

Conflict and Compromise in World War 2:

The Attack on Pearl Harbor

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Historical Paper

1,745 Words

“A day that will live in infamy,” December 7, 1941.¹ These words have changed America in many different ways including ensuring “the United States would end its previous adoption of isolationism and become a branch of the Allied Powers, working to defeat fascism in Germany, Italy, and Japan.”² Japan decided to attack Pearl Harbor, a naval base in Oahu Hawaii, because the United States wasn’t helping Japan. The bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, was unexpected which had many effects on America’s people including their emotions, their opinions on the war, and also their personal lives. Pearl Harbor also had an effect on America because of the conflict with Japan and the United States not wanting to give Japan any more resources for their battle with China.

Why did the war start

World War 2 started in 1939 because of England and France. France wanted war with Germany and wanted it soon because they were scared that Germany’s military was going to be stronger than ever in just a couple of years. Just a couple of years later in 1941 the United States declared war on Japan.³ Before America entered the war, Japan was already at war with China. Japan wanted to “avoid the fate of the 19th-century China and to become a great power.”⁴ The United States was helping Japan by giving them resources for their battle against China. After a while, America no longer helped them. Neither the United States nor Japan was going to compromise which led to the attack on our naval base. Japan thought that it was a “strategic

¹ Franklin D. Roosevelt "Address to Congress Requesting a Declaration of War with Japan December 8, 1941, *Presidential Library and Museum* - 1941 Declaration of War. December 8, 1941, accessed November 08, 2017, <http://docs.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/tmirhdee.html>

² "Pearl Harbor," Pearl Harbor: Introduction, accessed December 07, 2017, <http://questgarden.com/67/34/0/080619082941/>.

³ Dr, F., “Why and For What?”, *German Propaganda Archive*, accessed October 23, 2017, <http://research.calvin.edu/german-propaganda-archive/wehr02.htm>.

⁴Contributor, Quora. "What Sparked Japan's Aggression During World War II?" Slate Magazine. July 07, 2014. (accessed December 7, 2017). http://www.slate.com/blogs/quora/2014/07/07/what_prompted_japan_s_aggression_before_and_during_world_war_ii.html.

necessity.” It was part of their plan to keep the Pacific for oil shipments to “fuel the empire’s efforts to dominate Asia.” Japan also thought that the only and the quickest way was to attack our naval base.⁵ “By destroying a large portion of the American fleet, they hoped to conquer the Philippines and Malaya while America was still recovering from its own damages – simultaneous attacks were launched on these places while Pearl Harbor was taking place.”⁶ “The President, the Secretary of State, and high Government officials made every possible effort, without sacrificing our national honor and endangering our security, to avert war with Japan.” The Government tried everything they could to not go to war with Japan, but after the attack, that was the only things that we thought we could do.⁷

What the people felt

Japan attacking Pearl Harbor has affected many people in different ways. It had an effect on people's emotions. It was a typical Sunday. Citizens of Hawaii were listening to the radio and spending time at home right before the attack. People thought about the war but didn’t think about how the U.S could possibly end up in the war.⁸ Johnie and Dale Gano stated in an interview that many people went into shock. People were in fear because they didn’t know if another attack was going to occur. Dale Gano specifically said his feelings were “shock and bewilderment.”⁹ Fear occurred but slowly faded because they were a small army group that made

⁵ William Darity “Pearl Harbor.” *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences 6. U.S. History in Context*. (accessed October 30, 2017). <http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/CX3045301906/WHIC?u=gree82036&xid=c50afeb1>

⁶ “Why Did Japan Attack Pearl Harbor?” *History*. September 11, 2017, accessed October 25, 2017, <https://www.historyonthenet.com/why-did-japan-attack-pearl-harbor/>.

⁷ Don Nardo. *Pearl Harbor*. Greenhaven Press, 2003.

⁸ Morella, Michael, "How America Changed After Pearl Harbor." *U.S. News & World Report*. January 06, 2012, accessed October 26, 2017, <https://www.usnews.com/opinion/articles/2012/01/06/how-america-changed-after-pearl-harbor>.

