

Winning the Pacific

Bushido!

- Japanese style of fighting to the death.
- Do not give up under any circumstance

Philippines Fall

- After Pearl Harbor Japan takes over Philippine Islands
- Defeated General Douglas MacArthur-"I shall return"



Bataan Death March

- Japan made the POW's march 80 miles in the excruciating heat
- 76,000 started only 54,000 made it



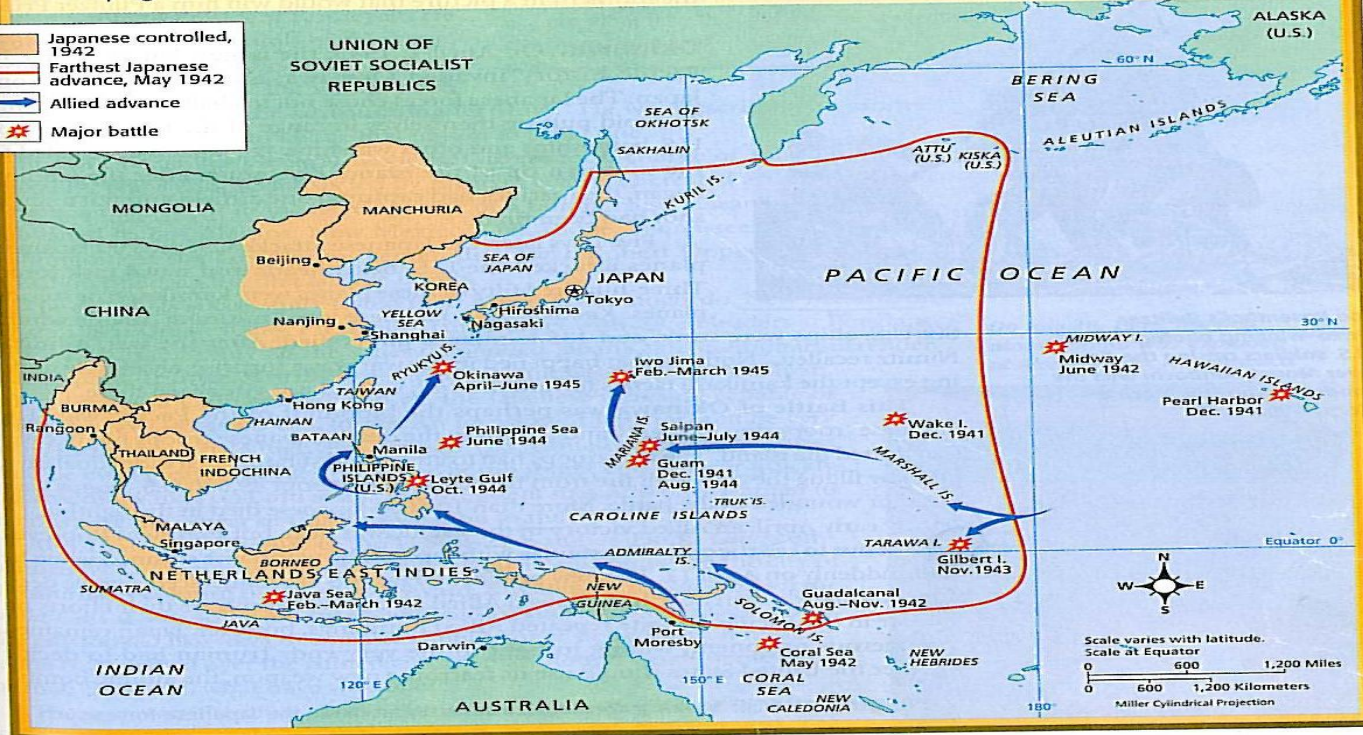
These Pacific victories gave the United States several strategic bases from which to launch B-29 bombers against the Japanese home islands. U.S. planes bombed most of the country's major cities in an effort to weaken the fighting spirit of the Japanese. The worst raid took place over Tokyo in March 1945 and created huge firestorms that destroyed much of the city. The massive destruction caused Japanese civilian morale to sag, but the country's military leaders refused to surrender.

World War II in the Pacific, 1941–1945

Interpreting Maps The Allies gained momentum in the Pacific war after the Battle of Midway, which cost Japan four aircraft carriers and many of its pilots.

THE USES OF GEOGRAPHY In which direction did battles in the Pacific progress?

- Japanese controlled, 1942
- Farthest Japanese advance, May 1942
- Allied advance
- Major battle



John Ciardi in *"The Good War": An Oral History of World War Two*

The Bombing of Japan.

John Ciardi, a B-29 machine gunner who took part in many of the bombing raids on Japan, reflected on the incredible destruction caused by the raids. "We were in the terrible business of burning out Japanese towns. That meant women and old people and children. . . . I have some of my strike photos at home. Tokyo looked like one level bed of ash. The only things standing were some stone buildings. If you looked at the photos carefully, you'd see they were gutted. Some of the people jumped into rivers to get away from these fire storms. They were packed in so tight to get away from the fire, they suffocated. They were so close to one another they couldn't fall over. It must have been horrible."

