

Timeline of Key Events - Paper 1 - The Move to Global War Japan 1931-1941

Revision Activities - Remembering the chronological order and specific dates is an important skill in IBDP History and can help you to organise the flow of events and how they are connected. Studied the timeline of key events below, taken from the [IBDP specification](#), and test yourself often.

Japanese Foreign Policy Events - Events related to International Cooperation and Collective Security - International Responses to Japanese Aggression

1853	July - Commodore Perry sails into Nagasaki harbour to open trade negotiations with the Japanese emperor
1854	31 March - Treaty of Kanagawa with the USA signed by Shogun Tokugawa Yoshinobu
1868	3 January - Meiji Restoration - Restoration of Meiji rule is declared. The Boshin War breaks out between forces of the ex-Tokugawa Shogun and Imperial Court.
1873	Mass conscription is introduced
1874	1 February - Meirokeisha (Meiji 6 Society) is formed to promote what is called 'civilisation and enlightenment' through its social-criticism journal 'Meirokei Zasshi'
1877	29 January - The Satsuma Rebellion of disaffected Samurai begins. By September, its leader, Saigo Takamori, committed suicide ending the last and most serious uprising against the new Meiji government
1881	Gen'yōsha (Dark/Black Ocean Society) founded in Japan as an ultranationalist secret political and social group. It used criminal means to achieve its ends, believing in Pan-Asianism and called for increasing Japanese influence over mainland Asia.
1882	4 January - The Imperial Rescript to Soldiers and Sailors is published. Established the principle of absolute loyalty to the Emperor, and banned soldiers from expressing political opinions or comments on imperial policy
1889	11 February - The Emperor promulgates the Constitution of the Empire of Japan providing Japan with a constitutional monarchy on the Prussian model. On the same day, the House of Representatives Election Law was passed giving the vote to men over 25 who pay at least ¥15 in national taxes
1890	30 October - The Imperial Rescript on Education is issued. This document is distributed to all schools. It emphasises civic responsibility and imperial loyalty as the moral basis for education. It will be displayed together with a portrait of the emperor and read on ceremonial occasions until its repudiation in 1948
1894	1 August - The Sino-Japanese War breaks out over influence in Korea

1895	<p>17 April - Treaty of Shimonoseki on 17 April 1895, marking a shift from Chinese to Japanese regional dominance.</p> <p>23 April - The Triple Intervention by Russia, Germany, and France forces Japan to give up control of Liaodong Peninsula, inflaming Japanese nationalism and reinforced the idea that a strong military was needed to defend itself from the West.</p>
1899	<p>6 September - The Open Door Policy is announced by US Secretary of State John Hay in a note to the major European powers. The policy proposed to keep China open to trade with all countries on an equal basis, keeping any one power from total control of the country.</p>
1901	<p>Amur River Society or Black Dragon Society (<i>Kokuryūkai</i>) formed in Japan as an ultranationalist paramilitary society which worked actively for Japanese expansion in mainland China.</p>
1902	<p>30 January - The Anglo-Japanese Alliance is signed, fuelled by mutual opposition to Russian expansion.</p>
1904	<p>8 February - The Russo-Japanese War breaks out. It ends with the Treaty of Portsmouth being signed in 1905.</p>
1910	<p>22 August - Korea formally annexed by Japan</p>
1912	<p>30 July - The Taishō era begins as Emperor Yoshihito succeeds his father, following the death of Emperor Meiji (Mutsuhito).</p>
1914	<p>23 August - Japan enters World War I on the side of the Entente powers and in support of its ally, Britain. Japanese forces besieged German holdings in China and the Pacific, ending with surrender of Tsingtao on 7 November.</p>
1915	<p>8 January - Japan presents the Twenty-One Demands to China which sought to extend Japanese control of Manchuria and the Chinese economy. The demands were a direct challenge to the US Open Door policy and under US and UK pressure, Japan was forced to drop its fifth set of demands.</p>
1917	<p>January - The Nishihara Loans were agreed between Japan and Chinese warlord Duan Qirui, marking an escalation of Japanese involvement in mainland China. In return for loans totalling over 145 million, Japan received confirmation of its claims over parts of Shandong, control of railways and additional rights in Manchuria. This increased anti-Japanese sentiment in China.</p> <p>2 November - Lansing-Ishii Agreement signed between Japan and USA wherein both parties agreed to uphold the Open Door Policy in China although the US acknowledged that Japan had 'special interests' in China.</p>
1918	<p>August - The Siberian Intervention begins as over 70,000 Japanese soldiers were sent to Siberia to halt progress of the Red Army in the Russian Civil War. Suspicious of Japanese designs, under intense pressure from the US and UK Japan was forced to withdraw its forces in October 1922.</p> <p>29 September - Takashi Hara is appointed the first 'commoner' prime minister as leader of the <i>Rikken Seiyūkai</i>.</p>