⁹ "About Our Experience," Pearl Harbor Story: Interview with Pearl Harbor Eyewitnesses.” *Scholastic*, accessed November 8, 2017, <http://teacher.scholastic.com/pearl/transcript.htm>.

people feel comfortable. They also felt worried for the loved ones entering into the navy, armed forces and the marine corps because they didn't know if they were ever going to see them again or how long it would be before they saw them again.

Thoughts from the people

Not only did it affect people's emotions, but it also affected their opinions on the war. In America, the people sitting at home were not too worried about the war. After the attack, people's opinions changed and they wanted America to enter into the war because there was a sense of patriotism. America thought this was the only way, but others had different opinions.¹⁰ When Americans were interviewed they brought up arguments such as money, labor strikes, and racism. Some were especially worried because there was Japanese American racism even before the attack. Racism also played a role in dropping the bomb on Hiroshima. It was inevitable. Not only did it affect their thought on the war, but it also affected thoughts on the economy and about giving to the war. People said, "The war is not part of the culture; the war *is* the culture."¹¹

Changes in their everyday lives

The war also affected people's personal lives. Seventy-four days after the attack Franklin Roosevelt announced Executive order number 9066. Due to this order from the president more than 110,000 Japanese Americans had to evacuate their homes in Oregon, Washington, and California. From here they were sent to ten detention camps in uninhabited parts of the United States. Some people's lives were affected by them going into the war and fighting, but the ones not going into the war were affected very quickly after the attack.¹² They had to find other ways

¹⁰ Mark LoProto, "How America Changed After Pearl Harbor," *Pearl Harbor Visitors Bureau*. February 03, 2017, accessed October 25, 2017, <https://visitpearlharbor.org/america-changed-pearl-harbor/>.

¹¹ Morella, Michael, "How America Changed After Pearl Harbor." *U.S. News & World Report*. January 06, 2012, accessed October 26, 2017, <https://www.usnews.com/opinion/articles/2012/01/06/how-america-changed-after-pearl-harbor>.

¹² Japanese Americans: The War at Home | Scholastic.com, accessed December 07, 2017. <http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/wwii/ahf/mineta/background.htm>.

to help and support the soldiers and the war in general. Many people sold war bonds to help fund America in the war. A hand full of people worked in war factories. For some, these were close to home and for others, they moved away to work at war plants that were already open and were looking for people to work there. Another way that it affected their personal lives was for the men and women who actually served in the war. You had to be 21 to serve in the war after the attack, but many men were recruited at the age of 18. However some men broke the law and lied about their age and went in as early as 14. When these men enlisted they were sent an "ORDER TO REPORT FOR INDUCTION,"¹³ letter in the mail which told them where and when they needed to report. Some wouldn't even make it as far as reporting to their location and they would be caught lying about their age because they would change their birthdates. Some had been fighting in the war for months and then get caught. As a result of being caught, you were sent back home. Later in 1942, they lowered the age to 18, but men were still lying about their age.

Another way that people's lives were affected were by children having to carry gas masks with them at such a young age. Joan Martin Rodby stated in an interview "It was scary." When she was 10-years old she had to carry a gas mask with her everywhere she went. She even had to have it on her when she took her class portrait when she was in fifth grade. She also stated "It was more or less living in constant fear they were always going to come back." Everyone was living in fear and asked the questions, "When are they coming back? Will we be invaded, will we be occupied?"¹⁴ There was conflict in people's lives because they couldn't live normally where they could walk outside and not worry about another attack occurring.

¹³ "Selective Service System," Prepare in Duplicate, 1942. September 4, 1942, accessed October 31, 2017

¹⁴ "Survivors Recall Living in Fear After Pearl Harbor Attack." Fox News. December 6, 2018, accessed February 24, 2018.

