THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC
JAPAN ATTACKS

• 1940: Invades Vietnam, Indochina (French territories)
• US places embargo on JAP (ends trade)
• JAP warns war if embargo isn’t stopped
• Dec 7, 1941: 180 Japanese planes bomb Pearl Harbor
  • Planned by Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto
  • 2,400 dead; 18 ships destroyed
• US declares war
JAPAN BUILDS AN EMPIRE

- **Dec 1941:** US loses Philippines to Japan
  - Douglas MacArthur = commander of Allied forces in Philippines
  - Bataan Death March = 80,000 Phil./US POWs forced to march 80 mi.
  - Approx 10,000 die before reaching camp
- **6 mo. After PH, JAP expands across Pacific**
BATTLE OF MIDWAY

- June 1942: Battle of Midway
  - Strategic island
  - “midway” across Pacific
  - If JAP controls → invade Hawaii
- US attacks aircraft carriers
- JAP losses 4 carriers, 250 planes
- Turning point for Allies!
GUADALCANAL & IWO JIMA

• Aug 1942: Battle of Guadalcanal
  • Allies want to capture JAP airfield built on island
  • JAP abandon island after 6 mo. (Feb 1943)
  • “island of death” – 7,000 US, 31,000 Japanese

• Next 2 years: Both sides regroup; rebuild; Allies slowly move closer to Japan

• Feb 1945: Battle of Iwo Jima
  • Strategic = launch bombers that would reach JAP
  • Most defended = 20,700 Japanese
  • US successful
  • 6000+ Marines die
  • Only 200 Japanese survive
BATTLE OF OKINAWA

- Apr – Jun 1945: US invades Okinawa
  - Strategic island for attack on JAP mainland
  - Largest amphibious attack in the Pacific
- JAP uses kamikaze attacks, mass suicides
- Deadliest battle in the Pacific
  - 65,000 US casualties
  - 100,000 Japanese casualties
  - 40,000 – 150,000 civilians
- Gives US idea of what an invasion of JAP would be like – estimates 1.5 million Allies lost
THE MANHATTAN PROJECT

- 1939: Einstein and other Ger. scientists warn US that GER was on the verge of “extremely powerful bombs of a new type”
- 1942 – 1944: Manhattan Project in New Mexico’s desert
  - Head scientist: Robert Oppenheimer
  - Developed the atomic bomb
  - Extremely secretive project
- 1945: US decides to use atomic bomb on Japan
ATOMIC BOMB ARTICLE: SHARE OUT