CRITICAL THINKING Why might the United States have conducted large-scale bombing raids over Japan during the final year of the war?

ANSWER: Students may respond that the bombing raids were meant to eliminate as much of Japan's infrastructure as possible and to lower civilian morale by killing people and destroying their homes.

American Battle Strategy

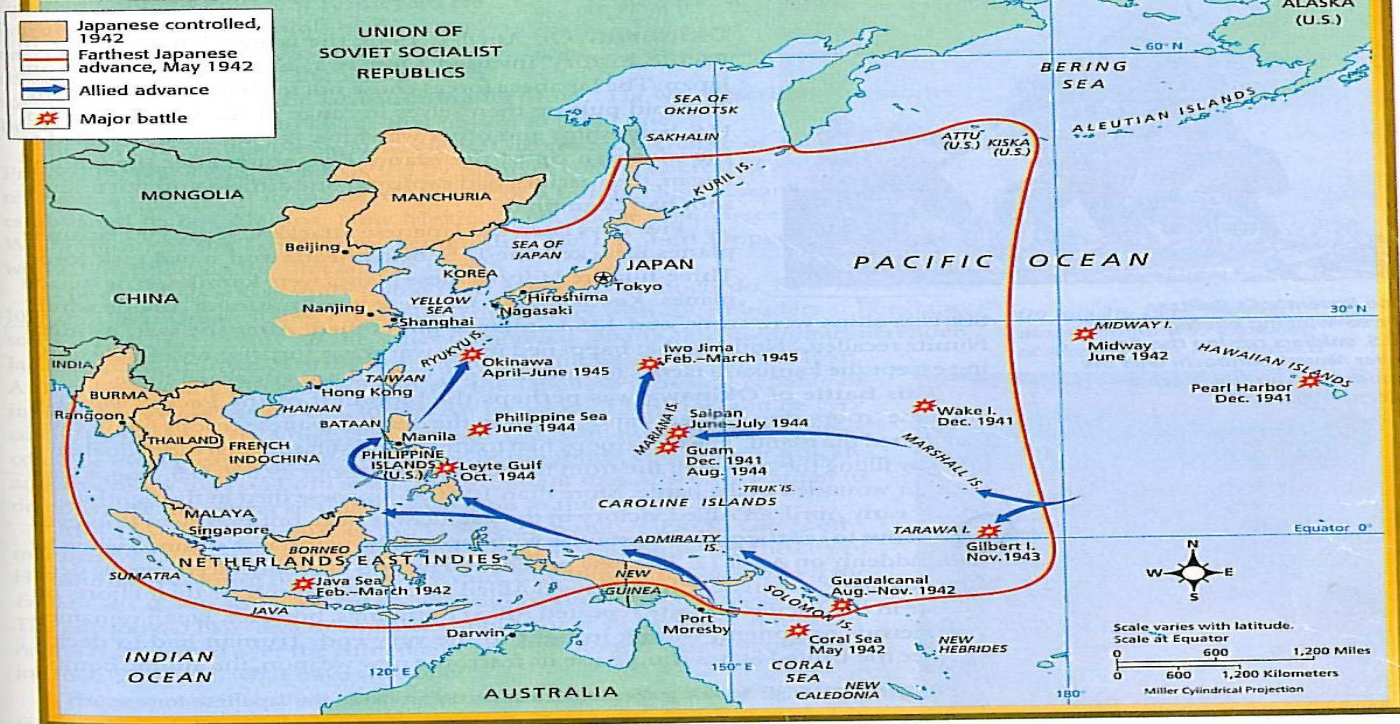
- Island Hopping-target specific Pacific Islands to invade
- Defeat the Japanese and set up airstrips to help secure more islands
- The goal is to get close enough to bomb the mainland of Japan

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Key U.S. Victories

- Coral Sea-May 1942 (First major victory)
- Midway June 1942 (4 Japanese Aircraft carriers destroyed)
- Guadalcanal-Aug 42-Feb 43 (some of the bloodiest battles in the Pacific)
- Guam-June 1944 (Can now bomb Japan)
- Leyte Gulf- Oct 1944 (MacArthur returns to free POWs)