1919	<p>18 January - The Paris Peace Conference takes place. Japan lays claim to Shandong province in China and Germany colonies in North Pacific including the Mariana, Marshall, and Caroline islands.</p> <p>14 February - Japan proposed the inclusion of a Racial Equality Clause in the covenant of the League of Nations, but due to British and Australian opposition the proposal was shelved. This incited Japanese nationalism a marked move away from internationalism.</p> <p>4 May - The May Fourth Movement breaks out in China in protest against Japanese demands at the Paris Peace Conference. The Movement sparked a nationwide renaissance in nationalist thought and contributed to a move towards left-wing politics and a rise in anti-Japanese sentiment.</p>
1921	<p>4 November - Prime minister Takashi Hara assassinated by a right-wing railway switchman marking the first of many political assassinations. He was replaced by Takahashi Korekiyo as prime minister and leader of the <i>Seiyūkai</i>.</p> <p>15 July - Japanese Communist Party established and immediately persecuted, operating as a clandestine underground organisation after it was outlawed in 1924. Fear of communism would continue to be used as a pretext by ultra nationalists to clamp down on greater democratic freedoms throughout the 1920s.</p> <p>12 November - The Washington Naval Conference takes place which continued until 6 February 1922. World powers agreed the Four-Power Treaty, Five-Power Naval Treaty, and Nine-Power Treaty. Together with the Paris Peace Conference, the collective treaties became known as the Washington Versailles Treaty System.</p> <p>13 December - Four-Power Treaty signed between USA, UK, France, and Japan. All parties agreed to uphold the territorial status quo in the Pacific and consult each other in case of conflict. Under US pressure it replaced the 1902 Anglo-Japanese Alliance.</p>
1922	<p>6 February - Five-Power Naval Treaty concluded which attempted to limit naval competition between the world powers by imposing a 5:5:3 ratio in battleships and aircraft carriers for Britain, USA, and Japan. The Japanese Navy General Staff deeply opposed the limitations, creating resentment amongst the military.</p> <p>22 February - Nine-Power Treaty imposes 'Open Door' principles in trade with China, replacing the earlier Lansing-Ishii Agreement. It was signed by all the attendees of the Washington Naval Conference: USA, UK, Belgium, China, France, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, and Portugal. Japan agreed to return Shandong to China in return for 15-year control on its railway.</p>
1923	<p>1 September - The Great Kanto Earthquake devastated Tokyo causing over 100,000 deaths and destroying 700,000 homes. The Korean population was blamed for fires, with 2,613 killed in ensuing riots. The huge financial cost of the disaster undermined the Japanese economy throughout the mid-1920s.</p>
1924	<p>10 May - Kenseikai (Constitutional Government Party) comes to power in Japan's first three-party coalition with the Rikken Seiyukai and Kakushin Club led by prime minister Kato Takaaki. The coalition concentrated on democratic reform, passing the General Election Law of 1925 which introduced universal male suffrage.</p> <p>26 May - The US Immigration Act or Johnson-Reed Act was passed in the US which outright banned all Asian and Japanese immigration. Japanese media decried the bill and it was viewed as another racial provocation by the West.</p>

