

Outbreak of War in Asia-Pacific

1) Understanding Japan:

- Japan's modernisation did not allow the Western Powers to regard her as an equal power
- To be equal, Japan build an empire and control territories like the Western
- interested to control Taiwan, Korea, parts of China and Manchuria

2) Japan and Western Powers

- Japanese lens towards other Western Powers often marked with wariness and suspicion
- Saw US Britain and Russia as rivals and ambition to achieve ambitions

• Japan and Russia / USSR

- 1904 - 1905: Russo-Japanese War Russian incursion into Manchuria was perceived as a security threat to Japan's interests and influence in the region
- willing to enter a diplomatic compromise with Russia → Russia unwilling to negotiate with Japan
- Russia did not view Japan as equals, seen as inferior powers
- Russia not willing to reach an agreement, Japan declared war
- Significance: Bursting of the White Superiority mentality → Japan's favouring the whites more
proximity to USSR was a source of national security concern for Japan
 - Communism is a threat in Japanese political beliefs
 - Manchuria was a vital buffer for Japan

• Japan and Britain:

- Early 1900s: Britain more receptive to the rise of Japan
- Anglo-Japanese Alliance (1902-1923) secured mutual recognition of both country's interests in Asia → prevent USSR from advancing in Far East
- Britain recognise Japan for Korea. Japan recognise Britain for India
- China is regarded as "common interest".
- Britain colonies throughout Asia → Japan saw Britain as rivals

3) FACTOR 1: 1930s Weakness of LON (Manchurian Crisis)

- Japanese resettlement in Manchuria to resolve overpopulation
- Instability in China: Chiang (Kuomintang) vs Mao (CCP)
 - Chiang faced serious threats to his rule and many warlords in Manchuria did not fully accept his authority → some willing to combat Japanese
 - instability became a good reason to exploit and stabilise the region
- Event: Mukden Incident (1931)

- Manchuria was both economically and strategically import to Japan
- 18 Sept 1931, bomb near Japanese-owned railway near Mukden
- Japanese Army blame the Chinese for the attack, request that the Japanese government protect its interests in Manchuria
- Significance: explosion was weak, no damage was done to the track
 - Japanese used this advantage to launch a full-scale invasion of Manchuria
 - China was dealing the civil war, failed to resist Japanese attacks.

• Establishment of Manchukuo (1932 - 1945)

- puppet state under the symbolic leadership of last Chinese emperor (Puyi)
- controlled by Japan (mainly)
- Significance: Emboldening of Japanese army
 - Feb 1932: established puppet government in Manchuria / Manchukuo
 - 1932, Japanese planes and gunships bombed Shanghai
CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT ordered army to withdraw but was ignored → Japanese military in control of Japanese foreign policy

This clearly shows how weak the Civilian government was because they can't even take control of their own country's military

← Further elab.

• LON's intervention:

- China and LON refused to recognise Manchukuo and claimed it rightfully **BELONGED** to China
- Lytton Report found the "Japanese attack" was not just an act of self-defence.
- The League went to condemn Japan as an aggressor
- Japan voted against Lytton Report and rejected it
- resigned from League **27 March 1933**
- Significance: • Effectiveness of LON

- Britain did not sanction Japan → thought that it is better to maintain good relationship
- League didn't ban arm sales to Japan, could not agree to it → (member countries)
- **Britain and France** would not risk their names or armies in a war to stop Japan

• Summary: - revealed the inability of the League to deal with aggressor nations such as Japan

- encouraged Japan to further expand into Asia → Manchuria was a good location for expansion into China.
- Japan had access to raw materials in Manchuria
↳ growing its industries (needed)
- Domestic politics: popularity of the Manchurian crisis meant that the military was more popular, **challenged** the civilian government
- accelerating the outbreak of war in Asia-Pacific with Japan's expansion into China and having raw materials to fuel its ambitions into SEA

4) Factor 2: Japan's Expansionist Foreign Policy:

• Domestic concerns: Japanese Militarism alongside Japanese relations with Western powers, Great Depression and Japan's search for **SELF-SUFFICIENCY**.

