



LEGATUS MODEL UNITED NATIONS
HCC: SUPREME WAR COUNCIL

BACKGROUND GUIDE

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Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

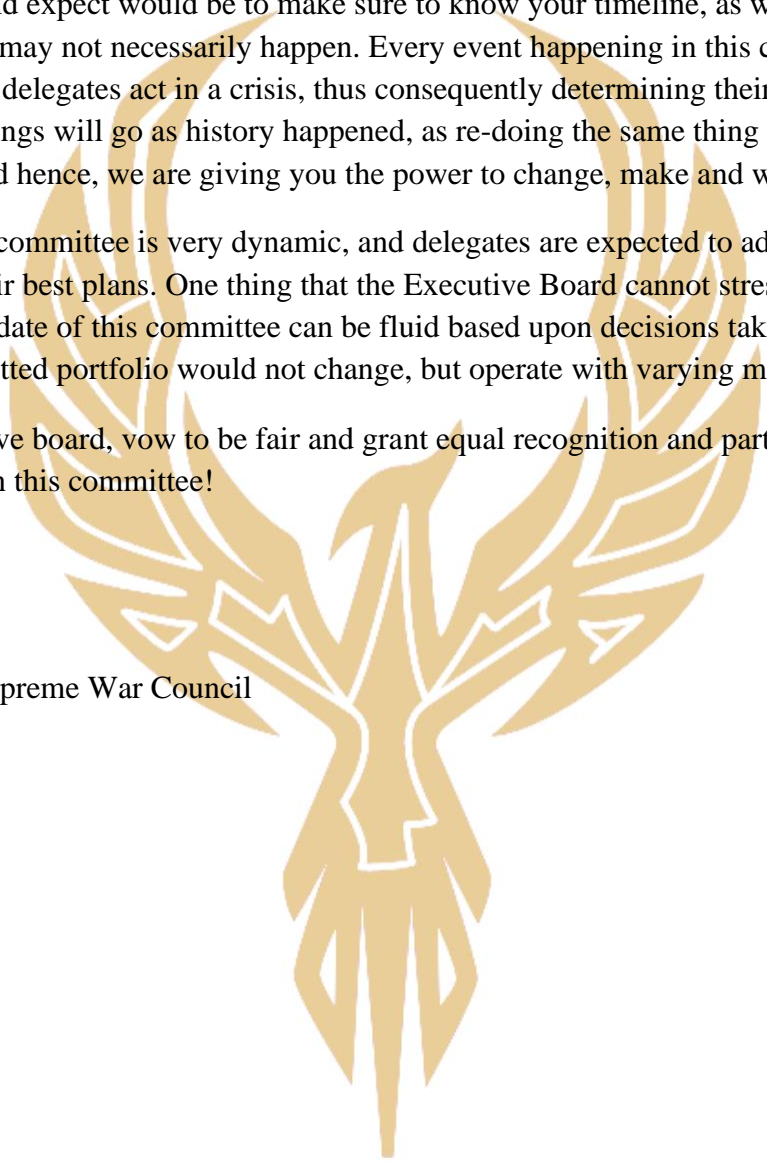
We cordially welcome all of you to Legatus MUN. Since this is a historic crisis committee, the thing first we would expect would be to make sure to know your timeline, as what you have studied in history, may not necessarily happen. Every event happening in this committee is decided upon how delegates act in a crisis, thus consequently determining their fate. Please do not assume that things will go as history happened, as re-doing the same thing would logically make no sense, and hence, we are giving you the power to change, make and write your history.

The nature of this committee is very dynamic, and delegates are expected to adapt to the worst situations with their best plans. One thing that the Executive Board cannot stress enough upon is research. The mandate of this committee can be fluid based upon decisions taken by delegates; however, your allotted portfolio would not change, but operate with varying mandates.

We, as the executive board, vow to be fair and grant equal recognition and participation to all those taking part in this committee!