1925	<p>5 May - The General Election Law introduces universal male suffrage which increased the voter base to 12 million voters. The huge increase in the electorate increased the cost of campaigning, forcing many parties into corrupt financial arrangements with the zaibatsu which only served to inflame anti-democratic rhetoric within Japan.</p> <p>12 May - The Peace Preservation Law is passed which limited freedom of speech by outlawing any criticism against the kokutai or private property. The law was aimed at curtailing any possible rise in support for socialism and communism after the increase in the franchise expected from the new General Election Law.</p>
1926	<p>30 January - Prime Minister Kato Takaaki dies unexpectedly and is replaced by Wakatsuki Reijirō of the Kenseikai Party who continued Japan's internationalist foreign policy.</p> <p>9 July - The Northern Expedition is launched by Jiang Jieshi in China. Leading the National Revolutionary Army (NRA) and in collaboration with the Chinese Communist Party, the 'United-Front' succeeded in establishing a new central government in China by 1928. The posed a threat to Japanese interests.</p> <p>25 December - Emperor Taisho (Yoshihito) dies. The Shōwa era (Enlightened Peace) begins with the succession of Crown Prince Hirohito who had already been serving as regent since 1921 due to the ill-health of his father.</p>
1927	<p>January - The Shōwa Financial Crisis begins as a run on banks that occurs after the government tried to redeem earthquake bonds. 37 banks throughout Japan dissolved, leading to the resignation of Prime Minister Wakatsuki Reijirō of the Minseitō Party.</p> <p>20 April - Prime Minister Wakatsuki resigns over his handling of the financial crisis and is replaced by General Tanaka Giichi of the Seiyukai Party who served simultaneously as Foreign Minister. Tanaka was significant for implementing an increasingly assertive foreign policy towards China and clamping down on democratic freedoms at home.</p> <p>1 June - The Minseitō (Constitutional Democratic Party) is formed through the merger of the Kenseikai and Seiyu Honto parties. It was the main liberal opposition to the Seiyukai and advocated an internationalist foreign policy, opposing the 1931 Mukden Incident.</p>
1928	<p>15 March - The March 15 Incident occurs in Japan as Prime Minister Giichi Tanaka evokes the Peace Preservation Law to arrest 1,652 suspected communists. The Incident sparked a clamp down on free speech which forced the dissolution of three left-wing parties and introduced the death penalty to the Peace Preservation Laws.</p> <p>3 May - The Jinan Incident occurs as Prime Minister Giichi Tanaka sent 4,000 troops to block Jiang Jieshi's Northern Expedition.</p> <p>4 June - The assassination of China's warlord, 'Old Marshal' Zhang Zuolin. Zhang was killed in a bomb explosion planted by Guandong Army officers who were infuriated with his failure to stop Jiang Jieshi's northern march. They had hoped that his son, Zhang Xueliang, would be a more compliant puppet. Army leaders refused to punish the perpetrators, setting a dangerous precedent.</p> <p>27 August - Japan signs Kellogg-Briand Pact outlawing war as a policy choice. The Pact would serve as the legal basis in international law for the norm that the threat or use of military force in contravention of international law was unlawful.</p>