Not only did the attack affect people and their emotions, but it affected the actual naval base in Hawaii. In total 188 planes were lost and another 155 were damaged. A total of 2,403 people lost their lives that day and another 1,178 people were injured.¹⁵ With many planes damaged and the United States entering the war many people despite the fear they had, helped in repairing the planes. People responded the way they were supposed to which was to help in any way they could. Not only men, but women also helped to repair the planes. Many worked long hours. Some worked twelve hours and then rested twelve hours. Some did this for many days straight. They were trying to get as many planes fixed to get them back in the air to help fight in the war.¹⁶

Franklin D. Roosevelt's Speech

On December 8, 1941, the day after the attack, President Franklin D. Roosevelt made a speech addressing the bombing. In his speech, he stated, “ Yesterday the Japanese Government also launched an attack against Malaya. Last night Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong. Last night Japanese forces attacked Guam. Last night Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Islands. Last night the Japanese attacked Wake Island. And this morning the Japanese attacked Midway Island.” Japan did not only want to attack us, but they also had their eye on a lot of other countries too.¹⁷

After the War

¹⁵ William Darity, “Pearl Harbor,” *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences 6. U.S. History in Context*, accessed October 30, 2017, <http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/CX3045301906/WHIC?u=gree82036&xid=c50afeb1>

¹⁶ "About Our Experience, " Pearl Harbor Story: Interview with Pearl Harbor Eyewitnesses," *Scholastic*, accessed November 8, 2017, <http://teacher.scholastic.com/pearl/transcript.htm>.

¹⁷ Franklin D. Roosevelt, “Address to Congress Requesting a Declaration of War with Japan December 8, 1941,” *Presidential Library and Museum*, accessed November 19, 2017, <http://docs.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/tmirhdee.html>.

After World War 2 ended one-third of people living in America were in poverty. There was no running water, or toilets that flush and many didn't even have heat. Farms houses had no electricity. However, after all of this America began to expand its economy which raised Americans expectations. People believed that this expansion would solve all social problems. Some of the social problems that they wanted solved was women and minorities inequality and the suburbs growing. Among some these problems, people also hoped for world peace and help the other nations behaviors.¹⁸ A long term effect of the bombing of Pearl Harbor is showing other countries that we were an easy target to attack. This is shown by the United States ignoring the codes that were given to us right before the attack. This also shows that if America ignored the codes once, we are somewhat likely to ignore it again. Another long term effect was it made a stronger and more united country.

The attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, was unpredictable which brought about different emotions in people, different opinions about the war, and affected their personal lives. Pearl Harbor also had an effect on the United States because of the conflict between America and Japan and not supplying Japan with needed materials. People felt fear for the ones fighting, worriedness that their loved ones who enlisted in the war would never come home again, shock that the attack even happened and bewilderment about the whole bombing. At first some didn't want America to declare war on Japan because of labor strikes, racism and money. Although after the attack people agreed to going to war with Japan because of a sense of patriotism. It affected emotions and opinions, but the attack also affected personal lives. It affected people by actually fighting in the war, and people helping cleaning up the mess from the attack.

¹⁸ Digital History, Accessed December 11, 2017, <http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/era.cfm?eraID=16>

Altogether, the attack on Pearl Harbor was devastating and affected us in many ways, it helped America learn what they can do differently in the future.

Prepare in Duplicate

Local Board No. 33
 Milwaukee County 079
 SEP 4 1942
 (LOCAL BOARD DATE STAMP WITH CODE)
 ONE SOUTH FIFTH
 Milwaukee Wisconsin



Sept. 4, 1942
 (Date of mailing)

ORDER TO REPORT FOR INDUCTION

The President of the United States,

To Herman Clarence VanAcker
 (First name) (Middle name) (Last name)

Order No. 10,459

GREETING:

Having submitted yourself to a local board composed of your neighbors for the purpose of determining your availability for training and service in the armed forces of the United States, you are hereby

notified that you have now been selected for training and service in the Army
 (Army, Navy, Marine Corps)

You will, therefore, report to the local board named above at 805 S. 5th St. Milw., Wis.
 (Place of reporting)

at 6:30 A.M. m., on the 24th day of Sept., 1942
 (Hour of reporting)

This local board will furnish transportation to an induction station of the service for which you have been selected. You will there be examined, and, if accepted for training and service, you will then be inducted into the stated branch of the service.

