**Japanese Advance - Philippines, Singapore, Hong Kong**

* The Japanese initial advance aimed to expand their defensive perimeter in order to secure resources and prevent the Allies from striking at the Japanese home islands.
* January 1941: Initially, the Japanese attacked Singapore, which was under British guard; however, the British overextended, which led to the surrender of 80,000 British troops.
* December 1941: The Japanese attacked the colony of Hong Kong, as well as the Wake Islands, Guam, and Burma.
* December 1941: The Philippines prevented Japanese dominion, as it was controlled by US and Filipino troops; Japanese victory would allow easy extraction of resources.
  + The US was defeated in the Battle of Bataan, and 23,000 troops were captured; this would later lead to the Bataan Death March.
* February 1942: The Battle of the Java Sea was a traditional naval battle between the Japanese and ABDA forces; this resulted in a Japanese victory and total naval domination.

**Guadalcanal**

* With the defeat of the Japanese carrier fleet at Midway, the United States was not in control of the more aggressive part.
* For their first target, the U.S. chose the reconquest of Guadalcanal, an island in the Solomons, which provided an important air base for operations in the region.
* Guadalcanal = in the central Pacific theatre
* The choice of target allowed for staging from New Zealand, but made resupply of the troops once ashore, the responsibility of the navy, more difficult.
* Initial assault against 2000 Japanese troops on the island = success BUT japanese counter attacked both against support fleet off the island and the marines on the island.
* RESULT = 6 month brawl = U.S. army and marine corps lost about 2000 to the japanese 20000.
* Several important naval engagements were fought off the coast.
* The japanese navy was trying to run supplies and reinforcements past the US blockade.
* 6 MONTHS:
  + US lost: 5 cruisers, several destroyers, and a carrier.
  + Jap lost: a carrier, two battleships, four cruisers and several destroyers.
* The victory of Guadalcanal paved the way for a two - pronged advance against the Japanese stronghold at Rabaul.
* Since the Guadalcanal the Japanese had strengthened their positions and defended these with a fanatical intensity,
* Throughout this campaign, air combat was essential to Allied success.
* Allied forces constructed countless airstrips that were then used in support of forward operations against both Japanese naval units and land defences.
* Rabaul and its garrison were captured in March 1944.

**The Gilbert and Caroline Islands**

* Amount of materials Us factories had allowed Allies to move through islands at Same time off Rabaul.
* Offensive would open up route to recapturing Philippines and attacking Japanese home islands with B-29 Bombers
* Began Nov 1943 Attack on island of Tarawa
  + Desperate fight
  + Captured island, losses on both sides

**The Marshall And Marianas Islands**

* Nimitz focused on marshall islands capturing Eniwetok and Kwajalein
* MacArthur moved against Biak giving B-29 Bombers range of Philippines
* Advanced Against Saipan in Marianas after marshalls
  + Here the Japanese held a good defence but in the end lost many 2/3rds of their aircraft, 2 carriers and the rest of their forces committed suicide.

**Technology and war: Amphibious and landing Craft**

* Landings regular feature of combat in pacific
* Us priority to create durable landing craft tat protected soldiers.
* Higgins Boat
  + 11m long
  + Carry 36 soldiers
  + Travel 22 km/h
  + Long ramp for protection and disembarkment.
* US DUKW or Alligator
  + Designed to travel from water to land and towards defences.
* Duple Dive Tanks
  + Tanks that “swim” to shore
  + Easily damaged by high seas

**The Philippines**

-The Japanese defended the Philippines with 250,000 troops

- The U.S. came in on the small island of Lyete-landed with about 15,000 troops

-The U.S. and Japan fought for a month

-Japanese casualties far outweighed the U.S.’s

-January 1945: The U.S. invaded the main island of Luzon and by the end of february they recaptured the capital, Manila.

-It took until july to defeat the Japanese in the Philippines.

**Burma**

-While America get much of the credit for the allies in the Pacific front, the Australian army also played an essential role.

-They played a huge role in New Guinea and other parts of the southern sector.

-The British fought the Japanese in Burma.

-Burma was being defended by a small, weak army that was poorly trained and had no air support.

-Spring 1942: this small group escaped to safety in British India

-Allied forces planned to take Burma

-General “Vinegar Joe” Stillwell would invade Burma from China in an effort to open the supply route that went from Burma to China, known as the “Burma Road”

-However, theses plans were thwarted when Japan attacked India with 85,000 soldiers (1943)

-Late 1944: The Allied forces pushed into Mandalay and Rangoon and took the cities.

**Iwo Jima and Okinawa**

* The goal in capturing Iwo Jima:
  + securing a place for damaged bombers returning from raids to ditch
  + Acting as a base for short-range fighters to launch from
  + Took a month to complete
* Japanese defense: utilized rocky terrain and concrete emplacements
* Casualties:
  + US - 25,000 (6800 dead)
  + Japanese - 19,000 dead
* Okinawa:
  + The next step after Iwo Jima
  + Important strategically and psychologically in future decisions (island was close to Japanese islands)
  + Japanese defense: 70,000 troops on Island; kamikaze attacks against invasion force - sank 30 ships
  + Casualties:
    - US: 65,000 (7000 dead)
    - Japanese: would not surrender (110,000 died)