Regards,

The Dias of the Supreme War Council





Committee Brief

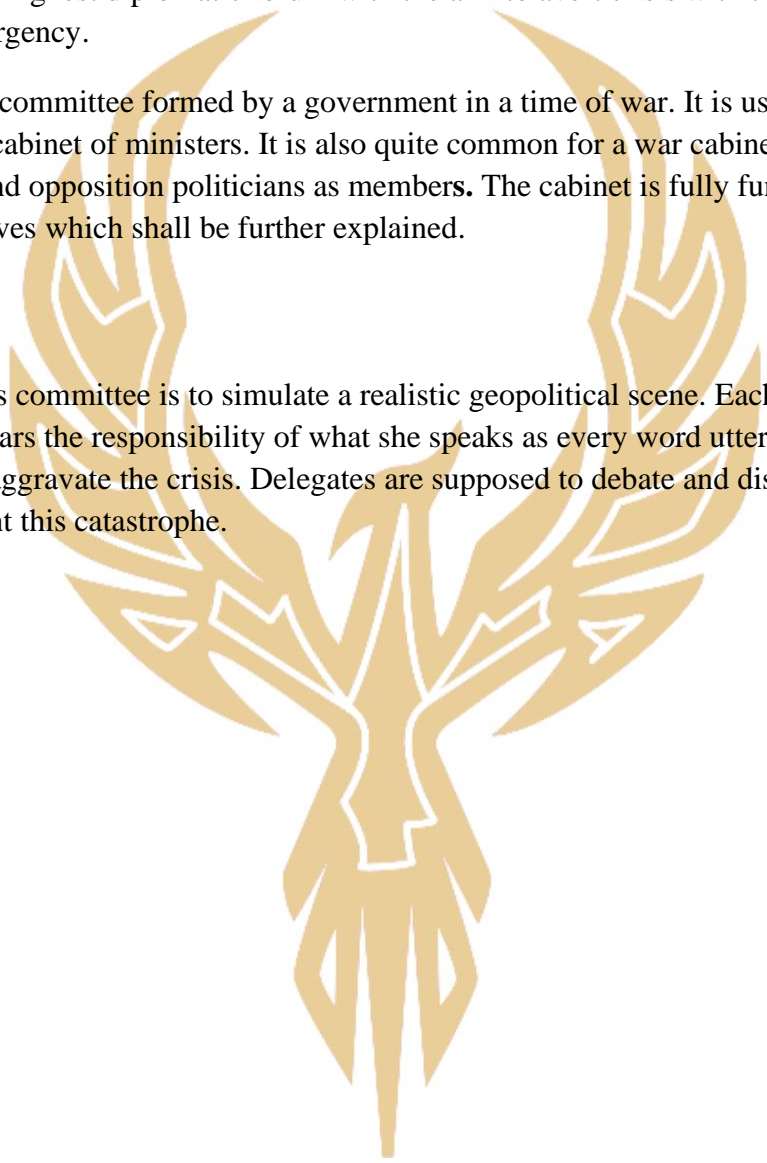
Mandate

The meeting is the highest diplomatic forum with the aim to avert crisis with the least casualties in the state of emergency.

A war cabinet is a committee formed by a government in a time of war. It is usually a subset of the full executive cabinet of ministers. It is also quite common for a war cabinet to have senior military officers and opposition politicians as members. The cabinet is fully functional due to the presence to directives which shall be further explained.

Purpose

The purpose of this committee is to simulate a realistic geopolitical scene. Each delegate consequentially bears the responsibility of what she speaks as every word uttered can have to power to avert or aggravate the crisis. Delegates are supposed to debate and discuss upon solutions to prevent this catastrophe.





Crisis Tools

A crisis update is just a simulation conflict that has been created by the Executive Board to see the effective and efficient functioning of the said committee in the advent of a possible crisis. Delegates may use any of the three tools below to react to a crisis update.

Directives

What are Directives?

