

# **Spring Semester 2020:**

## **Distance Learning Assignments: World**

**Each week, there will be a reading assignment from your textbook. For each assignment, you will need to read the assigned pages AND:**

- 1. Write a 5+ sentence summary in your own words of the material covered in the reading.**
- 2. Include 2 vocabulary definitions from the reading. The definitions should be in your own words.**
- 3. You will need to email me at [dalmasc@luhsd.net](mailto:dalmasc@luhsd.net) your summary and vocabulary. (both should be in the same email.) BE SURE TO INCLUDE IN YOUR EMAIL YOUR FULL NAME (First and last) AND Period AND THE TITLE OF THE READING ASSIGNMENT. (for example, US Reading Assignment Week One)**

**You can email throughout each week day (Monday through Friday) 8:15 a.m. - 3:00p.m. if you have any questions.  
Email: [dalmasc@luhsd.net](mailto:dalmasc@luhsd.net)**

## 4. The War in Asia, 1942–1945

Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, was the first in a series of strikes against Allied territory in the Pacific. Within hours, Japanese planes had also attacked U.S. bases in the Philippines and British forces in Hong Kong, and Japanese troops landed in Malaya. By the end of March 1942, the Japanese had captured Hong Kong and Singapore, the American islands of Guam and Wake, and the oil-rich Dutch East Indies. Japan had also invaded several larger possessions of the Allies, including the American-held Philippine Islands and the British colony of Burma.

In the Philippines, Americans and Filipinos under General Douglas MacArthur resisted a fierce Japanese onslaught. Disease and malnutrition killed many of the defenders. In March 1942, President Roosevelt ordered MacArthur to leave the islands. "I shall return," MacArthur promised the Americans and Filipinos he left behind. Two months later, Japan completed its conquest of the Philippines. On the largest island, the Japanese marched 70,000 American and Filipino defenders 63 miles up the Bataan Peninsula to a prison camp. Japanese soldiers beat and bayoneted those who could not keep up. More than 7,000 died on the brutal Bataan Death March.

The fall of Burma, in May 1942, had serious consequences. Japan controlled most of coastal China, so no supplies could reach the Chinese army by sea. China had relied on British and American supplies carried in from India over the Burma Road. Now Japan had cut this lifeline. If Japan defeated China, hundreds of thousands of Japanese soldiers would be free to fight elsewhere. To help China keep fighting, the Allies set up an airborne supply route over the Himalayas.

**The Pacific War Begins** Japan's string of victories in the Pacific hurt the Allies' confidence. To boost morale, President Roosevelt asked for a strike on the Japanese home islands. Military strategists came up with a plan to fly B-25 bombers off an aircraft carrier. The B-25 could make a short takeoff. It also had the range to reach Japan and then land at Allied airfields in China.

On April 18, 1942, 16 bombers took off from the U.S. carrier *Hornet*, which had sailed to within 650 miles of Japan, to bomb Tokyo and other Japanese cities. Although the surprise attack did little damage, it thrilled Americans as much as it shocked the Japanese. Japan reacted by putting more precious resources into defending the home islands.

The Americans also learned of Japanese activity far to the south in the Coral Sea. The Japanese were moving into position to isolate Australia, a key ally. To stop them, the United States sent two aircraft carriers, several cruisers, and a few destroyers—all that could be spared at the time—to face a larger Japanese force that included three carriers.



American forces fought the Battle of the Coral Sea using planes based on aircraft carriers. In this photo, the flight deck crew of the USS Lexington aircraft carrier helps maneuver a Hellcat fighter plane.