Persons reporting to the induction station in some instances may be rejected for physical or other reasons. It is well to keep this in mind in arranging your affairs, to prevent any undue hardship if you are rejected at the induction station. If you are employed, you should advise your employer of this notice and of the possibility that you may not be accepted at the induction station. Your employer can then be prepared to replace you if you are accepted, or to continue your employment if you are rejected.

Willful failure to report promptly to this local board at the hour and on the day named in this notice is a violation of the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, as amended, and subjects the violator to fine and imprisonment.

If you are so far removed from your own local board that reporting in compliance with this order will be a serious hardship and you desire to report to a local board in the area of which you are now located, go immediately to that local board and make written request for transfer of your delivery for induction, taking this order with you.

Herman T. Mehn
 Member or clerk of the local board.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 15-18271-3

D. S. S. Form 150
 (Revised 7-13-42)

ORDER TO REPORT FOR INDUCTION, September 24, 1942

Primary Sources:

"About Our Experience ." Pearl Harbor Story: Interview with Pearl Harbor Eyewitnesses." *Scholastic*. (accessed November 8, 2017). <http://teacher.scholastic.com/pearl/transcript.htm>.

This interview is a primary source. Useful information is that she said it put everyone into a state of shock. They responded to how they were trained to do so. Everyone helped out and some of the women helped repair the planes. Then those who had families could then go find them a couple of days later. They were working long hours. They worked 12 hours and then rested 12 hours. Everyone was chipping in, in every possible way they could and trying to repair as many planes as they could to get back in the air. This relates to conflict because they were working long hours and they were tired. The value of this source is it a true story from the perspective of someone who was there and actually experienced it.

Franklin D. Roosevelt. "Address to Congress Requesting a Declaration of War with Japan December 8, 1941." *Presidential Library and Museum*. (accessed November 19, 2017). <http://docs.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/tmirhdee.html>.

This speech is primary source. Specific information that this gives us is that not only did Japan attack us "Yesterday the Japanese Government also launched an attack against Malaya. Last night Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong. Last night Japanese forces attacked Guam. Last night Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Islands. Last night the Japanese attacked Wake Island. And this morning the Japanese attacked Midway Island." They were not only going to attack us for what we were doing to them, but they had their eye on a lot of other countries. Roosevelt later on in his speech says that this treachery shall never happen again. The conflict in this is not only did Japan attack the U.S, they attacked many more. One value of this is, it is a primary source from the president.

Darity William. "Pearl Harbor." *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences 6. U.S. History in Context*. (accessed October 30, 2017). <http://link.galegroup.com/apps/doc/CX3045301906/WHIC?u=gree82036&xid=c50afeb1>

The website is a primary source. Japan thought that it was a "strategic necessity." It was part of their plan to keep the Pacific for oil shipments. When Japan attacked 21 American ships were sunk/badly damaged. 188 planes were lost and 155 more were damaged. Many people also lost their lives that day. A total of 2,403 American lost the lives and 1,178 more people were injured. Before the attack, the president Franklin D. Roosevelt wanted to send ever more help to England and their battle with Germany. On December 11, 1941, Adolf Hitler declared war against the U.S. Not only did he declare war on the U.S that day, he also declared war on Germany and Italy. President Roosevelt announced that December 7th is going to be "a date that will live in infamy." The conflict of this is that there were so many people dead and some so many planes damaged. Some values of this source are it is from the Gale Sources World History in Context which is a trusted

site. Another value is it is not biased, it gives specific numbers as to the damage of the attack.

“Selective Service System.” Prepare in Duplicate, 1942. September 4, 1942 (accessed October 31, 2017).

