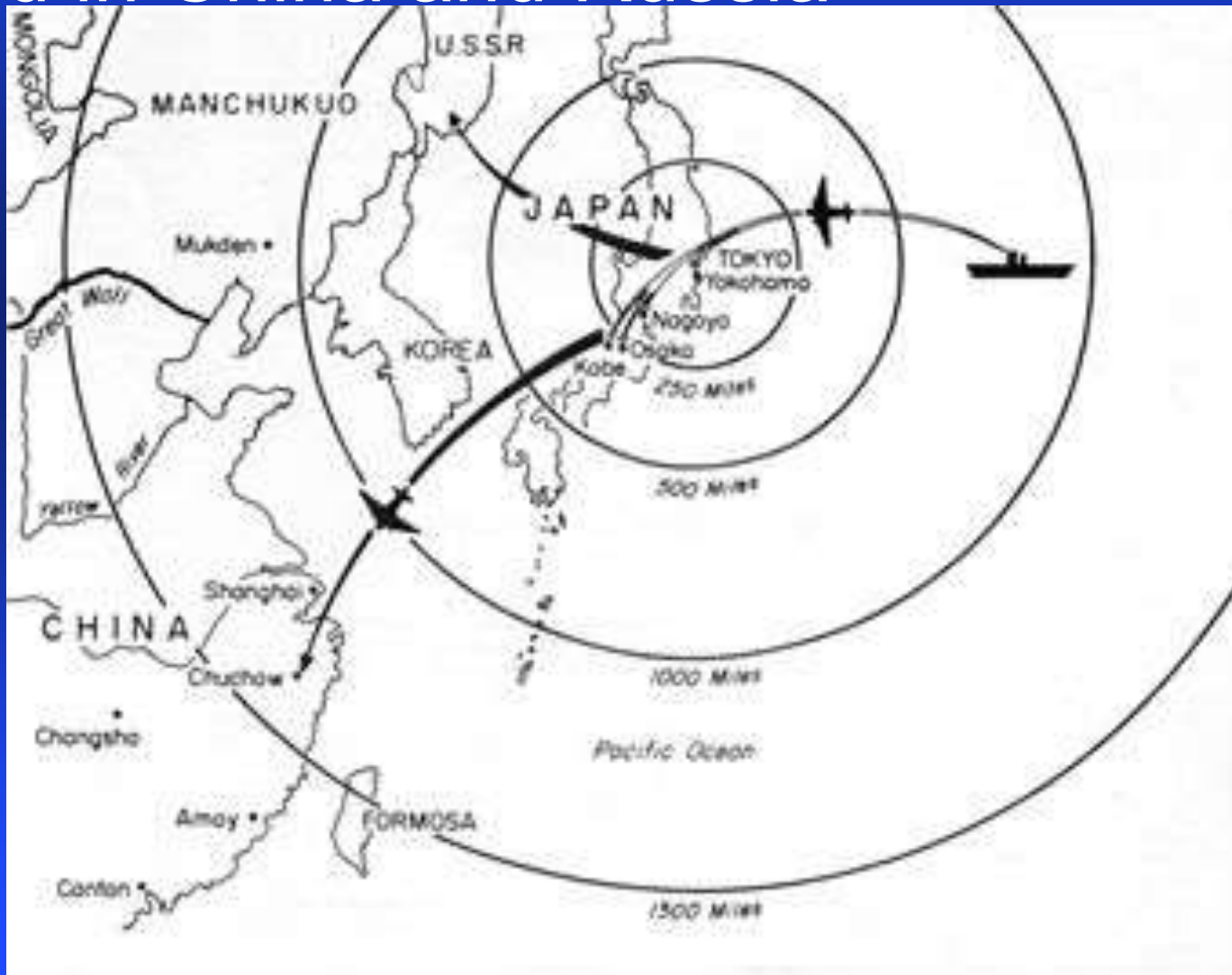
# Event 5: April 18, 1942

- Doolittle Raid on Tokyo



# The Doolittle Attack Plan

- Planes would bomb Tokyo and then land in China and Russia



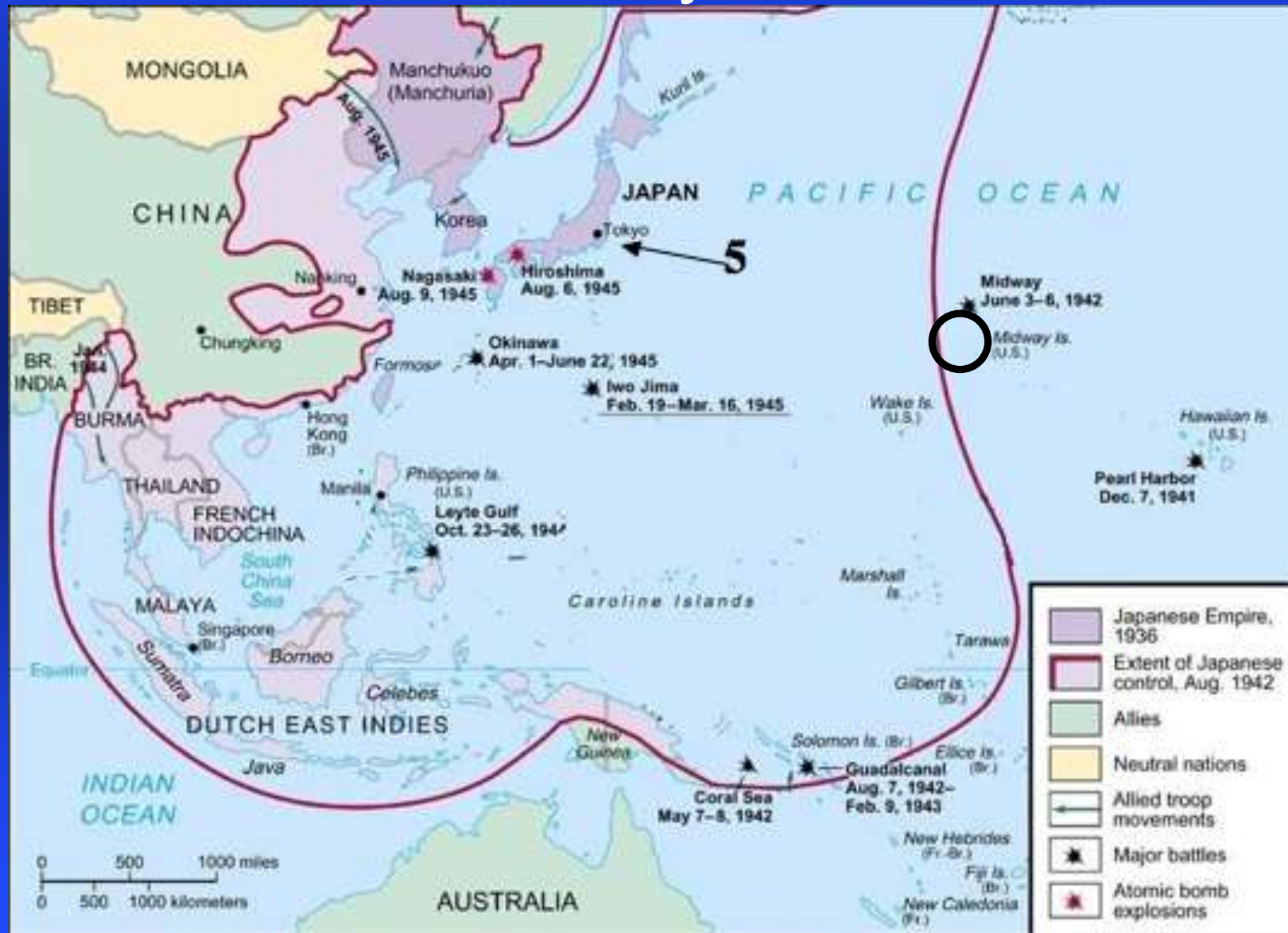


# Event 5: Significance/Result

- The Raid is military insignificant but psychologically important because it shows that the US is capable of striking the Japanese mainland.