As the Representative of the State, delegates can send a directive to the Dias highlighting what they want their nation to do considering the crisis at hand. A link to the Directive document can be sent in using an email platform mentioned below or, preferably, via Zoom's built-in chat feature. This shows the plan of action of the delegate. A directive may be of two types:

1. Covert (secret)
2. Overt (public and known to the committee)

It can also be made with more than one individual delegate. This is termed as a Joint Directive. If the entire committee is to make a Public Directive and wish to vote on it, it is a committee-wide directive.

The best directives are those that are not just approved by a large majority of the committee, but those that also prove that a representative (or a bloc) has in depth knowledge of the situation.

Personal (or Joint) Directive

What are Personal Directives?

Personal Directives are the dominant medium for taking individual action in committee by using your portfolio powers. Delegates will continually send Crisis Notes to shape the crisis at hand, to both fix the issue and bring more power or prestige to themselves. **Joint Directives follow the same format.**

What are the Main Components of a Personal Directive?

1. Memorable Title
2. Addressee (*optional*, somebody under your command, or just their title)
3. Specific orders or actions that you would like to see undertaken
4. What you expect/hope will be the result
5. Signature, with your title (if Joint, all committed parties)



Sample Personal Directive

Operation Nautilus

TO: Admiral of the 7th Fleet, Thomas Fitzwallace

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Under my authority as Commander, USPACOM, move the following ships from the US base in Yokosuka, Japan to 15 nautical miles NE of the Straits of Malacca in the South China Sea:
 - a. 2 Arleigh Burke Class Destroyers: Fitzgerald and Stethern
 - b. 1 Virginia Class Submarine: USS Texas (SSN-775)
 - c. 1 Nimitz Class Aircraft Carrier: George Washington
 2. They will be moved on the 15th of September, 2015 at 21:30 (GMT+9)
 3. They will patrol the area and protect oil trade to the Philippines, a close US ally
- Through these measures, I expect all piracy against commercial and military vessels in the area to cease, and any pirates to be captured and reported to me.

SIGNED: Commander Harper, US Pacific Command

Public Directive

What are Public Directives?

While Personal and Joint Directives are how you take individual action, Directives are how you take committee action (the crisis equivalent of long-form resolutions). Just like in any Model UN Committee, the goal is to sponsor (write) as many strong directives as possible.

What are the Main Components of a Public Directive?

1. Memorable Title
2. Specific orders or actions that you would like to see undertaken
3. What you expect/hope will be the result
4. Signatures, with portfolios of all signatories (minimum is up to the Dias)

Sample Public Directive

Operation Seoul Food

In light of the alarming humanitarian situation mounting in the Northern end of the country, the cabinet will:

1. Release emergency food stores to the Korean public, to be distributed by police forces over the next two weeks, to reduce rates of malnutrition and starvation from this conflict;
2. Request assistance from the International Committee of the Red Cross is providing clean water to residents of Seoul, Incheon, Uijeongbu, and Ansan as needed;



3. Establish emergency lodging centers in non-essential government buildings for individuals that have been displaced due to recent violence;
4. Temporarily cease exports of agricultural products and order mandatory sale of all foods to the Ministry of Agriculture for 50% below market value to help mitigate the current food crisis.

Through these steps, we hope to stem the humanitarian crisis in our country and regain the trust of the public.

SIGNED: Minister of Commerce, Minister of Culture, Minister of Foreign Affairs

Communiqués

What are Communiqués?

Communiqués are messages from the committee/delegate to another country, organization, person, or group of people. These facilitate dialogue with relevant actors in a crisis.

Communiqués often include negotiations, threats, and requests for aid or support but are not limited to the above stated. They are generally used when a country whose consent, opinion, or stance on a particular issue is required, but whose representation does not exist in committee. A Covert Communiqué is of the same nature as a communiqué except that all communication is kept private between the delegate(s) and the recipient(s) involved.

What are the Main Components of a Communiqué?