The document is a primary source. In this document it states his name and his order number. It then proceeds to tell him where he will report and when. At the bottom of the document it says that he will be examined and if he has been selected he will then be put into the branch. He may be rejected due to physical or any other reasons. If they were employed at the time, they should notify your employer about your situation and that they might not be selected. If they are not there at their place they were assigned and at the prompt time, they are violating the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940. They could be subjected to a fine or imprisonment. A compromise is that this person was risking and compromising their life for others and this country. Some values of this source is it is a copy of an exact document that was my grandfather's from world war 2. Also another value is it is signed from a member or clerk of the local board.

Secondary Sources:

"Attack on Pearl Harbor - 1941." *Atomic Heritage Foundation*. June 18, 2014. (accessed November 02, 2017). <https://www.atomicheritage.org/history/attack-pearl-harbor-1941>.

This website is a secondary source. Japan wanted to widen its empire to gain natural resources. The Japanese attacked Manchuria in 1931. They created a puppet state called Manchukuo. Then later on in 1937, Japan invaded the rest of China and killed about 300,000 people. They said that by the end of world war 2, China would lose about 14 million people. The person who thought of the idea to bomb Pearl Harbor was Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto. He was the commander in chief of the Japanese Combined Fleet. He “argued that it would “give a fatal blow to the enemy fleet.” The attack was approved by Vice Admiral Chuichi Nagumo. The U.S was expecting an attack. A couple of hours before the attack the commander of the U.S Pacific Fleet got a message from the Navy. This was considered a warning. A conflict was that Japan killed 300,000 people. A value of this source is it gives specific details to the events that happened.

Contributor, Quora. "What Sparked Japan's Aggression During World War II?" *Slate Magazine*. July 07, 2014. (accessed December 7, 2017). http://www.slate.com/blogs/quora/2014/07/07/what_prompted_japan_s_aggression_before_and_during_world_war_ii.html.

This website is a secondary source. Information that it gives me is Japan's actions from 1852 to 1945 were motivated by a deep desire to avoid the fate of 19th-century China and to become a great power. The conflict was trying to avoid the fate of the 19 century china.

A value of this source is that it gives an author and it gives a date as to which it was published.

Digital History. Accessed December 11, 2017. <http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/era.cfm?eraID=16>.

This website is a secondary source. In the website it tells us that after the war, it didn't look so good even though we won. People were without heat, flushing toilets, and many people were living in poverty. Farms houses had no electricity. After all of this America announced an economic boom. Many people had high expectations for this and they thought that it would solve all of the social problems. The conflict is all of the struggles that people went through after the war. A value of this source is it is a .edu website.

Dr, F., "Why and For What?", *German Propaganda Archive* (accessed October 23, 2017). <http://research.calvin.edu/german-propaganda-archive/wehr02.htm>.

The format of this source is a website. It is a secondary source because it gives another website where they got information from. Some useful information from this source is that England and France wanted to start the war and did start the war in 1939 because they were scared that in a couple of years Germany's military would be stronger and it would be harder to beat them. Also in this resource useful information is that in this war we were fighting for our freedom. We were fighting especially for Germany's freedom to keep and take care of their country the way it was before. Germany wanted a better future for their children and for themselves. A conflict is that England and France started the war. Some values of this source is it is a .edu website so it is a reliable source. Another value is it was published by the German Propaganda Archive and the Calvin College.

History.com Staff. "Pearl Harbor." *A+E Television Networks* (accessed October 25, 2017). <http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/pearl-harbor>.

The format of this source is a website. It is a secondary source. Useful information that I read that I will be use in my project is that Japan and the U.S were leading towards war for many, many years. Another fact is that Japan "had pushed their adversary into a conflict that ultimately resulted in Japan's first occupation by a foreign power." The conflict in this is that Japan had been thinking of war for many years and it finally led into one. One value of this source is it gives specific times and dates of when specific things have happened.

Japanese Americans: The War at Home | Scholastic.com. Accessed December 07, 2017.
<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/wwii/ahf/mineta/background.htm>.

The website is a secondary source. This source tells me that 70 percent of Japanese Americans were forced into camps that were in America. Also that none of the Japanese who were living in America had been charged for the attack. President Roosevelt had issued an executive order number 9066. Over 110,000 people who were in Washington, Oregon, and California had to leave their homes. The conflict in this is that Japanese Americans were forced out of their homes and into camps. A value of this source is that it gives you an author making it a more reliable source.