- China pays a heavy price (250,000 dead) for helping US pilots who bailed out over China after dropping their bombs on Tokyo.

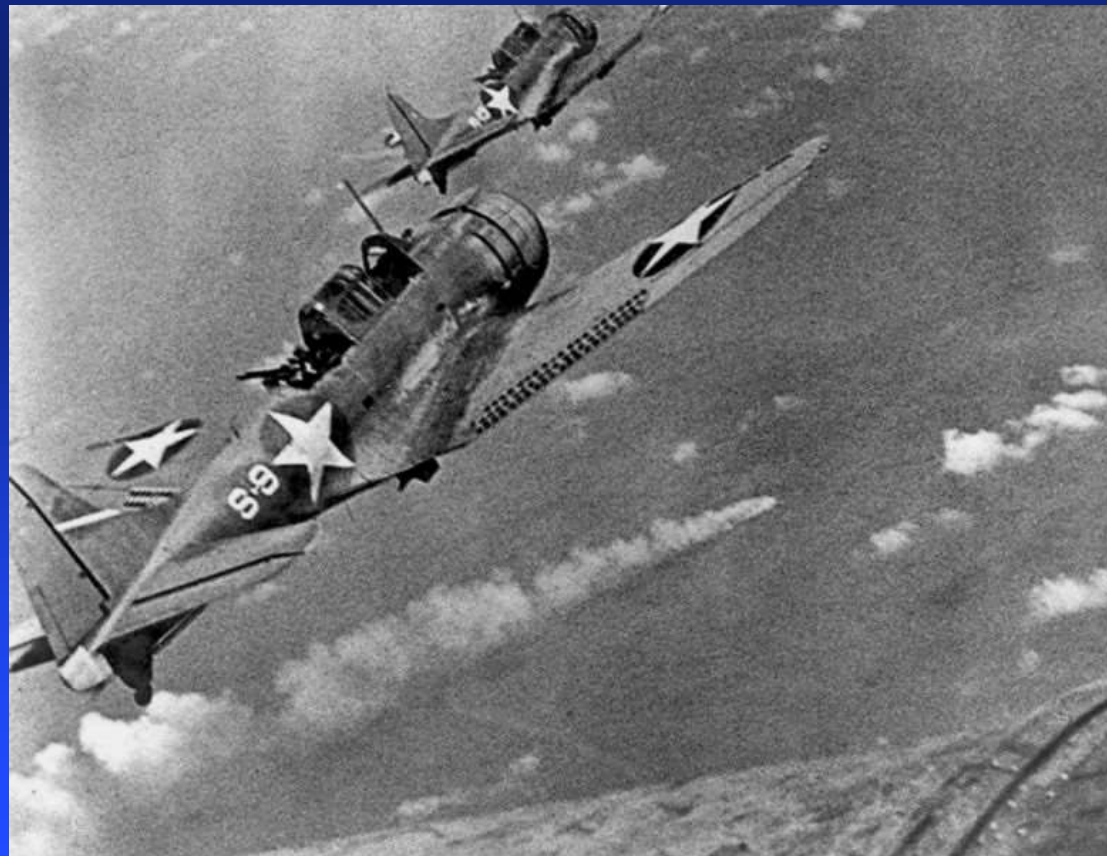
# Event 6: June 4, 1942

- The Battle of Midway



# A Break for the Americans

- By the middle of 1942, the US had already cracked the Japanese codes
- This allowed the US to set a trap for the Japanese fleet