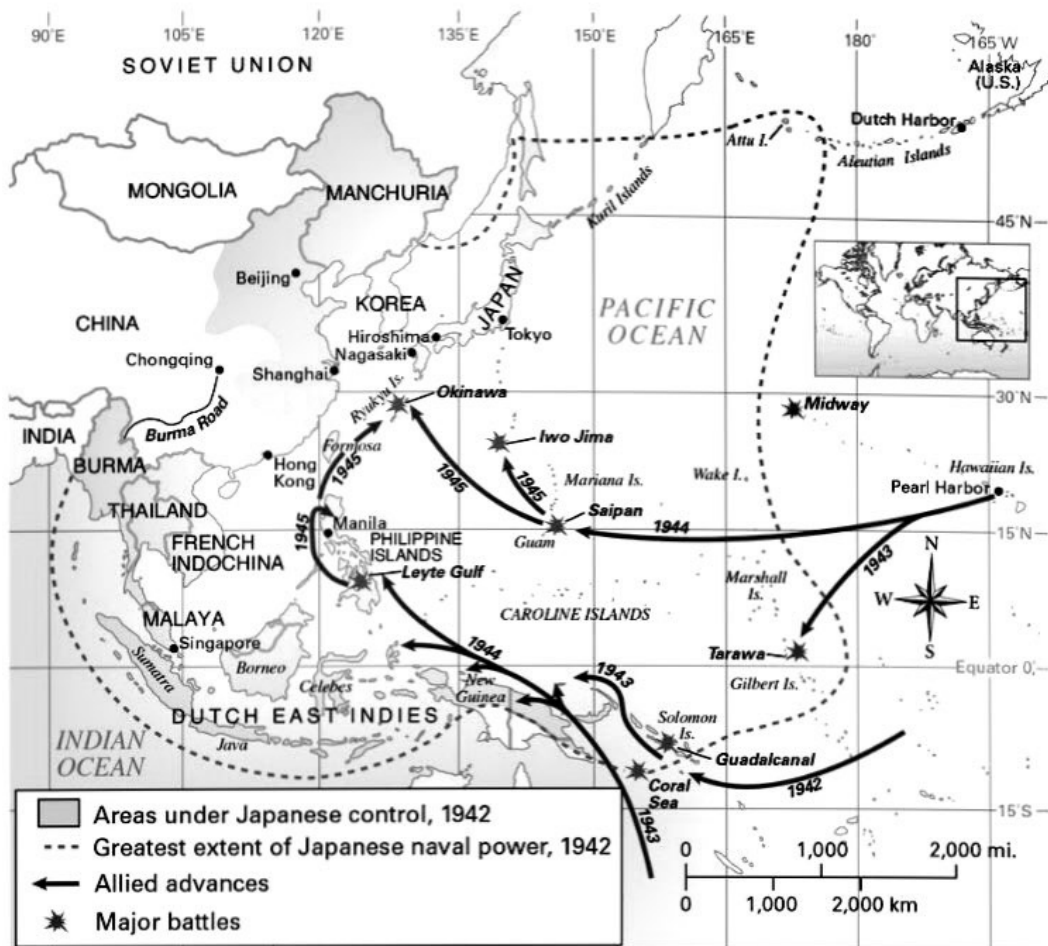
Crew members have difficulty walking along the sloping deck of the USS *Yorktown* aircraft carrier, after it was hit by Japanese torpedoes at the Battle of Midway. The ship survived the onslaught, but was soon torpedoed again and sank on June 7, 1942.

The resulting Battle of the Coral Sea, in early May 1942, was fought entirely by carrier-based aircraft. It was the first naval battle in history in which the enemies' warships never came within sight of each other. Japanese aircraft sank one U.S. carrier and damaged the other. American planes sank one Japanese carrier and damaged the other two. Despite the fairly even losses, the Americans gained a strategic victory and blocked Japanese expansion to the south.

**The Allies Stop Japanese Expansion** The United States led the Allied forces in the Pacific and did most of the fighting. The "Europe First" approach to the war put Pacific commanders at a disadvantage. Because they had fewer ships, planes, and soldiers than the Japanese, a defensive strategy made sense. U.S. naval forces would try to contain the Japanese by stopping their expansion in the Central and South Pacific.

