

### South Manchurian Railway

Originally the railway was built by Russia, but after the Russo-Japanese War, it was given to Japanese. It is Semi-private semi-state-owned company.

Became developer of land near stations in order to encourage Japanese settler to settle in Manchuria.

Mostly dealt in transportation of agricultural goods such as soybeans and rice and minerals such as iron coal.

Expanded its venture into the colony of Korea.

The Manchurian Railway was advertised for tourism for Europeans. This is a way that implies the authority in Manchurian Railway, it is a part of decolonization that claims its action as “developing” Manchurian.

### Manchurian Incident

Happens in 1931, agents from the Kwantung Army plants a bomb on Japanese railway and detonate it. Japanese access the agents as being Chinese which sets off a full-scale invasion into Manchuria. However, it is later revealed that the incident was completely staged by Japanese soldiers. This is a plan constructed by Ishiwara Kanji. Tokyo and the Imperial Japanese Army were not aware at the time that this incident would take place, and it becomes the symbolic incident that demonstrates that Japan has returned into militarism and imperialism. Also, demonstrates that the Japanese government don't have the power of controlling soldiers.

After the success in the Manchurian Incident, Japan established Manchukuo in 1932, and instates the last emperor of China Puyi as Head of State. Manchukuo becomes a puppet-state for Japan's empire and access into the mainland. Japanese intentionally advertise this action as “Move West” in US.

In 1933, Japan officially walks out on the League of Nations. It is the representative of Japan parting ways with internationalism and diplomacy for aggressive imperialism.

### Marco Polo Bridge Incident

In July of 1937, the Marco Polo Bridge Incident and the shelling of the city of Wanping led Japan to a full-scale invasion of China and this is generally seen as the beginning of the Second Sino-Japanese War. This incident demonstrates that the Japanese government as well as GHQ did not have a handle on their soldiers.

This incident led to a very positive response from Japan's government.

Due to guerilla style tactics in an urban combat environment, Japanese were surprised since they were told Chinese would surrender quickly.

Japan began expanding its empire into Southeast Asia for resources such as rubber or oil. After Japan's seizure of Indochina (Vietnam), the United States froze Japanese assets and instituted a trade embargo. And the interference of American created a

sense of unease in the Japan.

#### Pearl Harbor

Japan attacks Pearl Harbor, base of America's pacific naval fleet, on Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941.

However, America's aircraft carriers were not in Pearl Harbor at the time of the bombings, this was a strategic blunder by the Japanese.

#### Pacific War

The Battle of Midway in 1942, the tide turns in favor of the US, Japan employs varying tactics in order to combat American mass production, including suicide planes, banzai charges, and fighting to the end, this gives Japanese soldiers a reputation for being courageously tough.