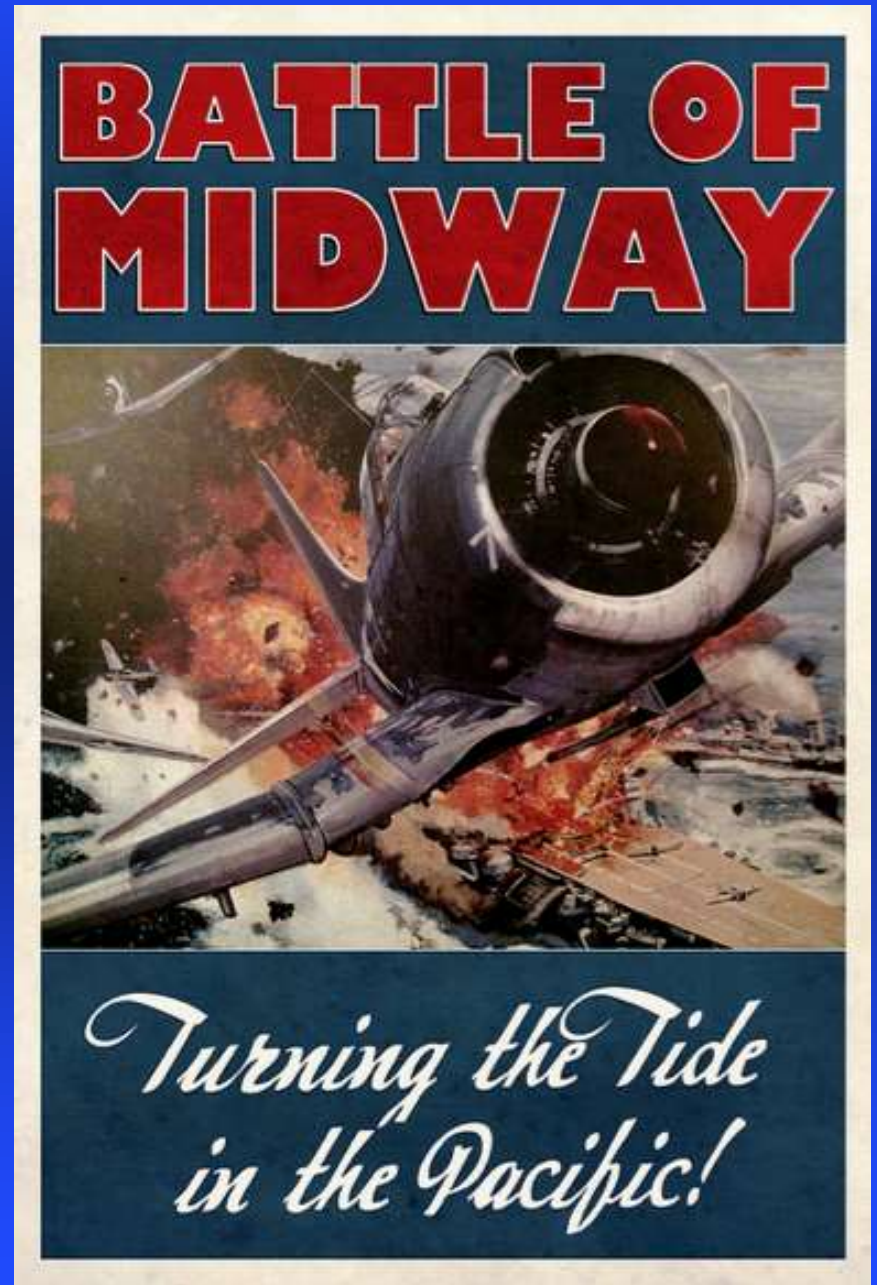
# A Disaster for Japan

- The Americans surprise the Japanese fleet
- Japan loses four of six heavy aircraft carriers among many other ships



# Event 6: Significance/Result

- Turning point of war in the Pacific
- Japan is now on the retreat
- Birth of the new naval warfare





# Luck helps: U.S. bomber

Photo # NH 73065 Japanese aircraft carrier Hiryu burning, morning of 5 June 1942

aircraft



# Event 7: February, 1943

- The Battle of Guadalcanal





# The Allied Offensive Begins

- Douglas MacArthur's, the general in the South Pacific, introduces his "island hopping" strategy
- Rather than invade *every* island, it is more efficient to select strategic islands to take



# Douglas MacArthur

- He was a soldier in WWI and the General of the South Pacific in WWII
- When Japan invaded the Philippines, MacArthur vowed to his soldiers “I shall return.”
- Upon wading to the shore after retaking the Philippines, MacArthur boldly stated, “People of the Philippines, I have returned!”



# The Battle of Guadalcanal

- Soldiers experienced brutal conditions fighting in dense jungles





# Private Ralph G. Martin:

- “Hell was red furry spiders as big as your fist,...enormous rats and bats everywhere, and rivers with waiting crocodiles. Hell was the sour, foul smell of the squishy jungle, humidity that rotted a body within hours...Hell was an enemy...so fanatic that it used its own dead as booby traps.”



# The Navajo Code Talkers

- While Americans were able to break the Japanese code, American's could use the Navajo code without fear of Japan breaking it (they never did)
- Around 400 Navajo were recruited



# Event 7: Significance/Results

- Marines take the island after six months of hellish fighting
- Beginning of McArthur's island hopping strategy
- America's industrial superiority is becoming apparent



# Event 8: October, 1944

- The Battle of Leyte Gulf





# An Act of Desperation

- Still on the retreat after Guadalcanal, Japan gambles its Navy in hopes of turning the war back in their favor and maintaining the strategically important Philippines



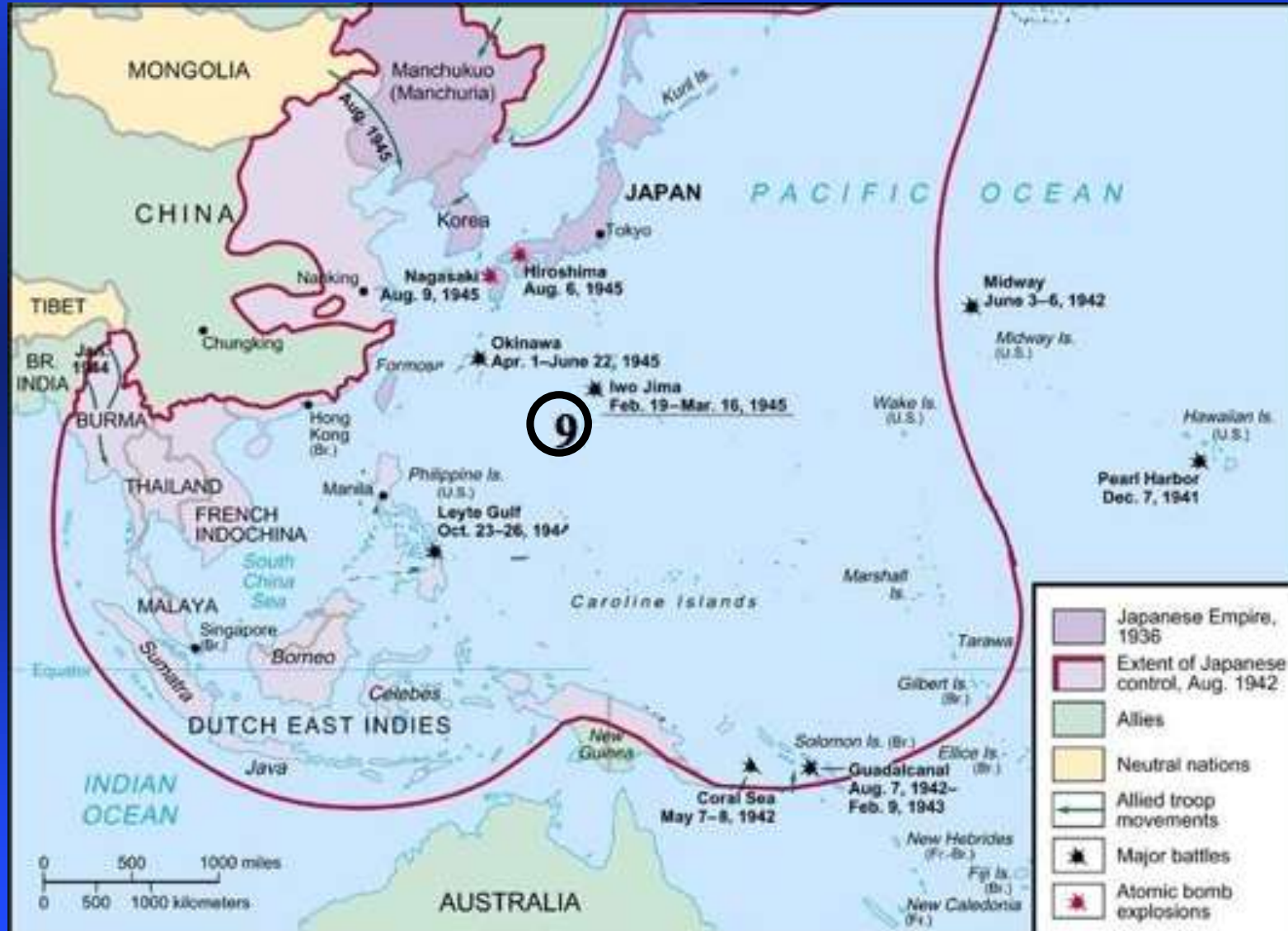


# Event 8: Significance/Result

- Japan gambles what is left of its navy in a last attempt to defeat the US but loses
- The Japanese navy can now no longer fight
- The Allies retake the Philippines
- Japan is now reliant on *Kamikaze* planes and ground forces