Iwo Jima

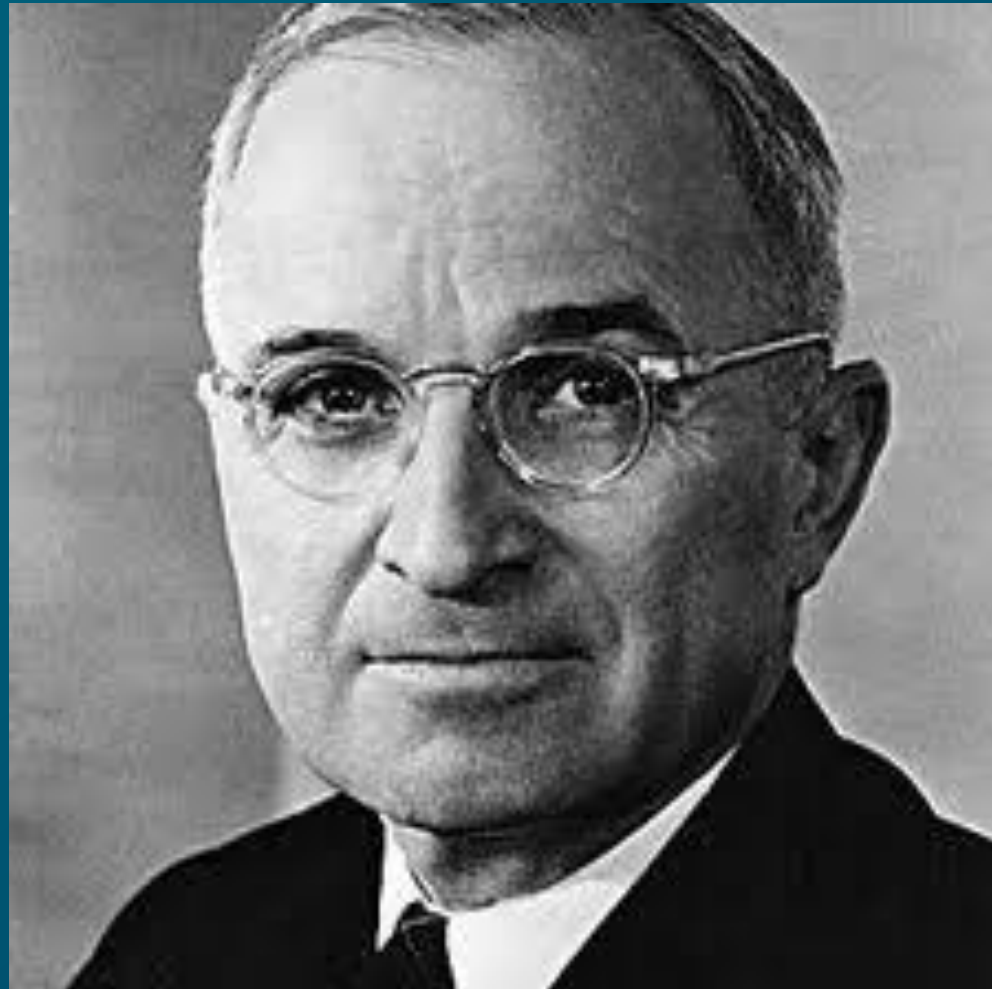
- Feb 1945
- 750 Miles from Tokyo
- Lasted 6 weeks (bushido)
- Several thousand U.S died, 20,000 Japanese
- U.S. Marines put flag atop Mt. Suribachi as symbol of victory



Okinawa

- April 1 1945-largest land force in Pacific History
- 350 Miles away from Japan
- Japan uses 350 kamikaze planes
- “Bloodiest battle in the Pacific
- 49,000 U.S. Killed or wounded
- 100,000 Japanese died

Truman becomes President April 12, 1945



Decision Time for Truman

- Once Iwo Jima and Okinawa were secured the U.S. continued constant bombings of Japan
- Japanese would still not surrender
- Meanwhile he was clued in on the Manhattan Project-code name for atomic bomb
- July 16, 1945-bomb was successfully tried in desert of New Mexico
- Potsdam Conference July 17, 1945-Allied leaders meet in Berlin and confident Truman demands unconditional surrender from Japan
- They refuse

Military Options

- Invade Japan by land-estimated ran as high as 1 million U.S. soldiers would be killed. (2-3 times as many for Japan including civilians)
- Drop the Atomic Bomb-no real way of knowing the long term ramifications

Why the Bomb?

- Truman decided to drop the bomb to save lives on both sides and many believe to show the Soviets we indeed had the bomb



Atomic Bomb Targets

- Hiroshima
- Paul Tibbets drops “little boy” from the Enola Gay on Aug 6 1945
- 75,000 people died
- Countless birth defects and other environmental hazards for decades



Atomic Bomb Targets

- Nagasaki
- August 9, 1945
- “Fat man” is dropped
- 200,000 died
- Soviet Union was now invading Japan as well



Japanese Surrender

- Japanese Emperor calls for surrender.
- Official surrender signed on Sept 2, 1945 aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay

WWII Impact

- 30 million people died
- The war cost more than \$1 trillion
- The Soviet Union and the United States are left standing as the world's two "Superpowers"
- Over the next 4 decades the two will fight a "Cold War" to determine who will be THE Superpower of the world.