**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