1929	<p>2 July - Prime Minister Tanaka Gijji resigns as he is unable to implement the Emperor's wishes in punishing the perpetrators of the assassination of Zhang Zuolin as the General Staff were unwilling to punish the perpetrators. He is replaced by Hamaguchi Osachi, leader of the more liberal Minseito Party.</p> <p>24 October - The Wall Street Crash occurs, leading to the worldwide Great Depression. Japan was less affected than many countries yet exports fell by 6% between 1929-31 and unemployment hit 1 million. By 1933 Japan had recovered thanks to the implementation of Keynesian Economic Policies introduced by Finance Minister Takahashi Korekiyo. Despite success, his policies involved reducing military expenditures which created him enemies within the military and led to his assassination in the February 26 Incident in 1936.</p>
1930	<p>22 April - The London Naval Conference concludes with the signing of the London Naval Treaty. Japan demanded an increased tonnage ratio from 5:5:3 to 10:10:7. Despite strong opposition from the US, the ratio was finally granted although Japan still suffered some restrictions, infuriating the military further.</p> <p>17 June - Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act in the US raises tariffs on US imports by as much as 200%, decimating Japanese exports to the US, escalating the economic crisis in Japan. The silk industry and farmers were hit particularly hard, with over 3 million made unemployed.</p> <p>September - Sakurakai (Cherry Blossom Society) established within military. It was an ultra-nationalist secret society who wanted a Showa Restoration. Its members would twice attempt to overthrow government in 1931.</p> <p>14 November - Prime Minister Hamaguchi Osachi is shot and critically wounded at Tokyo Station by a right-wing radical. Hamaguchi had angered the military by agreeing to the naval limitations at the London Naval Conference.</p>
1931	<p>17 March - The March Incident occurs as members of the Sakurakai attempt to incite a coup d'etat using the military. Their attempts at creating a riot in Tokyo as a pretext for intervention failed, and their choice of prime minister, Kazushige Ugaki, refused to cooperate further. The plotters received only mild punishments which served to increase the boldness of the military.</p> <p>14 April - Prime Minister Hamaguchi Osachi forced to resign due to continuing injuries. Is replaced by Wakatsuki Reijirō as Prime Minister and leader of the Minseito.</p> <p>18 September - The Manchurian Incident - Planned by Lieutenant General Ishiwara Kanji of the Kwantung Army, a bomb was exploded in Manchuria on the Japanese-owned South Manchurian Railways, giving a pretext for its takeover by the Guandong Army.</p> <p>22 September - League of Nations meets to decide on enquiry, but US refuses to support enquiry at this time.</p> <p>October - League of Nations gives deadline of 16 November for Japan to withdraw from Manchuria, which was ignored.</p> <p>21 October - October Incident occurs in Japan which was an aborted coup d'etat by members of the Sakurakai. The plotters were mildly punished with 20 days house arrest which only served to encourage more attempts at military intervention. As a consequence, the Sakurakai was dissolved with most members joining the Tōsei-ha or Control Faction of the the army.</p> <p>13 December - Prime minister Wakatsuki Reijirō resigns due to inability to reign in the Kwantung Army and is replaced by Inukai Tsuyoshi of the Seiyukai. Inukai was tasked by the Emperor with reigning in the military, yet he was caught in the</p>

	middle as public support grew for the invasion.
1932	<p>7 January - Stimson Doctrine announced. US would not recognise any treaty between Japan and China which violated US rights and treaties.</p> <p>28 January - The Shanghai Incident occurs as fighting breaks out between Japanese marines and GMD troops. Ceasefire agreed on 3 March by PM Inukai Tsuyoshi. The incident hardened world opinion against Japan and Inukai was blamed by militarists for curtailing the military.</p> <p>9 February - League of Blood Incident occurs as a civilian ultranationalist group with links to the military, led by Buddhist preacher Nissho Inoue, assassinated former Finance Minister Junnosuke Inoue and Director-General of Mitsui zaibatsu Dan Takuma. The resulting trial led to a further erosion of the rule of law and emboldened ultranationalists by giving the defendants a platform to broadcast their views, arguing their actions were in the interests of the Emperor.</p> <p>1 March - Independence of Manchuria is proclaimed and was renamed Manchukuo with its capital at Changchun. Prime Minister Inukai withholds formal diplomatic recognition out of concern for worsening relations with the US. This displeased the militarists and general public.</p> <p>15 April - The Chinese Communist Party declares war on Japan.</p> <p>15 May - May 15th Incident - Prime Minister Inukai Tsuyoshi is assassinated during an attempted coup by 11 young naval officers. He was criticised for enforcing a ceasefire in Shanghai and trying to curtail the power of the military in Manchuria. During their trial, the conspirators won widespread support and eroded what remained of democratic principles. In a compromise with the military, Inukai was replaced as prime minister by the non-party affiliated Admiral Saito Makoto, who was directly appointed by the Privy Council. Saito extended official diplomatic recognition to Manchukuo.</p> <p>2 October - The Lytton Report was published condemning Japanese aggression and insisting on withdrawal of Japanese troops.</p>
1933	<p>25 February - League accepts Lytton Report, prompting a walkout of the Japanese delegation led by ambassador Yōsuke Matsuoka. On 27 March, Japan gave formal notice of its withdrawal of membership from the League.</p> <p>4 March - Franklin Delano Roosevelt becomes US President defeating Herbert Hoover in a landslide election. His liberal New Deal policies would kickstart the American economy yet he was initially hampered in his foreign policy and limited in response to Japanese aggression by isolationists within Congress who passed a series of Neutrality Acts from 1935-37.</p> <p>31 May - The Tanggu Truce is signed with China which gave Japan control of Jehol province and the Shanhaiguan Pass, and made the region north of Beijing a demilitarised zone. The truce gave Jiang Jieshi time to consolidate his forces but was seen as another humiliation.</p> <p>1 August - Comintern instructs all Communist parties across the world to form United Fronts with other anti-fascist parties</p>
1934	<p>8 July - Prime Minister Saito Makoto is replaced by Admiral Keisuke Okada. During his leadership, conflict between the Imperial Way (Koda-ha) and Control (Tosei-ha) factions within the army increased as he failed to control the military. He narrowly avoided assassination in the February 26 Incident.</p>
1935	<p>10 June - The He-Umezu Agreement signed in which Chinese troops were forced</p>