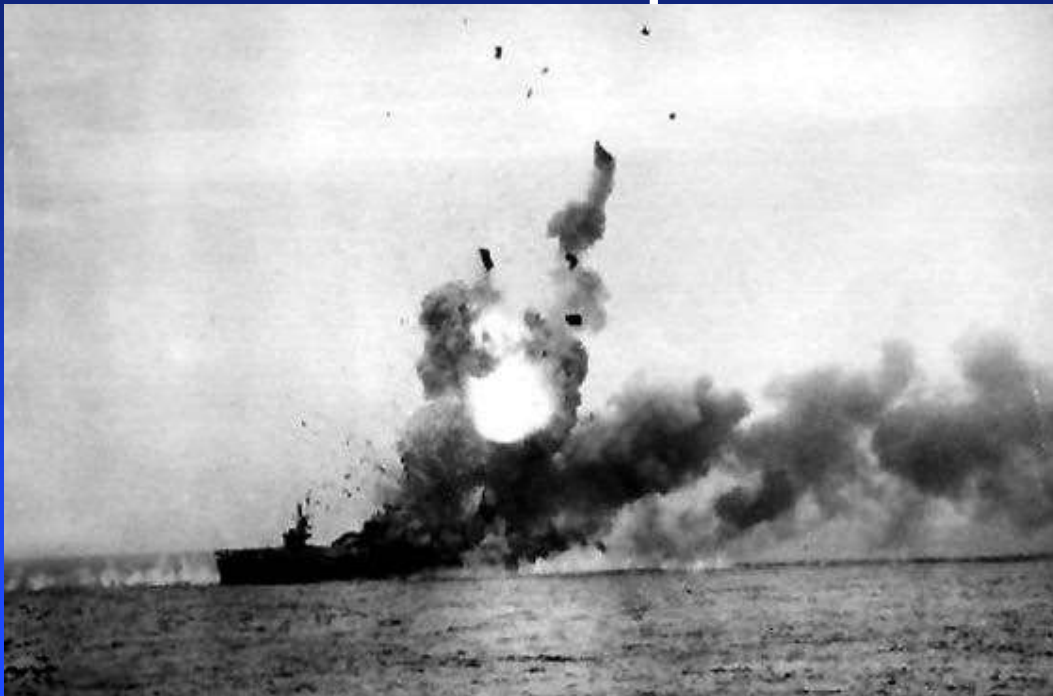
# Event 9: March, 1945

- The Battle of Iwo Jima



# The Battle of Iwo Jima

- Although the island is very small, it is strategically significant for the US
- As the US neared the Japanese mainland, the Japanese hoped the *kamikaze*, or “divine wind,” would be able to stop the American advance









# Event 9: Significance/Result

- Marines take the tiny island after ferocious fighting
- US bombers are now in range of the Japanese mainland