3. Header that says “Communique”
4. Addressee, with formal title and full name if possible
5. The specific action or information you want them to undertake or give you
6. Your return offer OR your threat (*optional*)
7. Signature(s)

Sample Communiqué

Communique

ATTN: Nouri Abusahmain, President of Libya

Dear Mr. Abusahmain,

It has come to the attention of the United States Government that two of our nationals have been kidnapped and are being held hostage by the a terrorist organization. We request that you, in all your capacities as President of Libya, use this authority to have the American aid workers found and returned to either an American embassy, or a UN outpost where they can be safely repatriated. We also ask that you find those responsible for these kidnappings, and persecute them accordingly. Failure to do so will be considered a sign that Libya no longer



wishes to have cordial and cooperative relations with the United States, and the US will withdraw investment and aid accordingly.

Sincerely,

US Secretary of State John Kerry

Press Releases

What are Press Releases?

Press Releases are tools used by committees or individuals to inform “the public” about certain facts, or to spread misinformation about the ongoing crisis. Often, delegates may use these to try to influence public opinion against certain plans to help their own, to encourage the public to be safe, to stop protesting, or even to get involved with the crisis somehow.

What are the Main Components of a Press Release?

1. Header that says “Press Release”
2. Descriptive Headline
3. Information that you want the public to have and react to
4. Signature(s)

Sample Press Release

Press Release

American Aid Workers Successfully Rescued in Joint US-Libyan Effort

Washington, D.C.: In a joint statement made this morning by US President Barack Obama and Libyan ambassador to the United States, both parties announced the successful retrieval of two American aid workers who were held hostage in Libya. The workers, who have now been identified as Bridget Campbell and Sophia Swarsky, were captured by members of a terror group while serving with Doctors Without Borders three hours south from Tripoli, the capital.

The two workers underwent emergency medical treatment in Libya, as well as follow up treatments and counseling in America, the statement read. Libyan troops were also able to capture the kidnappers, which are, according to the Libyan government, being put through the justice system to pay for their crimes.



Causes of World War II

There are many different causes for World War II. To Japanese militarism, to Political takeover from Hitler here are some of the reasons for World war II. The Treaty of Versailles was a complete and almost a total failure due to the distaste of many of the allied powers. Here we have Japanese militarism. Japanese militarism spread rapidly throughout Japan, being it is that Japan has an emperor but at this time the military had more of a say than the crowned emperor. Next the political takeover of Hitler, because we all know that the takeover of Hitler in Germany contributed greatly to the war.

The Failure of Peace Efforts

During the 1920s, attempts were made to achieve a stable peace. The first was the establishment (1920) of the League of Nations as a forum in which nations could settle their disputes. The League's powers were limited to persuasion and various levels of moral and economic sanctions that the members were free to carry out as they saw fit. At the Washington Conference of 1921-2, the principal naval powers agreed to limit their navies according to a fixed ratio. The Locarno Conference (1925) produced a treaty guarantee of the German-French boundary and an arbitration agreement between Germany and Poland. In the Kellogg-Briande Pact (1928), 63 countries including all the Great Powers except the USSR, renounced war as an instrument of national policy and pledged to resolve all disputes among them "by pacific means." The signatories had agreed beforehand to exempt wars of "self-defense."

The Rise of Fascism

One of the victors' stated aims in World War I had been "to make the world safe for democracy," and postwar Germany adopted a democratic constitution, as did most of the other states restored or created after the war. In the 1920s, however, the wave of the future appeared to be a form of nationalistic, militaristic totalitarianism known by its Italian name, fascism. It promised to minister to peoples' wants more effectively than democracy and presented itself as the one sure defense against communism. Benito Mussolini established the first Fascist, European dictatorship during the inter war period in Italy in 1922.

