

Section 7.1

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The First World War

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graph TD; A[The First World War] --- B[During the war]; A --- C[After the war]; A --- D[After the war]; A --- E[After the War]; A --- F[During the War]; A --- G[After the War];
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During the war

Japan assisted the allies but also expanded trade at their expense.

After the war

Japan had taken German colonies, but were only allowed to keep the ones above the equator.

After the war

Western powers began manufacturing civilian goods, hurting Japanese trade

During the War

Imports and exports increased 300%

After the War

League of Nations refused to have racial equality as a core tenet

After the War

China placed tariffs on Japanese products, putting the two at odds

US, Britain, and Japan dismantled over 60 ships between them.

1921, nine nations invested in the far east meet in Washington to discuss naval disarmament and reducing naval growth

Treaties establishing allowed ship tonnage each nation was allowed to possess and guaranteeing Chinese sovereignty were signed

Washington Naval Conference

Japan strained against the restrictions as Militarist and Nationalist grew.

Ship tonnage treaty not renewed in 1936

Treaties locked the inequalities of the league of nations in place

Lack of civilian control of military and government

Rogue Japanese military unit stages attacks, giving Japan pretext to invade Manchuria

League of Nation **Lytton Commission** says Japanese puppet state Manchukuo is unlawful -> Japan withdraws from the League

Amaw Doctrine:
Japan declares China to be within Japanese sphere of influence

Japanese Expansion

League of Nations failed- collective security didn't deter forceful expansion, global economy too fragile for economic sanctions

It became apparent that treaties would only be effective if supplemented with force

Failed coup to overthrow Japanese emperor led to **Japanese military tightening control over Japanese government**. As a result, government prioritizes militarism over diplomacy

Invasion and civilian **slaughter in Nanjing** at the hands of Japanese forces

Sino-Japanese War and US Reaction

Dependence on US resources is a **strategic liability for Japan**, prompting a war against the US

Trying to bring resources back from holdings to the home islands **threatened the US protectorate** over the Phillipines

Japanese expansion threatens US, British, and Dutch holdings in South-East China

Liberal Democracy with a Divine Emperor, but really just led by the military and big families

Fundamentalists wanted to return to the ways of the samurai

Military officers argued only way to fix economic issues was through expansion

Ultra-nationalism

Envisioned Japan as the natural leader of East Asia

Economy falters in 1920's

Japan relied on deficit spending

Militarists demanded spending be on the rearmament of the military, so that the military can save the economy.

Prime Minister Takahashi tried to curtail the spending on rearming, and was assassinated

Great Depression

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graph TD; A[Great Depression] --- B[Japan relied on deficit spending]; A --- C[Militarists demanded spending be on the rearmament of the military, so that the military can save the economy.]; A --- D[Prime Minister Takahashi tried to curtail the spending on rearming, and was assassinated]; A --- E[More than two thirds of the Japanese expenditure was on armaments]; A --- F[China's lands would feed the Japanese military];
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China's lands would feed the Japanese military

More than two thirds of the Japanese expenditure was on armaments

All Japanese military branches wanted to demonstrate that they are the most vital to the national interest, and should claim the most influence and resources. There was conflict between branches.

North Programme Plan - A Japanese division engaged a Soviet force on the Mongolian border. The Japanese were overwhelmed and withdrew.

South Programme Plan - pushed the search for resources into Indo-China.

War Plans

Fall of France and Tripartite Pact opened Indo-China for Japan. By summer of 1941, Japan had occupied the entire colony.

Roosevelt learned through radio intercepts that the Japanese were developing military plans all while claiming to be negotiating with good faith, so he ordered an embargo on all trade with Japan. This cut the Japanese military 80% of its oil and steel, which they needed to sustain themselves if the US was approaching

Japanese were determined to hold on to their gains in China, while the USA was determined to restore Chinese territorial integrity.

Pearl Harbor

The attack plan on the USA would contain three assaults. First, the Japanese army would land and overpower the US outposts on Guam and Wake Islands. A larger force would land in the Philippines and finally, a surprise ariel attack on the US naval base at Pearl Harbor. Their goal was to damage US fleet so it couldn't carry operations in the Pacific.

The damage was significant, but not enough for what the Japanese needed. The US aircraft carriers hadn't been in Pearl Harbor that morning, and their survival meant that the US could regain its stand in the Pacific in a short time. Dockyards and oil tanks weren't damaged, so Pearl Harbor was still an operational base, and they could fuel and repair the vessels

The US was surprised. 2/3 of their available anti-aircrafts guns were unmanned and there was precious little ammunition for the ones that were. It took an hour for two waves of bombers to sink four battleships and damage three others. 200 aircraft were destroyed, most of which were on the ground. US had suffered 2700 casualties, over 2000 dead