# Event 10: March 10, 1945

- Firebombing Raid of Tokyo



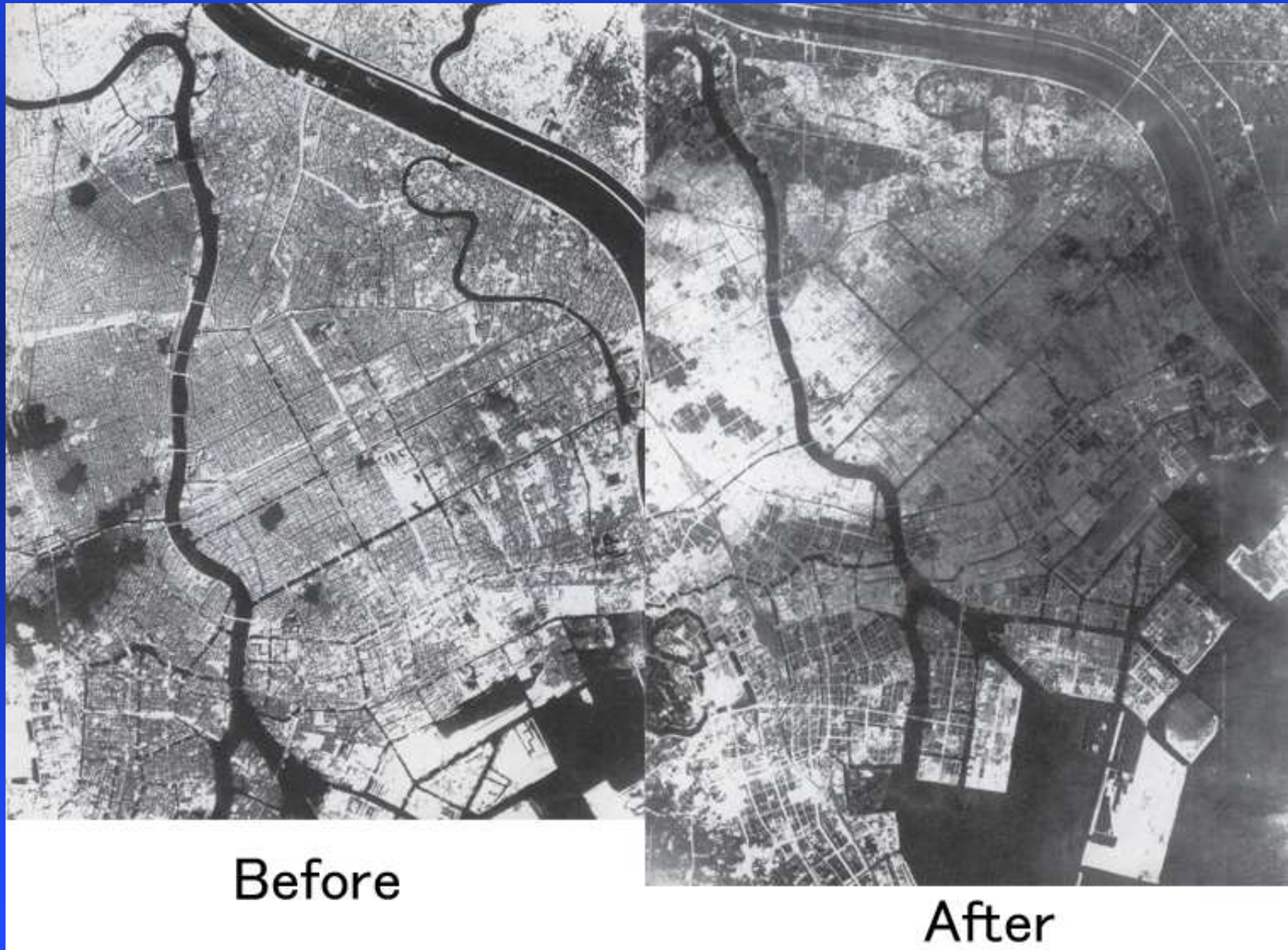
# Tokyo Burning





# Tokyo Before/After

- 25% of the city's buildings were destroyed



# Event 10: Significance/Result

- Worst death toll of any single event in World War II after the bombing starts a massive fire in Tokyo
- 100,000 Japanese die in the resulting blaze









# Americans Land on the Shore of Okinawa





# Event 11: Significance/Result

- US defeats Japan on Okinawa
- Japan loses 100,000 soldiers
- The only step left for the US is an invasion of the Japanese mainland



# Suddenly...

## A Flash of Light in the Desert

atomcentral.com

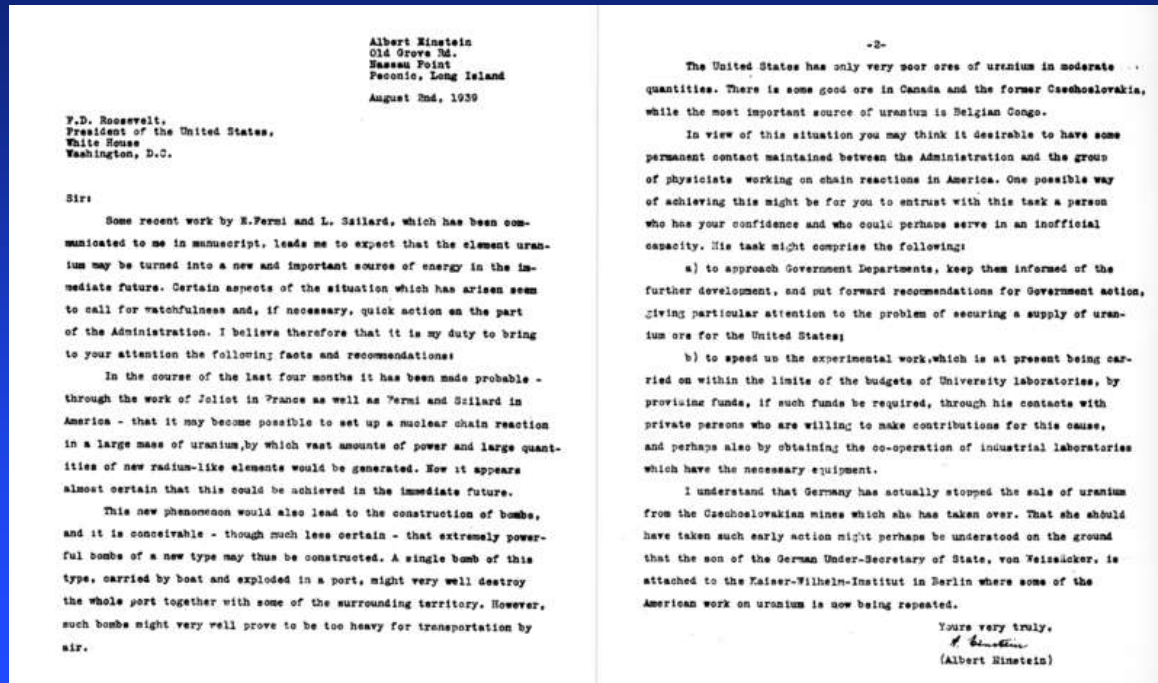
The Atomic Age has begun...