Formation of the Axis Coalition

Adolf Hitler, the Leader of the German National Socialist (Nazi) party, preached a racist brand of fascism. Hitler promised to overturn the Versailles Treaty and secure additional Lebensraum ("living space") for the German people, who he contended deserve more as members of a



superior race. In the early 1930s, the Great Depression hit Germany. The moderate parties could not agree on what to do about it, and large numbers of voters turned to the Nazis and Communists. In 1933 Hitler became the German Chancellor, and in a series of subsequent moves established himself as dictator. Japan did not formally adopt fascism, but the armed forces' powerful position in government enabled them to impose a similar type of totalitarianism. As dismantlers of the world status quo, the Japanese were well ahead of Hitler. They used a minor clash with Chinese troops near Mukden, also known as the Mukden or Manchurian crisis, in 1931 as a pretext for taking over all of Manchuria, where they proclaimed the puppet state of Manchukuo in 1932. In 1937-8 they occupied the main Chinese ports. Having denounced the disarmament clauses of the Versailles Treaty, created a new air force, and reintroduced conscription, Hitler tried out his new weapons on the side of right-wing military rebels in the Spanish civil war (1936-9). This venture brought him into collaboration with Mussolini who was also supporting the Spanish revolt after having seized (1935-6) Ethiopia in a small war. Treaties between Germany, Italy, and Japan in 1936-7 brought into being the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis. For example, Japan and Germany signed the Anti-Comintern pact in 1936 and then Italy joined in 1937. This pact denounced communism and it showed their unity in the matter. The Axis thereafter became the collective term for those countries and their allies.

German Aggression in Europe

Hitler launched his own expansionist drive with the annexation of Austria in March 1938. The way was clear: Mussolini supported him; and the British and French, overawed by German rearmament, accepted Hitler's claim that the status of Austria was an internal German affair. The U.S. had impaired its ability to act against aggression by passing a neutrality law that prohibited material assistance to all parties in foreign conflicts. In September 1938 Hitler threatened war to annex the western border area of Czechoslovakia, the Sudetenland and its 3.5 million ethnic Germans. The British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain initiated talks that culminated at the end of the month in the Munich Pact, by which the Czechs, on British and French urging, relinquished the Sudetenland in return for Hitler's promise not to take any more Czech territory. Chamberlain believed he had achieved "peace for our time," but the word Munich soon implied abject and futile appeasement. Less than six months later, in March 1939, Hitler seized the remainder of Czechoslovakia. Alarmed by this new aggression and by Hitler's threats against Poland, the British government pledged to aid that country if Germany threatened its independence. A popular joke ran at the time: "A guarantee a day keeps Hitler away". France already had a mutual defense treaty with Poland. The turn away from appeasement brought the Soviet Union to the fore. Joseph Stalin, the Soviet dictator, had offered military help to Czechoslovakia during the 1938 crisis, but had been ignored by all the parties to the Munich Agreement. Now that war threatened, he was courted by both sides, but Hitler made the more attractive offer. Allied with Britain and France, the Soviet Union might well have had to fight,



but all Germany asked for was its neutrality. In Moscow, on the night of August 23, 1939, the Nazi-Soviet Pact was signed. In the part published the next day, Germany and the Soviet Union agreed not to go to war against each other. A secret protocol gave Stalin a free hand in Finland, Estonia, Latvia, eastern Poland, and eastern Romania.

The Worldwide Great Depression

The costs of carrying out World War I, as well as the costs to rebuild Western Europe after years of fighting, resulted in enormous debts on the part of the Western European powers to the United States. The enormous reparations put on Germany in the Treaty of Versailles also increased the debts. Coupled with ineffective governments in many of these European States (notably the Weinmar Republic, pre-Mussolini Italy and Socialist France) led to slow reconstruction and poor economic growth.

With the crash of the New York Stock Market on 29 October, 1929, the United States recalled all foreign loans in the following days. Unable to repay these loans, the economies of the West collapsed, beginning the Great Depression.





Major Events till Date

Mukden Incident and the Invasion of Manchuria (1931)

After winning the Russo-Japanese War in 1905, Japan quickly became the dominant power in its region. Russia recognized Korea as a Japanese sphere of influence and removed all of its forces from there and Manchuria, the sparsely populated northeastern region of China. In 1910, Japan annexed Korea as its own with little protest or resistance. Still, Japan was a quickly growing country, both population-wise and economically. It founded the South Manchuria Railway company in Manchuria in 1906, and with that company was able to gain government-like control of the area.