	<p>to withdraw from Hebei province, allowing Japanese forces to be stationed along the Great Wall. The secret truce was leaked to the press and put further pressure on Jiang Jieshi to act in future.</p> <p>31 August - First US Neutrality Act passed, stipulating that in a state of war, the president was required to declare an arms embargo on all belligerents.</p>
1936	<p>26 February - February 26 Incident occurs as 1,500 ultra-nationalist officers from the Kōdō-ha (Imperial Way) faction carry out an attempted coup in Tokyo. 3 senior ministers assassinated. Emperor opposes coup and order is restored, leaving the Tosei-ha (Control Faction) in control of the army and increasingly, the country.</p> <p>29 February - Second US Neutrality Act passed, stipulating that in a state of war, the US would refuse war loans and credits to belligerent nations.</p> <p>9 March - Prime Minister Keisuke Okada resigns and is replaced by Hirota Koki who became increasingly manipulated by the army, placating the military by reinstating the system by which only active-duty army or navy officers could serve in the Cabinet posts of war minister or navy minister, thereby giving the military a de facto veto over government decision making.</p> <p>25 November - Japan signs the Anti-Comintern Pact with Germany due to mutual fears of the USSR. Germany extended diplomatic recognition to Manchukuo, marking a turning point away from Germany support for China.</p> <p>12 December - The Xi'an Incident forced Jiang Jieshi to form a Second United Front with the CCP against Japan.</p>
1937	<p>2 February - Prime Minister Hirota Koki is replaced by General Senjuro Hayashi who struggled to gain support from the Diet or restrain the military.</p> <p>1 May - Third US Neutrality Act passed, stipulating that travel on belligerent ships in times of war was unlawful. 'Cash-and-carry' rule also required belligerent nations to pay in cash for all purchases and transport them on their own ships</p> <p>4 June - Prince Konoe Fumimaro is appointed prime minister in the hope that he could unite the military and civilian governments.</p> <p>7 July - The Marco Polo Bridge Incident leads to the Japanese Invasion of China and the start of the Second Sino-Japanese War.</p> <p>7 August - China officially declares a war of 'self-defence' on Japan</p> <p>21 August - Sino-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact signed between USSR and Nationalist China, delivering economic and military aid to the GMD.</p> <p>5 October - Quarantine Speech delivered by President Roosevelt which signified a change in US foreign policy, warning of the dangers of 'international anarchy and instability', and calling for a quarantine of aggressor nations.</p> <p>3 November - Brussels Conference of signatories of the Nine-Power Treaty. No action against Japan was decided, thus effectively ending the Washington System of international cooperation in China.</p> <p>6 November - Italy joins the Anti-Comintern Pact.</p> <p>12 December - The Panay Incident occurs as USS Panay and HMS Ladybird attacked by Japanese forces on the Yangtze. US refuses to respond.</p> <p>13 December - Japanese forces attack Nanjing. 'Rape of Nanjing' sees mass murdered committed on the civilian population.</p>
1938	<p>16 January - Prime Minister Konoe announces Japan will no longer seek negotiation with Jiang Jieshi's regime but seek to 'eradicate it' after Jiang rejects Japanese peace terms.</p> <p>24 March - The National Mobilisation Law is passed to implement a total-war</p>