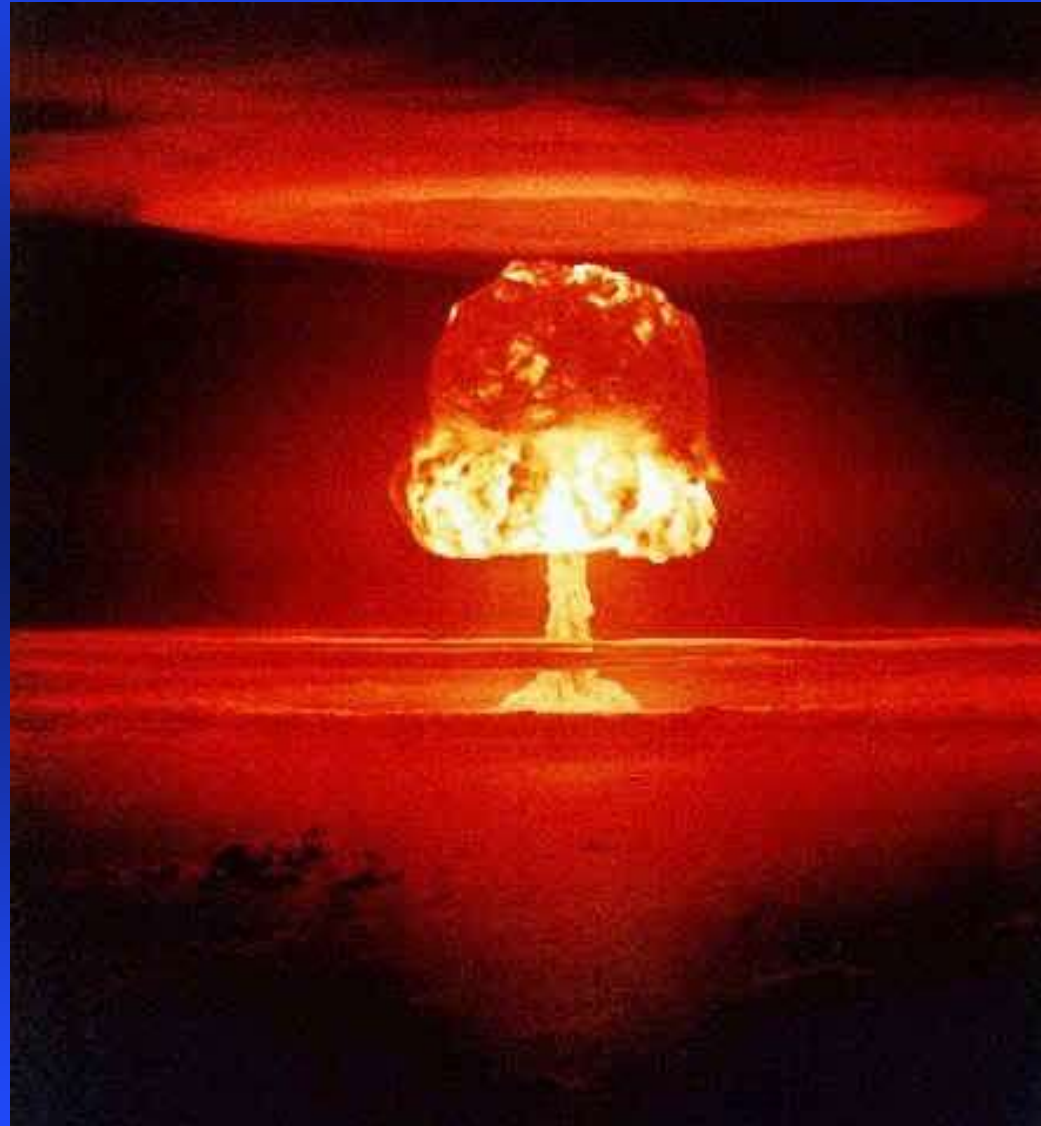


# The Birth of the Atomic Bomb

- After receiving a letter from Albert Einstein on Germany's attempt to build an atomic bomb, Franklin Delano Roosevelt started the Manhattan Project to build the bomb first
- At the Manhattan Project's peak, over 130,000 people were employed



“I am become death, the destroyer of worlds.” - Robert Oppenheimer



The Trinity Bomb, The First Atomic Weapon Ever Detonated



# Oppenheimer and Others Inspecting the Damage



# What did Einstein Think?

- “Because of the danger that Hitler might be the first to have the bomb, I signed a letter to the President which had been drafted by Szilard. Had I known that the fear was not justified, I would not have participated in opening this Pandora’s Box, nor would Szilard. For my distrust of governments was not limited to Germany” – Albert Einstein

# What was the US Considering Before the Atomic Bomb?

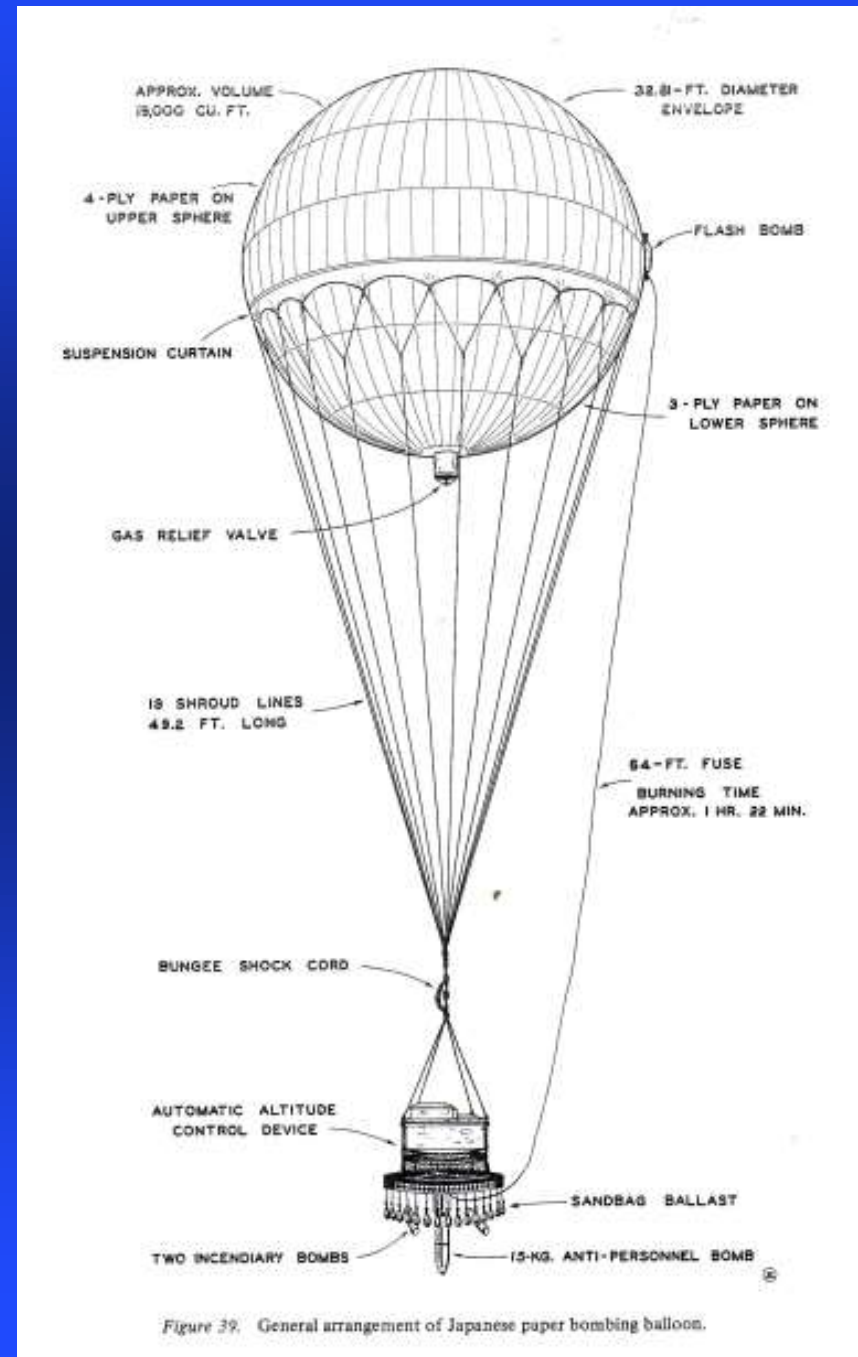
- The “Bat Bomb” was designed to carry bats wearing incendiary equipment in order to start fires in Japanese cities
- It was never used; the atomic bomb was detonated before the Bat Bomb had finished testing





# Japan Had Its Own Unique Idea

- The “Transpacific High-Altitude Air Balloon”
- The Japanese launched around 9000
- The balloons reached as far as east Michigan
- Only deaths: six Americans at a picnic



# Event 12: Significance/Results

- Proves that the Atomic Bomb works
- President Truman quickly authorizes its use against Japan



# Harry Truman

- Following the death of FDR, Truman succeeded the Presidency on April 12, 1945
- Truman and his cabinet determined dropping the Atomic Bomb was the quickest way to end the war