By 1931, the Depression had struck a blow to Japan. The government did little to help Japan's economy, and in the eyes of its citizens, was weak and powerless. Instead, the public favored the Japanese army, and soon the civilian government had lost control of its military. To the army, Manchuria seemed like an obvious solution to many of Japan's problems. Manchuria was vast and thinly populated, and would serve as excellent elbow room for an already overcrowded Japan. It was also thought that Manchuria was rich in forests, natural resources, and fertile land. The fact that the Japanese believed themselves to be far superior to the Chinese only moved Japan towards conflict faster. Additionally, the warlord of Manchuria went against Japanese expectations and declared his allegiance to a growing Chinese military movement. So, in 1931, the army staged an explosion at a section of railway near Mukden, a city in Manchuria, as a pretext to invade and annex China. Japan met little resistance, although it did not have support of its own government, and Manchuria was completely occupied by the end of the year. Japan subsequently set up the puppet state of Manchukuo to oversee the newly acquired region. The League of Nations vehemently protested Japan's aggression, but Japan then withdrew from it.

Japan invades China (1937)

The 1920s saw a weak and politically chaotic China. Warlords of the many provinces of China constantly feuded, and the central government was weak and decentralized, unable to do anything to stop conflict. In 1927 Chiang Kai-Shek gained control of the Kuomintang (the Chinese government) and its National Revolution Army. Chiang led an expedition to defeat southern and central Chinese warlords and gain the allegiance of northern warlords. He was successful, and he soon focused on what he perceived to be a greater threat than Japan, which was communism. But in 1937, the deposed warlord general of Manchuria kidnapped Chiang and



refused to release him until he at least temporarily united with the communists against the Japanese threat. The Japanese army responded by staging the Battle of Lugou Bridge, which was supposed to provoke open war between China and Japan. It worked and the Sino-Japanese War began. The beginning of the conflict was marked by the Chinese strategy of giving up land in order to stall the Japanese. It is important to note that the Japanese was not to completely take over China; rather, the Japanese wanted to set up puppet governments in key regions that would protect and advance Japanese interests. The fall of Nanjing in the early stages of this conflict saw the beginning of Japanese war atrocities. 100,000-300,000 were killed in the six weeks after Nanjing was captured. Other war crimes committed included widespread rape, arson, and looting.

Anti-Comintern Pact and Tripartite Pact

These were pacts between Germany, Italy, and Japan. The Anti-Comintern pact had been a pact that denounced communism and it was initially signed by Japan and Germany. However, later, as German and Italian relations improved, Italy also signed and this was made stronger later by the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo Axis in 1938. The Tripartite Pact also strengthened the alliance and it was basically a confirmation of the Rome-Berlin-Toyko Axis.

Pearl Harbor and Simultaneous Invasions (early December 1941)

On December 7, 1941, Japanese warplanes commanded by Vice Admiral Chuichi Nagumo carried out a surprise air raid on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, the largest U.S. naval base in the Pacific. The Japanese forces met little resistance and devastated the harbor. This attack resulted in 8 battleships either sunk or damaged, 3 light cruisers and 3 destroyers sunk as well as damage to some auxiliaries and 343 aircraft either damaged or destroyed. 2408 Americans were killed including 68 civilians; 1178 were wounded. Japan lost only 29 aircraft and their crews and five midget submarines. However, the attack failed to strike targets that could have been crippling losses to the US Pacific Fleet such as the aircraft carriers which were out at sea at the time of the attack or the base's ship fuel storage and repair facilities. The survival of these assets have led many to consider this attack a catastrophic long term strategic blunder for Japan.



Timeline

1931: The Japanese military began to take control of the civilian government and establish a military government beginning the rise of Japanese Militarism and the policy of aggressive expansion.

18th September 1931: The Japanese, led by General Tojo, invaded the resource-rich province of Manchuria in Northern China. The British and the United States support China against the actions of the Japanese.

