

1 | Sources List

- Japan's Attack on Pearl Harbor - Gompert 2014
- Oil Logistics in the Pacific War - Donovan 2001
- US Navy Vis a Vi Embargo - Herzog 1966

2 | Proposal

- **Topic:** I am working on the American-Japanese economic sanctions that lead up to WWII
- **Question:** What Japanese political strategies (both geopolitical and economic) were deployed in response to American economic sanctions (e.g. American oil embargo, etc.) in response to Japanese belligerence, and did the responses contribute to or diffuse the tension that ultimately resulted in the attack on Pearl Harbor?
- **Significance:** I am perusing this study so I can help others understand the utility of hard-line economic sanctions as a tool of response to geopolitical conflict.

3 | Sub-Claim Organization

3.1 | Japan Wanted Oil

- By Jan 1941, denial of war materials grew to create big dent in Japanese industry
- While the embargo is not passed, the Japanese gasoline imports continued to increase
- The Japanese government was cut off from its econ source, and was shocked + :claim: Japan was taken by surprise of the second round of American embargo despite their first round

3.2 | Oil Export Embargo Seen as a Strategically Inevitable Small Step for US

3.2.1 | America didn't need to/can't export oil

- It became commercially disadvantageous to have oil exports
- US initial embargo from shipping oil was due to the need to maintain stability of domestic supply
- The lack of fuel limited the reach of the pacific fleet, leaving the japanese worry unfounded?

3.2.2 | Export Licensing Confusion

- And so America froze Japanese assets. Notably, however, no oil embargo
- There was originally a lifeline for the Japaneses to apply for a license for oil export, but no approvals were granted
- Ambivalence to tech error lead to oil embargo

3.3 | Attack Seen as a Strategically Inevitable Small Step for Japan

3.3.1 | There is a Perceived Inevitability to the Conflict

- :claim: At the point of German <> Soviet invasion, the relationship between Japan and other world powers began to be shaped in favour of a US-Japan Conflict
- Systemic Japanese saw eventual US Japan conflict, its just a matter of time
- 9/27, the Tripartite Pact indicated that Japan fighting US is not if but when
- The government promised to take stronger steps if Japanese were to advance into the far east

3.3.2 | Which lead to escalation

- Japanese pact to get resources and military with Germany + Italy meant to deter the US, but actually was viewed as an aggression
- Because cut off from its econ source, Japan persued war.
- Systemic Japanese saw eventual US Japan conflict, its just a matter of time
- :claim: To Japan, the attack would solve both the occupational, self-sufficient, and diplomatic problems

3.4 | Inevitable + Small were, on both sides, due to cultural confusion (TODO support with primary source)

3.4.1 | Japan thought fighting America was easy because of spirit and culture

- Japanese younger military officials suffered from cultural ignorance of America, and so they underestimated America
- Hence, there was possibility of maintaining US neutrality and attacking Britian failed because.... they didn't think of it?

3.4.2 | America thought sanctioning Japan was easy because they didn't take account of sprit and culture

- America didn't realize this spirit either. spirit and culture distorted japanese view of war and so :claim: Therefore, American sactions were not going to be effective
- Diplomacy failed because it required Japanese to concede yet, Japan had to either concede or eventually fight

4 | The Claim

The oil embargo against Japan, a brash action that directly lead to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, was perceived by the US as inevitable and strategically undemanding due to a failure to recognize the foreign Japanese spirit of "Bushido" expansionism.

While the United States treated its oil embargo as a platform on which diplomacy can be built, the Japanese perceived the action as confirming the beginning of an inevitable—and proactive—attack upon Japan by America.