# Event 13: August 6, 1945

- The Atomic Bomb is dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima

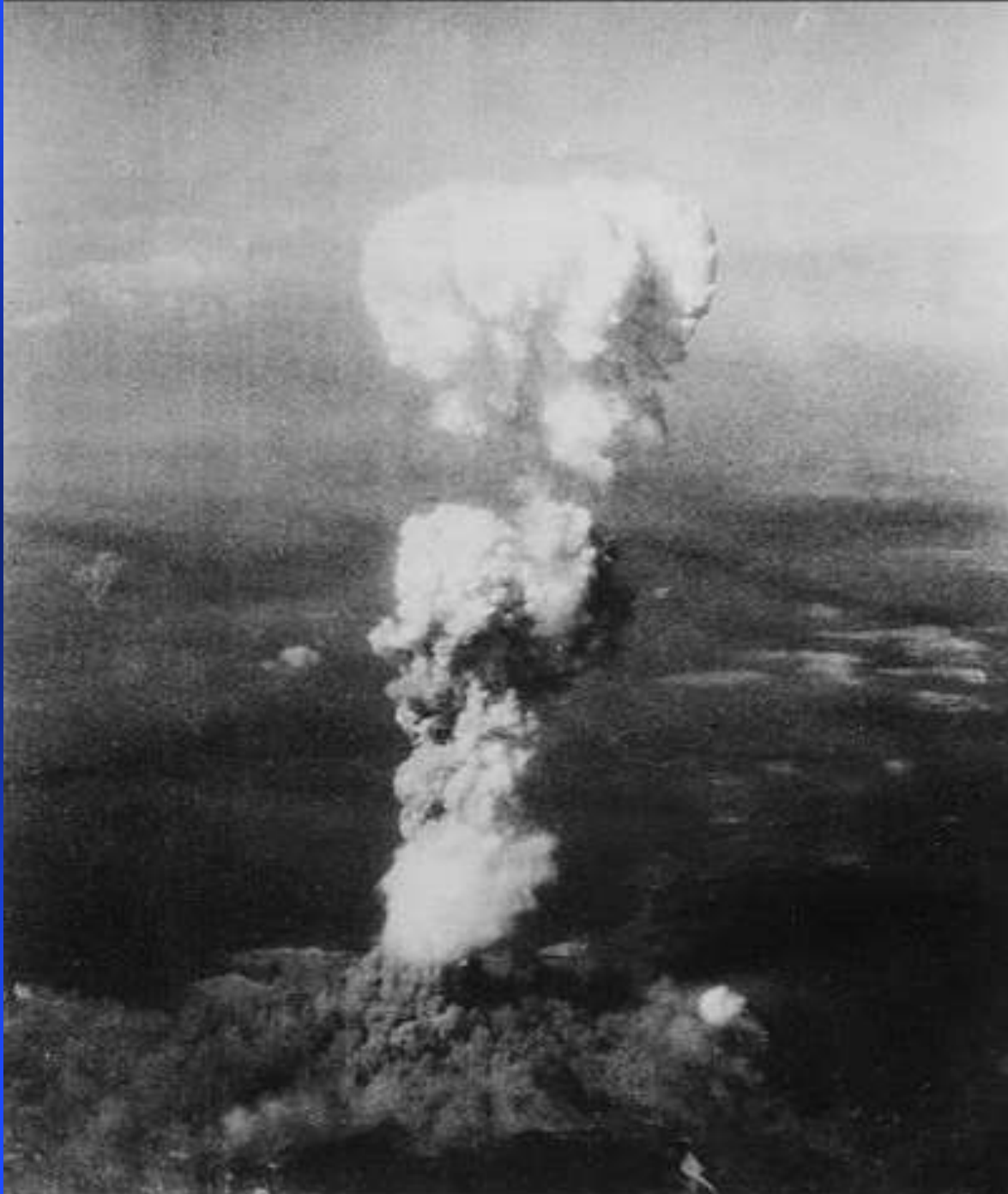


# On the Morning of August 6, 1945...

- A plane named the *Enola Gay* took off from the island of Iwo Jima and changed the world forever



# The Bomb Goes Off



- “Down below the thing [the mushroom cloud] reminded me more of a boiling pot of tar than any other description I can give it. It was black and boiling underneath with a steam haze on top of it...”



# The Aftermath

- "...We had seen a city when we went in, and there was nothing to see when we came back. It was covered by this boiling, black looking mass." - The pilot, Col. Paul Tibbets, after dropping the bomb on Hiroshima



# The Worst Was Yet to Come...

- Radiation caused far more suffering than the bomb itself



# A Survivor's Firsthand Account:

- “The appearance of people was...well, they all had skin blackened by burns...They had no hair because their hair was burned, and at a glance you couldn't tell whether you were looking at them from in front or in back...They held their arms bent [forward]...and their skin – not only their hands, but on their faces and bodies too – hung down...If there had been only or two such people...perhaps I would not have had such a strong impression. But wherever I walked I met these people...Many of them died along the road – I can still picture them in my mind – like walking ghosts.”



# Event 13: Significance/Result

- 80,000 die immediately. Thousands more die later from the effects of radiation poisoning
- The Japanese refuse to surrender



