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Rhetorical Analysis “War Message”

For this essay, it is meant to analysis the “War Message” that Franklin D. Roosevelt, proposed to congress on December 8th 1941. It was used to ask the congress to declare war on Japan, based on the reason that the Japanese military forces uneventfully attacked USA’s islands on December 7th 1941. “A date which will live in infamy” (Franklin) was the opening and also the thesis of FDR’s “War Message”; he used such sentence to describe that the United Nation should remember such day as the painful day or the date to remember.

Before any further analysis on the “War Message”, it would be useful to understand the reason that Japanese militia forces attacked Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. Early 1930’s the Japanese imperial force had been evident based on the “invasion Manchuria 1931”, the invasion was the first step for the imperial Japan to conquer the Eastern Asia by establishing an under Japanese control’s internal government of China. The invasion had also increased the expansion of Japan’s economy, however the imperial of Japan had to come to a direct economics conflicts between the United States of America in the pacific region, where betweens islanders like Philippines. The conflicts escalated when USA introduced the “oil embargo 1941” to the imperial Japan “President Franklin Roosevelt seizes all Japanese assets in the United States in retaliation for the Japanese occupation of French Indo-China” (History.com “United States Freezes Japanese assets”). Franklin afraid the German allied Japan would use the French Indo-China colonies for further invasion of China, which the colonies were 800 miles away from the American troops that were based in Philippines.

On July 24, Tokyo decided to strengthen its position in terms of its invasion of China by moving through Southeast Asia. Given that France had long occupied parts of the region, and Germany, a Japanese ally, now controlled most of France through Petain’s puppet government, France “agreed” to the occupation of its Indo-China colonies. Japan followed up by occupying Cam Ranh naval base, 800 miles from the Philippines, where Americans had troops, and the British base at Singapore.- History.com “United States Freezes Japanese assets”.

Therefore based on this reason the imperial of Japan decided to “risk” everything to take US out of the pacific pictures.

When the US imposed an oil embargo on Japan, threatening to suffocate her economy, Japan’s response was to risk everything on a massive pre-emptive strike which would knock the US out of the Pacific, clearing the way for a Japanese conquest of resource-rich South East Asia.-History.com “Pearl Harbor”

So the Imperial Japan came up with a year plan to attack Pearl Harbor. The next day FDR declared war on Japan with the “War Message”.

In FDR’s “Was Message”, he heavily emphasized that the Japanese had made the plan of attacking the American pacific based secretly, based on the argument that the Japanese repeatedly given the false statements of peace with the United States, which in a way, FDR had made the imperial of Japan as the liar and the peace breaker between Japan and United States.

It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time, the Japanese Government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace. The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. Very many American lives have been lost. In addition, American ships have been reported torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.-FDR

When FDR stated that paragraph, it is used to get the agreements of the congress that now the Imperial of Japan was the number one enemy of the American nation, because it was logical that no peace keepers would want to uneventfully attack the ones who the peace keepers promised peace to. And then, FDR illustrated another points to declare war on Japan.

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.

This morning the Japanese attacked Midway Island.-FDR

FDR used repeatedly stated conflicts that the imperial Japan had caused the day after the invasion of pearl harbor as the argument that Japanese had basically declare war with the American pacific allies, which the USA had a responsibility to help the allies and home defense itself against the imperial of Japan. At the end FDR used the argument that the USA is on the righteous side of the battle, therefore the victory will come.

No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory.-FDR

This sentence had purposely manipulated the readers or the congress that the USA is fighting at the uphill battle, because the USA was on the correct side where defending could eventually overcome invasion. Therefore it was the USA’s right to declare war on Japan.

Three well stated arguments, the imperial Japan was liars, the imperial Japan was the one who caused conflicts between nations, and the right of defending home landing. The president Franklin D. Roosevelt had provided enough reason for congress to declare war on Japan.

The “War Message” was well stated with its initial arguments; however, FDR did not admit that the United States was the one who brought troubles upon themselves by introducing the “Oil Embargo 1941”, nor he did not explain the reason that the pearl harbor was invaded un altered, which was due to the failure intelligence of the USA unable to translated the cracked Japanese radio codes.

Work cited

Presidentialrhetoric.com. “War Message” Franklin D. Roosevelt December 8th 1941

History.com “Pearl Harbor” HistoryStaff March 21st, 2014

History.com “United States Freezes Japanese assets”