27th February 1932: Japan completes its occupation of Manchuria.

30th January 1933: President Paul Von Hindenburg appoints Hitler as Chancellor after a series of parliamentary elections and backroom intrigues

4th February 1933: Japan announced that it was withdrawing from the League of Nations.

3rd October 1935: Mussolini Invades Abyssinia, beginning the second Italian-Ethiopian War.

17th July 1936: The Nationalist rebels led by General Francisco Franco initiated a coup against the Second Spanish Republic beginning the Spanish Civil War.

7th July 1937: Japan attacks China marking the beginning of total war between China, under Chiang Kai-shek, and Japan in the Second Sino-Japanese War.

12th December 1937: The USS Panay gunboat was sunk by Japanese aircraft in the Yangtze River outside Nanking on 12 December 1937.

17th May 1938: The US Congress passed the 1938 Naval Act. The legislation “mandated a 20% increase in strength of the United States Navy” to triple the size of the US naval fleet by 1944.

9th November 1938: In an incident known as “Kristallnacht”, Nazis in Germany torched synagogues, vandalized Jewish homes, schools and businesses and killed close to 100 Jews.
1938: The Japanese declare its policy to establish a "new order in East Asia."

26th July 1939: US Secretary of State, Cordell Hull gives formal notice for termination of the 1911 Treaty of Commerce and Navigation with Japan in retaliation for its colonization of China.

3rd September 1939: The Second World War breaks out in Europe as Britain and France declared war on Germany.

5th September 1939: The United States declares its neutrality in WWII.



1940: The Japanese begin to fortify the Marshall Islands located between Hawaii and the Philippines posing a significant threat to American, British, and Dutch colonial possessions.

June 1940: Dunkirk Evacuation is completed, France, Belgium and the Netherlands are overrun by German Forces. FDR orders the US Pacific Fleet to move its main Pacific base from California to Pearl Harbor in the Hawaiian Islands as a deterrent to Japanese aggression.

July 1940: US Congress passed the Export Control Act limiting exports to Imperial Japan. The embargo halted the shipment of items including airplanes, machine parts and aviation gasoline.

7th August 1940: Western Desert Campaign in North Africa Begins with Italian forces invading Egypt from Italian Libya.

27th September 1940: The Tripartite Pact was signed forming the Axis powers of Germany, Italy, and Japan.

April 1941: President Roosevelt extends lend-lease aid to China for their war against the Japanese (refer to the Lend-lease Act)

22nd June 1941: Operation Barbarossa, the German Invasion of the Soviet Union.

July 1941: Japan invades and occupies Vietnam in Southern Indochina. General Douglas MacArthur was sent to the Philippines to build up American defenses.

16th July 1941: The US freezes Japanese assets and Japanese bank accounts in America.

1st August 1941: The US placed an embargo on crucial oil shipments to Japan.

3rd November 1941: The Japanese military present a plan for the attack on Pearl Harbor to Emperor Hirohito which he approved at the Imperial Conference on November 5, 1941, providing a diplomatic settlement with the US was not achieved.

November 1941: Negotiations with the US failed, and the Japanese government made the decision to launch a surprise air attack on the United States Pacific Fleet at its Pearl Harbor base.

6th December 1941: President Roosevelt makes an appeal for peace to avoid War in the Pacific with Emperor Hirohito - no reply. The U.S. code-breaking service deciphers part of Japanese message believing a Japanese attack in Southeast Asia is imminent. The U.S. War Department sends out a warning, but delays prevent the alert being received before the Japanese attack.

7th December 1941: In the morning on 7th December 1941 the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor. In the Afternoon, a Multinational Diplomatic Meeting is called.

FREEZE DATE: Morning of 8th December, 1941.



Bibliography

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<https://www.britannica.com/event/World-War-II>

Suggestions for Further Preparation

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/AUXIuYHFgBE?start=0&end=459> (freeze at 7:39)

<https://www.historyhit.com/causes-of-world-war-two-in-europe/>

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