# Event 14: August 9, 1945

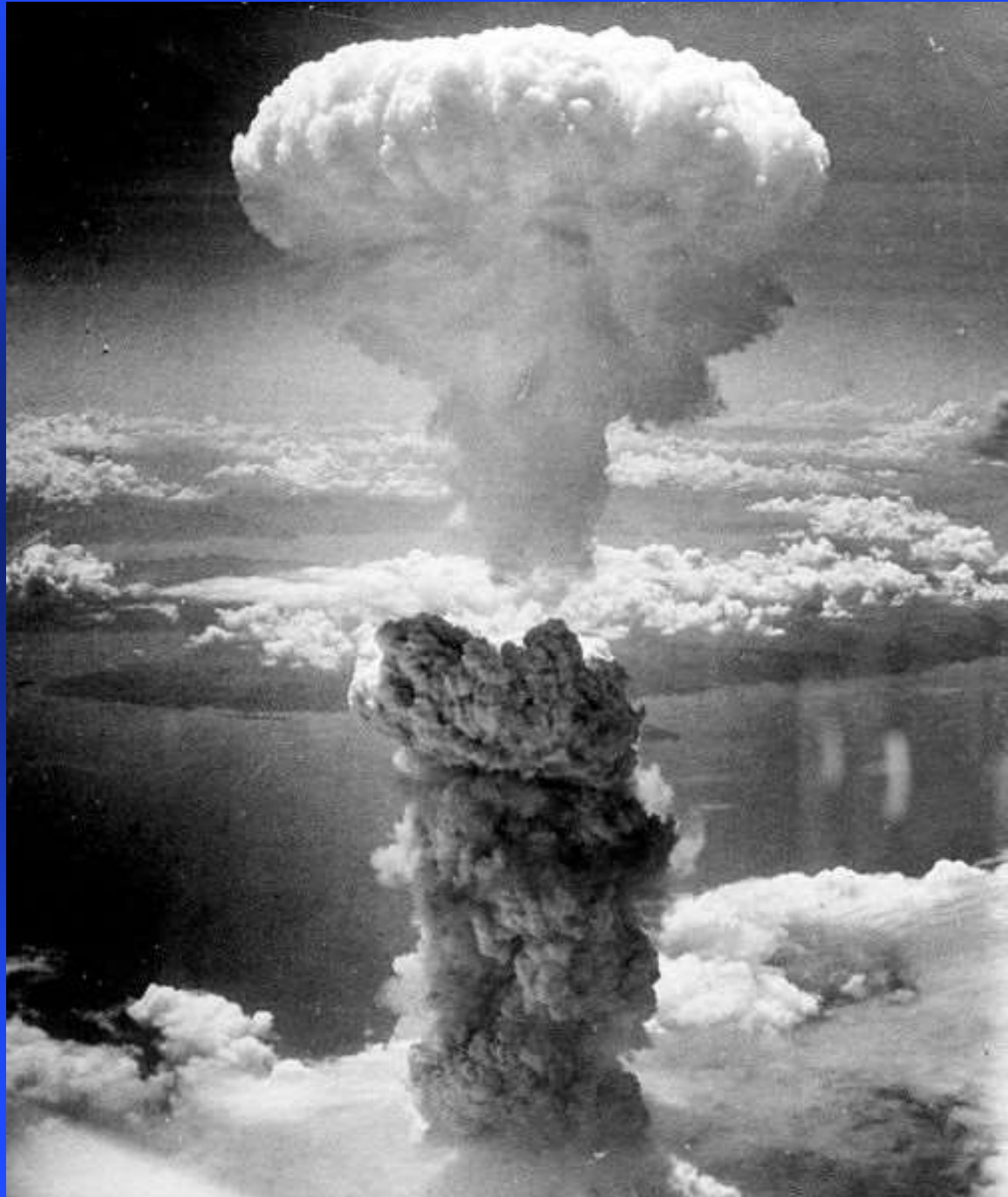
- The Atomic Bomb is dropped on the Japanese city of Nagasaki





# Just Three Days Later...

- Kokura was the initial target, but clouds created poor visibility so the pilots bombed Nagasaki instead
- That was the last atom bomb the US had at the time, but Japan did not know that





# Event 14: Significance/Result

- 70,000 die immediately. Thousands more die later from the effects of radiation poisoning



# Event 15: September 2, 1945

- Japanese surrender to General MacArthur on the deck of the battleship USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay



# The Surrender

- Fearing another atomic strike, Japan surrenders to General MacArthur on the USS Missouri despite the desire of some military officers to continue the war.





# Event 15: Significance/Results

- Japan Surrenders
- World War II ends
- The formal peace treaty is not signed until 1951

THE STARS AND STRIPES  
WASHINGTON, D.C. August 15, 1945  
www.fox.com

# WAR ENDS

## Truman Announces Total Surrender

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15 (AP)—The United States, Britain, Russia and China announced today that Japan had surrendered unconditionally.

The job of demobilizing millions of Japanese soldiers still had to be accomplished, but it seemed that peace had returned to the world for the first time since 1937, when Japan invaded central China.

President Truman, who announced the surrender for the U. S. at 7 p. m. EDT (1 a. m. Central European Time), revealed that Gen. Douglas MacArthur had been named Supreme Commander in charge of occupation forces and would receive the surrender. Mr. Truman started his dramatic announcement by saying that he had received "full acceptance of the Potsdam Declaration, which specifies unconditional surrender of Japan." He said that acceptance had been made by the formal signing of the surrender at "the earliest possible moment."

In the meantime, he continued, the terrible atomic bomb attacks, the Superbomber raids and the feet "barbarism" that had brought Japan to her knees had been ordered suspended.

The President said this note had been received from Japan through the Soviet legation:

"The Emperor is prepared to authorize and insure the signature by his government and Imperial Headquarters of the necessary instrument for carrying out the provisions of the Potsdam Declaration.

"The Japanese is also prepared to leave this communication to all military, naval and air forces under their control, wherever located, to cease active resistance and to surrender their arms."

About the same time, Prime Minister Clement E. Attlee of Great Britain and representatives of the Soviet and Chinese governments—the powers that had signed the Potsdam Declaration—were announcing the surrender.

Radio Tokyo broadcast the V. E. and the world in a collective jubilation by announcing at 1:45 a. m. EDT (9:45 a. m. Central European Time) that "The war is an imposed cessation according to the proclamation will be forthcoming soon."

At 5:20 a. m. EDT, Douglas C. Ross, White House secretary, announced that the Japanese reply was "in the hands of the State."

This was quickly denied by Britain. The radio broadcasting suddenly came from the receipt by the Japanese officials in Tokyo of other communications from Tokyo. The State legation here issued a memorandum that "the Japanese legation reports that only today it received the surrender and that the answer which was awaited by the whole world." Ross then made public the memorandum without further comment.

Ross said that when the official reply arrives here it would be delivered first to Secretary of State James F. Byrnes and then to the President.


Radio Tokyo's announcement was heard by millions on both the East and West Coasts. But at the time sent by it failed to meet the expectation that it had advertised would be forthcoming "immediately."

An earlier broadcast reported by Radio in the Empire said that "the news has come in the worst" way.

"It is recalled—some 18 months after the emperor's decision on the subject of final and total peace if the emperor's decision should not be in line with the Potsdam Declaration, the only thing left to do is to do it."

Other broadcasts in the world that reported the Japanese surrender reported that "the news is in the hands of the State" and that "the news is in the hands of the State."

(Continued on Page 6)



Gen. Douglas MacArthur's first visit may be his to enter Japan

This reprinted front page of Star & Stripes was held in the vaults of the Library of Congress in World War II. The U.S. Eagle Herald stands as a tribute to all who helped secure the peace recently announced by these headlines. Contributions are gratefully provided courtesy of the U.S. Aviation Foundation and FLYING Magazine.

# Conditions of the Surrender

- Emperor Hirohito had to declare to the Japanese people that he was not a divine presence on Earth
- Japan was forced to demilitarize; they could only go to war if they were attacked
- US drew up a new constitution for a constitutional monarchy in Japan
- Land and Labor Reforms
  - Redistribution of land
  - Legalization of unions
- Right to vote for all citizens over 20

# Some Parts of the War Last Longer than Others...

- Although the war ended over 50 years ago, Japan and Russia never formally ended hostilities
  - The last formal attempt failed in 2000 because Japan wanted four offshore islands back from Russia
- In 1974, A Japanese soldier, Hiroo Onoda, came out of the jungle of the Pacific island of Lubang and gave himself up. He had been hiding for 29 years, unaware that Japan had surrendered to the US decades earlier