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World War II Theatre fought in the Pacific and Asia This article is about the Pacific theaters of World War II. For other uses, see Pacific War (disambiguzation). War in the Pacific redirects here. For the war between Chile, Bolivia and Peru in 1879-1884, see Pacific War. Pacific Theater of World War II redirects here. For the U.S. military operations area, see Pacific Ocean Zones. For other uses, see Pacific Theater. Pacific WarPart of World War IIMap showing the main areas of conflict and Allied landings in the Pacific, 1942-1945Date7 December 1941 - 2 September 1945 (3 years, 8 months, 3 weeks and 5 days)[b][2]LocationEast AsiaSoutheast AsiaOceaniaPacific OceanIndian OceanResult Allied Victory End of World War II Fall of the Japanese Empire Continuation of the Chinese Civil War Substantial weakening of European colonial powers and gradual decolonization of Asia First Indochina War Indonesian National Revolution Korea War 1951 Treaty of San Francisco 1956 Soviet-Japanese Joint DeclarationTerritorialchanges Allied occupation of Japan Withdrawal of Japanese troops occupying parts of China and handover of Taiwan to China Liberation of Korea and Manchuria from Japanese rule, followed by the division of Korea's Disposal of Japanese islands held in the Central Pacific Ocean to the seizure of the United Nations and the annexation of South Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands by the Soviet Union The territory of confidence Pacific Islands is created by the United Nations and placed under the authority of the United States. The UN Security Council ended the extensive phased guardianship, from 1986 to 1994, with the United States gaining territory from the Northern Mariana Islands.BelligerentsMajor Allies: China[a] United States British EmpireSee Participants section for more details. Major Axis: JapanSee section Participants for further details.Commanders and leaders Main Allied leaders Chiang Kai-shek Franklin D. Roosevelt[c][d] Winston Churchill[e][f] Main Axis leaders HirohitoStrength 14,000,000[3] 3,621,383+ (1945)[nb 1] 400,000[8] 2,000,000[8] 140,000[9][nb 2] 1,747,465 (1945)[10] 7,800,000-7,900,000 (1945)[11][12][13] 126,500[14] , and other puppets: ~1,000,000+ (1945)[15]Casualties and losses Military5 battleships11 aircraft carriers25 cruisers84 destroyers and destroyer escorts63 submarines[16]21,555+ aircraft[17]4,000,000+ dead (1937–45)[nb 3]Civilian deaths26 000,000 (1937-45)[nb] Military11 battleships25 aircraft carriers39 cruisers135 destroyers131 submarines[35]43,125 aircraft[35]125 aircraft [36]2,500,000 dead (1937-45)[nb] Civil deaths1,000,000[nb 6] included its islands and neighbouring countries.b Partly and briefly. History of Japan ListPaleolithic before 14,000 BCJ-mon14,000 - 1000 AVYAYoi1000 BC. J.-C. - 300 Restoration1333-1336Muroamachi (Ashikaga) Nanboku-chōSengoku 1336-1573Azuchi-Momoyama Nanban trade 1573-1603Edo (Tokugawa) SakokuConvention of KanagawaBakumatsu KanagawaBakumatsu Boshin WarRestorationFirst Sino-Japanese WarBoxer RebellionRusso-Japanese War 1868-1912Taish World War IGreat Kanto earthquake 1912-1926Sh-wa Financial crisis (Great)Depression]MilitarismWorld War IOccupationEconomic miraclePost-occupationBubble economy1926-1989Heisei Lost DecadeGreat Hanstš is Japan Earthquake 1989-2019ReiwaCoronavirus pandemic (Financial Impact) 2019-present Subjects Earthquakes currency Economic Era Economic Age Names Education Empire Foreign Relations Foreign Relations Military Naval Policy After War World Heritage Sites Glossary History Timelineve The Pacific War, sometimes called the Asia-Pacific War,[44] was the scene of world war Pacific Ocean, Indian Ocean and Oceania. It was geographically the largest theatre of the war, including the vast Pacific Ocean theatre, the Southwest Pacific Theatre, and to a lesser extent by the Axis allies, Germany and Italy. The fighting consisted of some of the greatest naval battles in history, and incredibly fierce battles and war crimes across Asia and the Pacific Islands, resulting in immense loss of life. The war culminated in huge Allied air raids over Japan, and the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, accompanied by the declaration of war and the invasion of Manchuria and other territories by the Soviet Union on August 9, 1945, so the Japanese announced their intention to surrender on August 15, 1945. The official surrender of the ceremony in Japan took place aboard the battleship USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay on September 2, 1945. After the war, Japan lost all rights and titles to its former possessions in Asia and the Pacific, and its sovereignty was limited to the four main islands of origin and other minor islands determined by the Allies. The Shinto Emperor of Japan abandons much of his authority and divine status through the Shinto Directive in order to pave the way for vast cultural reforms policies. [51] Overview The Pacific War Council photographed on October 12, 1942. Pictured are representatives of the United States (seated), Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, China, the Netherlands, and the names of the Philippine Commonwealth for War In allied countries during the war, the Pacific War was not distinguished from World War II in general, or was known simply as the war against Japan. In the United States, the term Pacific Theatre was widely used, although it was a misnamed compared to the Allied campaign in Burma, the war in China and other activities within the Southeast Asian Theatre. However, the U.S. armed forces considered the China-Burma-India theatre to be distinct from the Asia-Pacific theater during the conflict. Japan used the name of the Great East Asian War戦争, as chosen by a cabinet decision on December 10, 1941, to refer to both the war with the Western Allies and the ongoing war in China. The name was made public on 12 December, with an explanation that it implied Asian nations that were parsing their independence from the Western powers through the armed forces of the co-prosperity sphere of Greater East Asia. Japanese officials have incorporated what they have called the Japan支-China incident支 Nisshi Jihen, into the War of Greater East Asia. During the Allied military occupation of Japan (1945-1952), these Japanese terms were prohibited in official documents, although their informal use continued, and