**History Pacific Jigsaw Period 3**

**7.2 Combatants**

1. **Australia**
   1. Navy: largest vessels were six cruisers of varying sizes
   2. Army in 1939: permanent 3,000 men + 80,000 potential reservists
      1. By the end of the war they had 1 million men
   3. Air force: 250 machines
2. **Britain**
   1. Royal navy concentrated in: India, Burma, Singapore
      1. There are vital supply lines for the British
   2. Burma British defense: army of 30,000 Indian men
      1. 17,000 men survived
   3. Singapore British defense: 130,000 men (mostly Indian army units)
      1. 80,000 captured
3. **China**
   1. Jiang’s forces (nationalist): 230,000 effective troops + 300 weak divisions
   2. Mao’s forces (communist): 400,000 troops during the war (regular and guerilla)
4. **United** **States**
   1. Deploy 20 divisions to Pacific Operations
   2. Marine Corps: 6 divisions + 485,000 men
   3. US Pacific Fleet in 1941: 3 aircraft carriers, 9 battleships, 8 cruisers, 40 destroyers
      1. End of the war: 23 battleships, 65 cruisers, 26 fleet carriers
   4. Air: US produced 26,000 aircrafts a year by 1941
      1. By the end of the war: 50,000 aircrafts per year
5. **Japan**
   1. 1937: 24 divisions + 5,000 aircrafts
   2. 1941: 50 divisions
   3. Army and navy combined
   4. Pearl Harbour: 3 million men (different levels of training)
   5. Aircrafts:
      1. By 1939 Japan produces 4,400 aircrafts a year (twice as many as the US in the same period
      2. End of the war: Japan: 11,000 aircrafts per year
      3. US aircrafts production is higher than the Japanese one, but US had to divide it between different theatres of the war, while Japan could concentrate on the Pacific
   6. Japanese forces spread thin throughout the war
   7. Japan focuses on China more than other attacking Allied forces
      1. By 1945: Japanese army had 1.8 million men in China

**7.3 Strategy and Tactics**

* **Japanese War Plans**
  + Japan initially implemented an offensive strategy, however, this required Japan to push Brit. and Dutch out of Singapore and Hong Kong which widened the war
  + Initial Japanese bases perimeter: East Pacific to South Indonesia
  + Fortification: widened perimeter to have enough resources for the war: from Kurile Islands to New Guinea around East Indie and up to Burma
    - Widening perimeter meant more countries were getting involved: New Zealand and Australia
  + Spring 1945, the perimeter was reduced to only surrounding the home islands
  + Plans required coordination between Air and Navy (long range extension of fleets firepower)
    - Japan focused on modifying their aircrafts for the Imperial Japanese Navy
    - By Dec 7, 1941 aircrafts carriers could travel about 300 km
      * But Japanese aircraft navigation was still underdeveloped meaning they could only operate on clear days
  + Japan switched to defensive after Pearl Harbor
    - Iwo Jima were filled with bunkers and tunnels
    - Concrete pillboxes covered beaches
  + Developed a defensive strategy rather than offensive because they were aware of U.S. industrial capacity, etc
* **US Strategy: Island Hopping**
  + Japanese success lasted only for six months, after being defeated at Midway and Coral Sea, the Japanese would sit behind their defensive perimeter while the US went on the offensive
  + Each route that the US could take to Japan had its advantages and drawbacks -- domestic and inter-service politics factored into this decision
    - Choosing a route through the central Pacific would make the navy vital, but it lacked the land forces to conquer and occupy the little islands
    - Potential southwest route: the army had enough manpower, but it didn’t get along with the navy
  + Eventually the decision was taken to split the Pacific into two theaters of war
    - Gen. MacArthur was the senior US military officer in the Pacific, but he supported President Roosevelt’s competition, so Roosevelt wanted to leave him in the Pacific
    - The navy didn’t want to hand over command to an army officer, especially Gen. MacArthur
  + Command of the central Pacific theater was given to Admiral Chester Nimitz, Gen. MacArthur given command of the southwest Pacific -- Nimitz in full control of the Pacific by 1943
  + Adopted a strategy that played on US strength, air and sea power, while minimizing Japanese strength, strong defensive positions, and a willingness to defend them, and a willingness to defend them to the last man
    - This strategy became known as Island Hopping
    - US invasion forces would bypass islands with stronger defenses and capture smaller islands -- would build airstrips on these islands that would allow them to bring air power to the next island
    - This system of overlapping air power would eventually get the US forces close enough that heavy, land-based bombers could initiate a strategic bombing campaign against the Japanese home islands
    - Garrisoned islands that Allies bypassed had no strategic value without naval or air support
* **Strategic bombing and commercial warfare**
  + The capture of Saipan brought the of the newest islands within range home Japanese home islands within range of the newest US long-range bomber, the B-29.
  + The US believed that the B-29s could reduce much of Japan’s urban areas, built as they were out of woods.
    - To reduce these cities, the US would use incendiary bombs designed to start fires rather than high explosives designed to blast buildings.
  + The US navy sought to interrupt their shipping lines along which they imported their resources.
    - A submarine campaign savaged Japan’s merchant shipping, taking advantage of the fact that the Japanese had no coherent plan for its defence in the way the allies protected their Atlantic shipping lanes.
* **Fighting in the Pacific**
  + Pacific ocean is over 160 million square kilometres in size.
  + Locating enemy ships was very challenging.
  + While battleships had to generally get within 20 kilometres of each other before they could start pounding each other with their big guns, aircraft carriers could carry on operations against the enemy at distances of 200 kilometres.
  + Any land operations undertaken by with Japan or the Allies would entail amphibious landings.
    - Amphibious landings were notoriously difficult enterprises.
      * Landing troops were incredibly vulnerable until they landed and then moderately so until they establish a secure beachhead.
        + The supply sipes and troops transports were exposed to attack while they supported the landings and while supplying the offensive as it moved inland.
* Technology and war: aircraft carriers
  + The first aircraft carriers were converted cruisers and other vessels with flight desks built on the existing hull.
  + By the 1930s all the major maritime powers had some form of purpose-built aircraft carriers.
  + The Japanese started the war with the Mitsubishi A6M Zero.
  + By 1942 the US navy had the Grumman Hellcat which was itself an excellent carrier-borne fighter.
  + Throughout the war most nations created smaller aircraft carriers, escort carriers, designed to protect invasion flotilla and be generally more manoeuvrable.
  + Inventions such as the proximity fuse, which detonated an anti-aircraft shell when it was near an airplane, rather than requiring a direct hit, improved aircraft carrier defences immensely.