American forces achieved this goal at the Battle of Midway in June 1942. The Americans intercepted a Japanese message telling of plans for a major offensive. They figured out that the target was the U.S. base at Midway, a pair of islands about 1,200 miles northwest of Pearl Harbor. With this knowledge, the navy sat in wait for the Japanese fleet. When it was in striking distance, American planes from Midway and from three aircraft carriers demolished the enemy force. All four Japanese carriers and about 300 aircraft were destroyed. Japan never recovered from these losses. The Battle of Midway was Japan's last offensive action.

# War in the Pacific, 1942-1945 ▼



The Allies began their offensive in the Pacific in August 1942 with the invasion of Guadalcanal. As the Allies captured islands, they then used these islands as bases for attacks on other islands. They gradually drove the Japanese forces back toward Japan.

**The Allies Turn the Tide** After the Battle of Midway, the Allies went on the offensive. They followed a strategy of capturing Japanese-held islands using them as stepping-stones. Each captured island became a base for attacks on other islands. A tactic known as leapfrogging—bypassing or “jumping over” certain islands—allowed them to carry out this strategy with limited resources. Cut off from reinforcements and supplies, Japanese forces on the bypassed islands were left to wither.

The Allied offensive began August 1942, when 11,000 U.S. Marines invaded Guadalcanal, in the Solomon Islands northeast of Australia. After months of resistance, Japanese troops abandoned the island in February 1943. They left behind more than 25,000 dead defenders.

Despite the success of leapfrogging, many of the island invasions came at a terrible cost. Thousands of soldiers died in the jungles of Guadalcanal, New Guinea, Tarawa, and Saipan. But the Americans kept pushing the Japanese back, closer and closer to the home islands of Japan. In October 1944, MacArthur made his triumphant return to the Philippines, where his forces would battle the Japanese until the end of the war. In August 1944, the Marines finished retaking the Mariana Islands. The Marianas campaign was a landmark victory. It gave the Allies secure bases from which U.S. B-29s could make long-range bombing raids on Japan.

**The Allies Push Toward Japan** The Allied push through the Pacific steadily shrank the defensive perimeter the Japanese had established around Japan. That perimeter disappeared after the Allies captured the key islands of Iwo Jima and Okinawa in early 1945. Iwo Jima's airfields provided a base for fighter planes to escort bombers over Japan. Control of Okinawa, just 310 miles south of Japan, gave Americans a staging area for an invasion of Japan itself.

On the small volcanic island of Iwo Jima, the defenders dug caves, tunnels, and concrete-lined bunkers. Three months of Allied bombardment before the February 1945 invasion did little to soften these defenses. The month-long land battle was among the bloodiest of the war. Nearly all of the 22,000 Japanese troops fought to their deaths. More than 6,800 American troops died.

To take the much larger Okinawa, the Allies mounted a huge invasion in April 1945. More than 1,200 American and British ships, including 40 aircraft carriers, supported a force of 182,000 American troops. As on Iwo Jima, the 120,000 troops defending Okinawa fiercely resisted the invaders. The Battle of Okinawa continued for two months. It claimed the lives of more than 100,000 Japanese people and some 12,000 American soldiers.



The Battle of Iwo Jima was a major battle in the Pacific to capture the island of Iwo Jima from the Japanese Army. The battle lasted over a month and resulted in the deaths of over 100,000 people.



**Developing the First Nuclear Weapon** The capture of Okinawa set the stage for a final invasion of Japan. However, American scientists were working on another option. In 1939, German-born Jewish scientist Albert Einstein, a refugee in the United States, had written to President Roosevelt explaining that scientists might be able to turn uranium into a new form of energy. That energy, he said, could be harnessed to build "extremely powerful bombs." The power would come from the energy suddenly released by splitting the nuclei of uranium or plutonium atoms. Einstein expressed his fear that Germany was already engaged in experiments to create such a weapon.

Three years after Einstein sent his letter, the U.S. government established a top-secret program to develop an atomic weapon. A team of scientists, many of whom had fled fascism in Europe, carried out this work. By the summer of 1945, their efforts had produced the first atomic bomb, or A-bomb. On July 16, a test bomb was exploded in the New Mexico desert.

