**7.2 COMBATANTS**

Allied Forces

* Australia
  + In 1939, had an incredibly small navy given the size of its coast
  + Army had a tiny permanent force of 3,000 men, and 80,000 potential reserves, air force consisted of “250 machines”
  + By end of the war, armed forces had 1 million men, suffered 50,000 casualties
* Britain
  + More concentrated on India, Burma, Singapore, with garrisons in Hong Kong
  + Royal Navy assets were focused in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean
  + Most of the the British forces in Burma were Indian divisions, which accounted for about 30,000 troops, they were poorly supported and trained, only 17,000 survived
  + Garrison in Singapore was also made up of mostly Indian army units
    - Singapore would eventually hold 130,000, of these, 80,000 would be captured
* China（中国!）
  + Jiang Jieshi’s nationalist and Mao’s communist army fought close to 2 million japanese soldiers throughout the war
  + Jiang: 230,000 effective troops, another 300 weak, under-equipped and poorly trained divisions
  + Mao: 400,000 troops in both regular and guerrilla formations
* US
  + Would deploy 20 divisions to the Pacific
  + Marine Corps grew to 6 divisions and 485,000 men
  + US Pacific Fleet grew to 23 battleships, 65 cruisers and 26 fleet carriers

Japanese Forces

* When japanese army invaded china in 1937, it had about 24 divisions and 5,000 aircraft, conscription and indoctrination caused this to rise to 50 divisions by 1941.
* Army and navy combined 130 squadrons of between 12-24 divisions
* Eve of Pearl Harbour, had access to 3 million men with various levels of training
* By 1939, producing 4,400 aircraft a year, nearly twice what the US was making at this point
  + But Japanese industry only marginally increased after Pearl Harbour, whereas the US was producing over 26,000 by 1941
  + By the end of the war, Japan producing 11,000 per year, US close to 50,000
  + However, this is slightly misleading because the US’s production was split between various theatres, while Japan only fighting in the Pacific
* Political influence within the army ensured that Japan focused more on resupplying the war in China
  + By 1945, Japanese army had 1.8 million men in Japan, but far fewer in other positions to resist the attacking allied forces

**7.3 STRATEGY AND TACTICS**

Japanese War Plans

* After initially going on the offensive, Japan quickly took a defensive position against the US
  + The industrial and military potential of the United States lead to this position
* Japan quickly extend their claims in the Pacific and South into Malaya and Indonesia and went west to take Singapore and Hong Kong
* Japan then went through a period of fortification along bases from Jurile Islands and Marshall Islands, west through New Guinea and finally around the East Indies and Burma
  + The Japanese Army and Navy was stretched pretty thin covering this huge amount of land and sea
* Japan knew a land invasion of the United States was unreasonable and instead wanted to fight a war of attrition to force the United States to negotiations
* Soon after in 1943 the initial perimeter had fallen apart and by 1945 the defensive line shrunk to the home islands
* Japan stressed a close cooperation between the army and navy and often held joint training
* Japanese were early adopters for aircraft carriers
  + Admiral Yamamoto saw aircraft carriers as a long range extension of the fleet’s firepower
* Japan poured large amounts of time and resources into aircraft carriers
  + By December 1941, operational distances for carrier-borne aircraft was 300 km
  + Used successfully for in Pearl Harbor
* The Japanese land forces defended the newly acquired islands
  + As time went on defensive positions strengthen
  + Pillboxes and bunkers were used to fend off attackers
  + Japanese defenders fought to the death and had fierce loyalty and later on launched suicide attacks such as on Saipan

US Strategy; Island Hopping

* Yamamoto’s predicted year of success lasted 6 months
* A strategic defeat at Coral Sea and a crushing defeat at Midway
  + Japanese now sit behind their defensive perimeter while offensive initiative went to US
* Each route has its advantages and drawbacks
* Domestic & inter-service politics played a role in US decision
* US had to make some decisions
  + Choosing central Pacific route would make navy a vital service, but it lacked enough land forces in 1942 to conquer and occupy the many little islands across the central Pacific
    - Army had sufficient manpower but it did not get along with the navy
* General Douglas MacArthur was senior US military officer in the Pacific
  + Navy was not interested in handing over command of its forces to him which included Marine Corps
    - Decision was to split the Pacific into two theaters of war
* Command of central Pacific theater was given to Admiral Chester Nimitz while MacArthur was given command of the south-west Pacific theater
  + 1943: Nimitz was given command of the entire Pacific
    - Adopted a strategy that played on US strength, air, and sea power
    - Minimized Japanese strength, strong defensive positions, and willingness to defend to the last man
* Strategy = Island Hopping
  + US invasion forces would bypass islands with stronger defenses and capture smaller islands
    - Build airstrips that allowed to bring air power to bear on the next island
  + System of overlapping air cover was to get US forces close enough that heavy land-based bombers could initiate a strategic bombing campaign against the Japanese home islands
    - Garrisoned islands that the Allies bypassed were of no strategic value without naval or air support

Strategic Bombing and Commercial Warfare (Sahana)

* April 1944- Philippines within range of US heavy bombers
* By July 9th, 1944 US was ready to implement second part of Pacific strategy
* The capture of Saipan brought Japanese islands within range of US heavy bombers (B-29 Superfortress)
* US believed B-29s could destroy urban areas and Japanese war production
* US navy sought to interrupt shipping lines
  + A submarine campaign savaged Japanese merchant shipping
    - Took advantage of the fact that the Japanese had no coherent plan for Atlantic shipping line defense

Fighting in the Pacific(Sahana)

* Pacific Ocean is 160 million square kilometers
* Difficult to locate enemy ships
  + Aircraft carrier indispensable resource
    - Battleships had to get within 20km within each other “before firing at each other with big guns”
    - Aircraft carriers could carry out operations 200km away from the enemy
      * Long range benefit for long range reconnaissance aircraft
* Amphibious landings were extremely difficult
  + Landing of troops made them very vulnerable until they secured a beachhead
  + Command of air essential
  + Supply ships and troop transports exposed

Technology and War: Aircraft Carriers

* Early 1920s, militaries around the world made early aircraft carriers
* First aircraft carriers were cruisers that had flight decks added towards their hulls
* Aircraft carriers were able to extend the range of a fleet greatly
* Battle of Coral Sea was the first battle where opposing surface fleets never laid eyes on each other
  + But the technology required to carry out attacks on the enemy had to improve, (eg. taking off and landing on a ship, as well as finding the targets, navigation had to improve, also, pilots had to judge fuel consumption to get back)
* The pilots and airmen had to be retrained to fly on aircraft carriers
  + Taking off and landing and being able to manage fuel were new skills
* The effectiveness was first shown by the British Royal Navy attack on the Italian fleet at Taranto in 1940 and later at Pearl Harbor
  + The effectiveness was heavily depended on the aircraft itself
* The Mitsubishi A6M Zero was the main Japanese Fighter and dominated the early phases of the war
  + By 1942, the US navy had an answer in the form of the Grumman Hellcat
* The increased importance of aircraft carriers placed a greater emphasis on their protection
  + The navy then made smaller carriers, escort carriers and other craft designed to protect carriers
  + Fleet carriers had large escorts, which were armed with the latest anti-aircraft weapons
  + Inventions like proximity fuses, which detonated an anti-aircraft shell when it was close to a plane, rather than requiring a direct hit, improved carrier defenses immensely