LoProto, Mark. "How America Changed After Pearl Harbor." *Pearl Harbor Visitors Bureau*. February 03, 2017 (accessed October 25, 2017).
<https://visitpearlharbor.org/america-changed-pearl-harbor/>.

The format of this source is a website. It is a primary source. Some useful information that I have gathered that I will use for my project are how people at home were affected. They were in fear of more sneak attacks from Japan. Another thing that changed was America was not wanting to go into the war, but after the attack on December 7th the U.S decided to declare war on Japan. Also because of the war taxes were raised because they needed help paying for materials that we needed to be in the war. The conflict was how people were affected and how the taxes were raised. One value of this source is it is a .org site which means it is a reliable source. Another value of this source is gives the specific date on when Pearl Harbor was attacked and that date is December 7th, 1941.

Morella, Michael. "How America Changed After Pearl Harbor." *U.S. News & World Report*. January 06, 2012 (accessed October 26, 2017).
<https://www.usnews.com/opinion/articles/2012/01/06/how-america-changed-after-pearl-harbor>.

The format of this source is a website and it is a secondary source. Useful information that I will be using is that people's attitudes about the war. Also other useful information is what was happening right before the attack on Pearl Harbor. Before the attack everyone was acting normal and listening to the radio, just like everyone did everyday. Most people went to the movies twice a week, and not thinking about the war, but thinking about the war in the pacific. They didn't think about how they could be involved in the war. The conflict is that no one knew about the attack, and everyone was acting like any other day and after the attack realized how much damage there was. One value of this source is it gives specific dates about when people weren't worried about the war and it was December 6, 1941.

Don Nardo. *Pearl Harbor*. Greenhaven Press, 2003.

The book "Pearl Harbor," Edited Don Nardo is a secondary source. Useful information that I got was the government tried everything that they possibly could to avert war with Japan, but in the end that didn't happen because going to war was the best thing for us. The conflict is that we could not find a way to not declare war against Japan. A value of this source is in the book it gives Conclusions with respect to responsibilities.

"Pearl Harbor." Pearl Harbor: Introduction. Accessed December 07, 2017.
<http://questgarden.com/67/34/0/080619082941/>.

This website is a secondary source. In this source it tells me that Franklin D. Roosevelt's words "a day that will live in infamy," changed the course of American history. "The events of that day ensured the United States would end its previous adoption of isolationism and become a branch of the Allied Powers, working to defeat fascism in Germany, Italy and Japan." The conflict in this is that "a day that will live in infamy," change the course of American history. A value of this source is it gives Franklin's words in quotation marks.

"Survivors Recall Living in Fear After Pearl Harbor Attack." *Fox News*. December 6, 2018 (accessed February 24, 2018).
<http://www.foxnews.com/story/2007/12/06/survivors-recall-living-in-fear-after-pearl-harbor-attack.html>

The website is a secondary source. This website gives information from people and how the attack affect their lives after. One lady said she had to carry a gas ask with her when she was 10 years old and she was living with constant fear that something was going to happen again. Everyone was scared that they were going to come back and attack again. The conflict of this is that they were living in fear and always on edge that something more was going to happen and they couldn't lives there lives fully.

"Why Did Japan Attack Pearl Harbor?" *History*. September 11, 2017 (accessed October 25, 2017).
<https://www.historyonthenet.com/why-did-japan-attack-pearl-harbor/>.

The format of this source is a website and it is a secondary source. Useful information that I will be using is the U.S and Japan had been going at it for years. They knew for years that it would come to a war. Japan thought the only and quickest way was to attack our naval base. "By destroying a large portion of the American fleet, they hoped to conquer the Philippines and Malaya while America was still recovering from its own damages – simultaneous attacks were launched on these places while Pearl Harbor was taking place."The conflict is that they knew the war was going, but they didn't know exactly when. One value of the source is it gives pictures from the attack that can be used for information.