	<p>economy by dissolving labour unions, nationalising strategic industries, introducing price controls and rationing and nationalising the media. This was supplemented by the National Service Draft Ordinance which empowered the government to draft civilian workers where it deemed necessary.</p> <p>17 May - The US Naval Act of 1938 passed by Congress providing \$1 billion for naval rearmament to match the Axis powers by increasing the US navy by 20%.</p> <p>3 November - Prime Minister Konoe announces 'New Order in East Asia' political union between Japan, China and Manchukuo. As a statement of political and war aims, the New Order speech announced to the world Japan's ambitions.</p>
1939	<p>5 January - Prime Minister Konoe resigns in frustration over his inability to control the direction of the war in China. He was replaced by Hiranuma Kiichiro.</p> <p>14 June - The Tientsin Incident (Tianjin) occurs as Japan blockaded the British Concession in Tientsin due to British non-compliance over a murder investigation. Seeking to avoid war, Britain eventually handing over the four suspects, demonstrating British weakness in China.</p> <p>26 July - The US announces the abrogation of the 1911 Treaty of Commerce and Navigation with Japan in solidarity with Britain over the Tientsin Incident.</p> <p>23 August - The Nazi-Soviet Pact signed between Germany and the USSR. The unexpected pact strengthened calls for a 'strike south' policy within the Japanese military.</p> <p>1 September - Germany invades Poland starting WW2 in Europe. The US declares neutrality.</p> <p>15 September - The Battle of Khalkhin-Gol (Nomonhan) finishes in ceasefire as over 20,000 Japanese die in border skirmishes with the USSR. Defeat convinced the Imperial Japanese Army to abandon its 'strike north' strategy and support the 'strike south' policy favoured by the navy.</p> <p>4 November - The fourth US Neutrality Act is passed in Congress, repealing earlier acts and allowing belligerents to buy arms on a cash-and-carry basis.</p>
1940	<p>2 February - Minseito politician Saitō Takao gave one the last anti-war speeches in the Diet, criticising the conduct and objectives of war in China. For this he was expelled from the Diet, silencing all remaining critics of the war.</p> <p>30 March - Creation of the Reorganised National Government of China headed by President Wang Jingwei in Nanjing. Wang's government collaborated with the Japanese, in reality existing merely as a puppet state.</p> <p>25 June - France falls to Germany after losing the Battle of France. Vichy France was now in control of Indochina and allied to Germany, thereby giving Japan access to the territory.</p> <p>19 July - The US Two-Ocean Navy Act passed by Congress to increase the size of the US Navy by 70% and costing \$8.55 billion. It authorised the procurement of 18 aircraft carriers, 7 battleships and over 100 other ships.</p> <p>22 July - Konoe returns as prime minister. Tojo Hideki appointed war minister, Matsuoka Yōsuke as foreign minister, Yoshida Zengo as navy minister. Matsuoka called for a stronger alliance with Germany to warn off USA, friendly relations with the USSR and expansion into Indochina.</p> <p>26 July - The US Export Control Act was introduced which halted the shipment of airplanes, parts, machine tools, and aviation gasoline as a warning to Japan.</p> <p>1 August - The Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere is formally announced by Foreign Minister Yosuke Matsuoka which called for a self-sufficient and Japanese dominated bloc of Asian nations. Building on earlier ideas of Pan-Asianism, in</p>