- Aggression towards China (from 1933)
- Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere
- Bombing of Pearl harbour

1. Domestic Concerns

- overpopulation

- population in Japan increased rapidly in the early-mid 20th century
- resulting to higher demand for housing and resources
- Japan's expansionist ambitions grew a occupation of more territories meant greater access to resources

- Great Depression

• happened in **1929**

- Britain and US practiced protectionism to safeguard their domestic economies
- resulting Japanese exports to face increasing restriction and higher taxation
- demands for Japanese goods fell drastically → led to significant impact on Japan's economy.

what happened

• Japanese militarism: tensions between civil government and military leaders would worsen with more ultranationalistic military commanders

weak government

• Pressure civilian government - economic crisis convinced politicians military commanders that democracy was failing

Outcome

- Japan struggled to obtain raw materials from other powers → restrictive trading practices
- Policy was the only to ensure Japan has enough of resources, to support economy and people

- Summary: • rise of militarism and desire to achieve equality and recognition amongst the world power and promote its expansion

- military successes against major powers, increased Japan's confidence in its capabilities
- having Korea and Manchuria → importance and benefits of controlling territories

Why

2. Aggression towards China from 1933

- Manchuria no longer enough as buffer against USSR → Japan needed deeper military presence
- Manchurian resources insufficient if West stopped trade
- Chinese markets could aid Japan's recovery after Great Depression.

- Time line:

1933	Japanese took control of Jehol province
1933-1936	Inner Mongolia Campaign: Japanese tried to cause conflict between local warlords and the Chinese government
1936	Japanese moved into the Chahar province, establishing control by 1937
July 1937	Marco Polo Bridge Incident: marked the start of the Second Sino-Japanese War
Nov 1937	Fall of Shanghai to the Japanese
Dec 1937	Battle of Nanjing
Oct 1938	Japanese captured Wuhan and coastal region of Guangdong province
1939-1940	Stalemate: neither side was winning

- caused by Japanese. Chinese were to experience horrible things that were done by Japanese.

4. Worsening US-Japan relations

- American foreign policy changes:

- adopted an isolationist policy and reaffirmed by the 1937 Neutrality Act
- Japan expected to go unopposed in their war against China
- **HOWEVER**, Nanjing Massacre made the Americans more against the Japanese
- Resulting in trade embargo if due to their atrocities in China
- 1940: Roosevelt justified military aid to China; imposed steel and iron embargo after Japan invaded Vietnam
- 1941: Oil embargo
- Sanctions pushed Japan to seek SEA's resources, viewing US as an enemy

US Demands on Japan	Japan's dilemma over the US	Japan's Eventual Response
• Refer to sources 5.13 and 5.14 on page 167 of textbook.	• What was the dilemma about?	
• Remove all troops from China. • Remove all troops from Indochina. • End the alliance it had signed with Germany and Italy the previous year.	Unacceptable demands by the Americans, Japan could be bullied if they accepted. Yet US was economic giant To war or not to war???? Too much was at stake: Manchukuo will be endangered and control of Korea threatened.	• Japanese military officials suggested that a quick "knockout" blow against the Americans followed by rapid expansion in the South would force the Americans into a peace agreement • Establishing the greater east Asia co-prosperity

What

3. Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere

- Japan's successes in expansion = able to dominate East and SEA
- Expel European colonial powers & set up pro-Japanese satellite states
- Promote "Asia for Asians" to justify "liberating" SEA
- new states was to be defended by Japanese military and governed by local elites, guided by Japanese advisors
- Japan want to expand → SEA was a resource rich region
 - Rubber and Oil from Malaysia and Indonesia were essential resources to power the Japanese war machines against US
 - Production of coal rose from 12.8 to 60 million.
 - SEA welcomed the "co-prosperity sphere" but Japan sought SEA's resources **FOR ITS OWN GAIN**

- Pearl Harbour

- Oct 1941: Emperor appointed Tojo as PM.
- Nov 1941: Surprise Pearl Harbour attack planned to destroy US Pacific Fleet
- Dec 7 1941: Japanese fleet approached in radio silence while diplomats stalled in Washington; attack killed 2400+, sank 5 battleships.
- Dec 8 1941: US declared war on Japan.