**The U.S. Decides to Drop the Bomb** New U.S. president Harry Truman faced a difficult decision. He had taken office just weeks earlier, when President Roosevelt died. Truman now had to decide whether to drop an atomic bomb on Japan or to launch an invasion. After Iwo Jima and Okinawa, he knew an invasion would produce enormous casualties. The number of Allies killed and wounded might reach half a million, he was told.

Truman faced an enemy that was unwilling to give up. American B-29s were already destroying Japan with conventional bombs, including firebombs. This bombing campaign had killed hundreds of thousands of people and turned large areas of Japan's cities, with their masses of wooden buildings, into cinders. At the same time, a naval blockade had cut off the supply of raw materials to Japan. Many of Japan's leaders realized that it could not possibly win the war. Yet the Japanese refused to accept Truman's demands for an unconditional surrender.

Some U.S. strategists believed only the shock of the still secret A-bomb would end the Japanese resistance. Others opposed it, insisting that the current bombing campaign would soon bring surrender. Some A-bomb opponents claimed that the Japanese would give up if Truman would agree to let them keep their beloved emperor. However, Truman stuck to his demand for an unconditional surrender. He warned Japan that the alternative was "prompt and utter destruction."



The physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer was the director of the Los Alamos laboratory in New Mexico that developed the atomic bomb. Here Oppenheimer (left) stands on the charred ground at the site of the first atomic bomb test explosion with U.S. General Leslie Groves.



Nagasaki was reduced to complete rubble after the United States dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city in August 1945.

**Two A-bombs End the War in the Pacific** On August 6, 1945, an American B-29 named *Enola Gay* dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, a city of 300,000 people. Within seconds of the explosion, up to 80,000 people died. The blast's shock wave toppled nearly 60,000 structures. Hundreds of fires consumed the rest of the city. Three days later, the United States dropped a second bomb, wiping out the city of Nagasaki and instantly killing some 40,000 people. As many as 250,000 Japanese may have died from the two bombs, either directly or as the result of burns, radiation poisoning, or cancer.

The destruction of Nagasaki brought a Japanese surrender. Truman received it on August 14, Victory over Japan Day, or V-J Day. The terms of the surrender allowed the emperor to keep his office but only in a ceremonial role. In September, the Allies officially accepted the surrender aboard the American battleship *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay.

**The Cost of World War II** Millions worldwide celebrated V-J Day, which marked the end of the World War II. But they also mourned the loss of life. As many as 60 million people died in World War II—about half of them civilians. The Soviet Union had the highest losses. Perhaps 20 million or more Soviet soldiers and civilians were killed, although an accurate count was never made. Poland was also hard hit, suffering about 6 million deaths, nearly all of them civilians. Nearly 2 million Japanese were killed and more than 4 million Germans. Britain, France, and the United States each lost several hundred thousand people.

More than 20 million Europeans were made homeless by the fighting. The huge number of dead and homeless in China and the rest of Asia will probably never be known. Nor can the cost of all the property destroyed, resources depleted, and economic activity disrupted by the war. Just the money governments paid to fight the war totaled more than a trillion dollars.

While World War I introduced new technologies to war, such as tanks, World War II expanded on the use of these technologies. Submarines, airplanes, and tanks were used more extensively in World War II than in World War I, resulting in mass destruction of military and civilian populations. President Roosevelt claimed that World War II was, "a new kind of war . . . It is warfare in terms of every continent, every island, every sea, every air lane in the world."



During the war, posters and magazine ads encouraged women to fill jobs left by men who joined the armed forces. Millions of women answered the call—some for patriotic reasons, others for higher pay. In the United States, women made up about one-third of new workers hired during the war.



After Japan surrendered, the American General Douglas MacArthur was put in charge of the country. The Allies did not directly govern Japan, but MacArthur was given the power to overrule any decisions made by the Japanese government.