	<p>essence it was an imperialist propaganda concept designed to legitimise Japanese dominance in the region in clear opposition to the US Open Door concept.</p> <p>22 September - Japanese troops invade Northern Indochina with the aim of stopping rail supply routes to Nationalist China from Vietnam via Yunnan. Vichy France quickly capitulated and by 26 September, it was agreed that Japan could station up to 40,000 troops.</p> <p>27 September - Japanese diplomat Saburo Kuruu signs the Tripartite Pact (Pact of Steel) with Italy and Germany. All agree to aid each other in the event of an attack by a power not 'involved in the European war or in the Sino-Japanese conflict', meaning the US.</p> <p>October - The US Export Control Act was widened to also ban the trade of iron and scrap steel to Japan. On 8 October, Japan warned the US that this might be considered an 'unfriendly act'.</p> <p>12 October - Imperial Rule Assistance Association created as a unity party by Konoe in an attempt to unite domestic politics behind the war effort and limit the power of the military. Existing multi-party politics was suspended in an attempt to create a totalitarian one-party state.</p>
1941	<p>11 March - The US Lend-Lease Act launched a programme for supplying Britain and other allies with 'surplus' armaments in return for bases. Over \$50 billion in supplies were given, ending any pretense of neutrality.</p> <p>13 April - The Soviet-Japanese Neutrality Pact is signed with both sides hoping to concentrate their attentions elsewhere, enabling Japan to embark on its 'strike south' policy.</p> <p>April - Admiral Yamamoto Isoroku begins planning Pearl Harbour contingency.</p> <p>22 June - Operation Barbarossa begins when Germany invades the USSR. The presented Japan with a final opportunity to also attack the USSR, yet this idea was abandoned in favour in the strike south towards the Dutch East Indies.</p> <p>July - The 'Magic' US code-breaking project succeeded in cracking Japanese Foreign Office correspondence, providing access to all all encrypted Japanese diplomatic correspondence</p> <p>24 July - 140,000 Japanese troops invaded Southern Indochina in preparation for the invasion of the Dutch East Indies. The UK and US responded by freezing all Japanese assets and increased their support for Jiang in China.</p> <p>26 July - US freezes all Japanese assets in the US in response to the invasion of southern Indochina.</p> <p>1 August - US implements a total oil and gas embargo on Japan. 80% of all Japanese oil imports came from the US. It was viewed by some in Japan as an 'act of war', giving Japan no choice but to strike south.</p> <p>14 August - The Atlantic Conference takes place off Newfoundland as Churchill and Roosevelt agree common interests in the Atlantic Charter, seen by Japan as an ultimatum on whether to accept the 'Anglo-American' worldview or to oppose it.</p> <p>6 September - 'Guidelines for the Implementing National Policies' adopted at the Imperial Conference. Agreement between army and navy that Japan should be ready for war with the US, UK and Netherlands by October if negotiations fail.</p> <p>17 October - Konoe resigned due to the failure of his peace overtures with the US. General Tojo Hideki is appointed prime minister. Tojo sets 30 November as final deadline for talks with the US to succeed.</p> <p>5 November - Emperor Hirohito agrees at Imperial Conference that plans should</p>

be made for the attack on Pearl Harbor, but negotiations should be pursued to their end.

17 November - Japanese Ambassador [Nomura Kichisaburō](#) and [Kurusu Saburō](#) meet with President Roosevelt. Kurusu asked to discuss possibility of Japan leaving the Tripartite Pact, to which he refused.

20 November - Pearl Harbour task force ready to sail. Final note for consideration presented to Cordell Hull, but US still insisted that Japan withdraw from China and Indochina.

26 November - [The Hull Note](#) passed to Japan, stipulating that Japan should withdraw from China before trade embargo is lifted. Interpreted by Tojo as declaration of war. Pearl Harbour task force sets sail.

1 December - Final Imperial Conference sanctions war. Naval task force informed that attack will take place on 7 December.

6 December - Final attempt for peace by President Roosevelt, asking for withdraw from Indochina. Emperor did not receive telegram until 3pm, task force could not be recalled.

7 December - [Pearl Harbour is attacked](#). Nomura and Kurusu deliver declaration of war 50 minutes after attack, at 1:50pm. Malaya and Hong Kong also attacked.

8 December - [Britain and the Netherlands Government in Exile declares war](#) on Japan.

11 December - Germany and Italy declare war on the USA.