

## WW2: Japan and the United States

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<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2010636465/>

### **Description:**

Due to a lack of natural resources Japan imported raw materials like coal, iron ore, steel scrap and petroleum. The United States and many European colonies in Southeast Asia supplied these materials. Without these materials, Japan's industrialized economy would have halted. Without these materials Japan could not continue its' imperialist vision in Asia. In 1937, Japan's invasion of Manchuria and eventually China and Korea alarmed the Allied Powers. In May 1939, President Franklin Roosevelt of the United States began a series of economic sanctions, issued an embargo on Japan and froze Japanese assets in the United States. The British and the Dutch followed with their own oil embargo. Doing this stopped the import crucial raw materials that helped build Japan's military and industry. Although the United States was neutral at this time, President Roosevelt and top officials felt it was necessary to stop feeding the materials that made Japan a war machine. Throughout the summer of 1941, Japan and the United States tried to reach an agreement, but the United States was unwilling to allow Japanese expansion and Japan was unwilling to stop conquering.

The goals for the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor were straightforward. Japan did not anticipate conquering the United States. Japan was not even trying to force the abandonment of Hawaii with the attack on Pearl Harbor. The United States was too much of a threat to their newly acquired territories. With holdings in Guam, the Philippines, and other small islands, Japan was exposed to an American naval attack. A swift first strike against most of the United States Pacific Fleet would seriously cripple the American Navy's ability to counterattack quickly. The intention was that Japan could capture the Philippines and other American protectorate islands before the American navy could retaliate. An impenetrable Japanese defense would stretch across the entire Pacific Rim. The United States would be forced to recognize the new order in East Asia.

### **Questions**

1. What three leaders are represented in this cartoon?

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2. What is the significance of the dove being shoved into the cannon?

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3. How does this message of this cartoon contradict the message on the cannon?

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