**7.1 Causes Of The Second World War In The Pacific**

**Long-Term Causes:**

The First World War:

* Japan helped the Allies during WWI but was simultaneously expanding her markets at the western powers’ expense
	+ Imports and exports increased by 300% during the war
	+ Became the key importer of raw materials and exporter of manufactured goods throughout eastern Asia
		- Global economy recovery and return to civilian production after the war -> Japanese manufacturers had competition again -> suffered
			* Small scale agricultural sector also could not compete with the efficiency of the West and falling commodity prices of mid-1920s
* Japan expanded her influence
	+ Occupied German colonies in the Pacific
	+ Gave China ultimatum of 21 demands for concessions within its territory
* China erected tariff barriers to protect their industrialization against cheaper Japanese products -> JAPAN AND CHINA ON A COLLISION COURSE
* Japanese delegation to the Paris Peace Conference was disappointed
	+ Wanted all German possessions in the Pacific… given those north of the equator, despite a pledge from GB to support such claims
	+ Hoped to claim all extra-territorial trading concessions Germany had in China before the war but China wanted them to be abolished… given half of them to the Japanese -> BOTH JAPAN AND CHINA ARE UNHAPPY
	+ Japan was frustrated in attempts to put racial equality in the covenant of the LON
		- Made Japan realize/think that to the western saw Asia was a retainer at the imperial table and not an equal partner

Washington Naval Conference:

* 1921: US wanted to avert a naval arms race between the US, GB, and Japan in the Pacific -> invited nine nations involved in Far East concerns to Washington
* Treaties signed made significant inroads in naval disarmament and limiting future growth of navies
	+ US, GB, and Japan destroyed 60+ ships between them
	+ Five Power Treaty: Established the ratio of capital ship tonnage that each power could possess at 5:5:3 and re-established status quo in terms of naval fortifications in the Pacific (for the duration of the treaty)
	+ Nine Power Treaty: Guaranteed China’s sovereignty
	+ Agreements were important steps toward establishing a working peace in the Pacific but they froze inequities established at Versailles in place
		- Influence of militarists and nationalists in Japan grew -> Japan bridled more and more under these restrictions
* Japan argues that ratio should be equal -> GB and US refuse -> Japan did not renew the treaty in 1936

Ultra-Nationalism:

* On the surface…
	+ Japan was a liberal democracy overseen by a divine emperor
* In reality…
	+ There was no mechanism for responsible government
	+ A number of large families, the navy, and the army exercised a great deal of political and economic influence
		- Influence linked closely to the economic health of the country
			* Economic health of the country linked closely to an expanding empire
				+ Empire was necessary to provide raw materials and markets for finished goods
* 1920s: The Japanese economy began to falter -> a fundamentalist movement grew in importance (“new” doctrine)
	+ Preached a return to the ways of the Samurai and pre-Meiji Japan
	+ Ultra-nationalism, anti-western sentiments
		- Ultra-nationalism = at heart of revival, in combination with subsequent expansion, saw Japan as the natural leader in East Asia
			* Envisioned a periphery, rich in oil and other resources, serving an industrialized center (Japan) and in turn buyIng its finished product
				+ Would later find expression in the vague organization called Great East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere (TOOL OF IMPERIAL CONTROL)
	+ Found adherents in the army (who was politically powerful)
* 1929: Wall Street Crash -> it hard into the already frail Japanese economy ->
	+ Civilian influence in the government evaporated
	+ Serving military officers who also held important government ministries argued that expansion was the only answer to problem of shrinking markets (CHINA TO BE THE TARGET)

**Short-Term Causes**:

Great Depression:

* As Depression spreads globally, the Japanese government responded by using deficit financing
	+ Nationalists and Ultra-Nationalists demanded that this money be put towards military spending
	+ Argued that this would solve their economic crisis
		- Prime Minister Takahashi was assassinated when he tried to lower the spending
* 1937: 2/3rds of Japanese expenditure was used on armaments
	+ Would need to be fueled with resources, so Japan looked to the rich Chinese lands

Japanese Expansion:

* Used a fake explosion at a Japanese railroad company and a murder of a Japanese officer in Mukden to give reason for an invasion of Manchuria
* Tokyo Supported the invasion
	+ In 1932, created a protectorate:Manchukuo, under puppet emperor Pu Yi
	+ China complained to the League of Nations, who didn’t have the power or the will to act
		- US said that the League should enforce the Kellogg-Briand pact as both nations signed it
		- Instead, they sent the Lytton Commission to investigate, who placed blame on both Japan and China
		- Declared that Manchukuo was illegitimate and violated the 9 Power Treaty, so Japan withdrew from the League
* League basically failed, couldn’t act economically as the world market was too fragile and wouldn’t get military support for an invasion
* Japan realized that weakness, so they made the Amau Doctrine
	+ States they have the right to maintain order in East Asia
	+ China is in their sphere of influence, so all other nations must back off
	+ Goes against US economic doctrines, would not back away commercially
* US and Japanese foreign policy would naturally conflict in the 1930s

Sino-Japanese War And US Reaction:

* Feb. 1936 group of Imperial Japanese Army attempted a coup of the civilian government and the Prime Minister Okado
	+ Failed and many were executed
	+ Caused army to tighten control on the government
		- Military solutions over diplomatic ones
* Japanese pressured the Chinese government for more concessions
	+ They were prompted by their new military political control
	+ Nanjing refused concessions
		- Japanese invades cause of dispute for Marco Polo bridge in Beijing
* Japanese forced Jiang Jieshi’s forces out of the capital of Nanjing
	+ 250,000 civilians dead afterwards
* Within a year the Japanese had captured almost all of the coast and north-east
	+ This threatened US interests and so US gave China loans
	+ They also traded oil and steel with the Japanese
* War with China cost the Japanese over $5 million
	+ Dependence on US resources was a cause of the Japan and US war
* Japanese said they needed to expand to keep what they had
	+ This threatened the US, British, and Dutch holdings in southeast china
* All the resources the Japanese took would be threatened by the US protectorate in the Philippines

War Plans:

* The Japanese army had very strong political power
	+ Navy was the most conservative and had not taken to nationalism of the army.
* All branches of the military wanted to show that they were greater in power
* Hence why Japanese army wanted a land operation against the soviets
	+ “North Programme” was a test in 1939 under Georgi Zhukov on the mongolian border
		- Got overwhelmed and withdrew
* “South Programme” would push into Indo-china for resources and hegemony
	+ Was a very powerful operation
	+ Clashed with western interests
* Fall of France and the Tripartite Pact with Italy and Germany helped with the Japanese expansion into the french colony in Indo-china
* By the summer of 1941 Japan occupied the entire colony

Pearl Harbor:

* US wanted Chinese territorial integrity be restored and open free trade
	+ Japanese didn’t want to forfeit gains
* July 1941 Japanese occupy Indo-China → Roosevelt learn about Japanese military plans
	+ Embargo → cut Japanese military off of steel and 80% of oil - oil reserves low
	+ Admiral Isoroku Yamamota - believe the faster the war the came with US, the better
		- Study US → understood industrial strength and military potential of US
		- If war go beyond 6-12 months → little confidence in winning
* Yamamoto given task of developing plan
	+ Contain 3 assaults → land and overpower US outposts on Guam, Wake Islands and larger force to Philippines
	+ Main focus = Pearl Harbor
		- Goal = damage US fleet → not able to cont. operations in Pacific
	+ Ongoing negotiations in WA and US Pacific Fleet’s tradition of standing down on Sundays → confidence of Japanese to achieve surprise attack
* Over ⅔ of anti-aircraft guns unmanned and little ammunition
* Little over 1 hour → 2 waves of bombers sink 4 battleships and heavily damage 3
* 12 other vessels damaged and 200 aircraft destroyed
* By end of day - 2700 US casualties of which 2000 were dead
* 7 December 1941
	+ US aircraft carriers NOT been to Pearl Harbor → US could regain initiative in Pacific
	+ Dockyards and oil tanks NOT heavily damaged → Pearl Harbor = operational
	+ Testament to industrial strength
		- Of 4 sunken battleships, 2 were raised in morning and repaired within 2 ½ years