the war became officially known as the Pacific War (太平洋). In Japan, the Fifteen Years戦争 was also used, referring to the period of the Mukden incident from 1931 to 1945. Participants Political Map of the Asia-Pacific region, Allies of 1939 The main Allied participants were the United States and its territories, including the Philippine Commonwealth, where a guerrilla war was waged after its conquest; and China, which had already engaged in a bloody war against Japan since 1937, including both the National Revolutionary Army of the kmt government and CCP units, such as the eighth guerrilla armed road, new fourth army, as well as smaller groups. The British Empire was also a major belligerent composed of British troops with a large number of colonial troops of the armed forces of India as well as Burma, Malaysia, Fiji, Tonga; in addition to troops from Australia, New Zealand and Canada. The Dutch government in exile (as the owner of the Dutch East Indies) was also involved, all members of the Pacific War Council. Mexico provided some air support in the form of 201 Fighter Squadron and Free France sent naval support in the form of the Triumphant and later the Richelieu. From 1944, French commando group Corps Léger d'Intervention also participated in resistance operations in Indochina. French Indochinese forces clashed with Japanese forces in a coup in 1945. The body continued to operate after the coup until liberation. Among the pro-allied guerrillas active in Asia, the anti-Japanese Malay People's Army, the Korean Liberation Army, the Free Thai Movement and the Viet Minh. [citation needed] The Soviet Union fought two short unreported border conflicts with Japan in 1938 and again in 1939, then remained neutral neutral Neutrality Pact from April 1941 until August 1945, when he (and Mongolia) joined the rest of the Allies and invaded the territory of Manchukuo, China, Inner Mongolia, the Japanese protectorate of Korea and the territory claimed by the Japanese as the South Sakhalin. [citation needed] Axis Powers and Aligned States Axis-aligned states that helped Japan included Thailand's authoritarian government, which formed a cautious alliance with the Japanese in 1941, when Japanese forces issued an ultimatum to the government following the Japanese invasion of Thailand. The head of Thailand, Plaek Phibunsongkhram, became very enthusiastic about the alliance after decisive Japanese victories in the Malay campaign and in 1942 sent the Phayap army to help with the invasion of Burma, where the former Thai territory that had been annexed by Britain were reoccupied (the occupied Malay regions were similarly reintegrated into Thailand in 1943). The Allies supported and organized an underground anti-Japanese resistance group, known as the Free Thai Movement, after the Thai ambassador to the United States refused to hand over the declaration of war. For this reason, after the surrender in 1945, the position of the United States was that Thailand should be treated as a puppet of Japan and be seen as an occupied nation rather than an ally. This was done contrary to the British position towards Thailand, which had faced them in combat as they invaded British territory, and the United States had to block British efforts to impose a punitive peace. [54] Were also involved members of the sphere of co-prosperity of great East Asia, which included the Imperial Army of Manchukuo and the Chinese collaborationist army of the Japanese puppet states of Manchukuo (composed of most of Manchuria), and the collaborationist regime Wang Jingwei (who controlled the coastal regions of China), respectively. During the Burma campaign, other members, such as the Free India Anti-British Indian National Army and the Burmese National Army of the State of Burma, were active and fighting alongside their Japanese allies. [citation needed] In addition, Japan has enlisted many soldiers from its korean and Taiwan colonies. Collaborationist security units have also been formed in Hong Kong (reformed ex-colonial police), Singapore, in the Philippines (also a member of the East Asian Sphere of Co-Prosperity), the Dutch East Indies (PETA), British Malaysia, British Borneo, the former Indochinese French (after the overthrow of the French regime in 1945 (the French Vichy had already allowed the Japanese to use bases in French in 1941) , following an invasion) as well as Timorese militias. These units helped the Japanese war effort in their respective territories. [citation needed] Germany and Italy had only limited participation in the Pacific War. The German and Italian navies operated submarines and plundered ships in the Indian and Pacific Oceans, including the Monsun Gruppe. Italians had access concession of naval bases in China that they used (and which was then ceded to China collaborationist by the Italian Social Republic in late 1943). After Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor and the ensuing declarations of war, the two navies had access to Japanese naval facilities. [citation needed] Theatres Between 1942 and 1945, there were four major conflict zones during the Pacific War: China, the Central Pacific, Southeast Asia and the Southwest Pacific. U.S. sources refer to two theatres in the Pacific War: the Pacific Theater and the China Burma India Theater (CBI). However, these were not operational commands. In the Pacific, the Allies divided operational control of their forces between two supreme commands, known as areas of the Pacific Ocean and the Southwest Pacific region. In 1945, for a brief period just before the Japanese surrender, the Soviet Union and Mongolia engaged Japanese forces in Manchuria and northeastern China. The Imperial Japanese Navy did not integrate its units into the permanent theatre commissions. The Imperial Japanese Army, which had already created the kwantung army to oversee its occupation of Manchukuo and the Chinese Expeditionary Army during the Second Sino-Japanese War, created the South Expeditionary Army Group at the beginning of its conquests of Southeast Asia. This headquarters controlled most of the Japanese army formations that opposed western allies in the Pacific and Southeast Asia. Historical Background Conflict between China and Japan Main article: Second Sino-Japanese War Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, Allied Commander-in-Chief in Chinese Theatre from 1942 to 1945 In 1937, Japan controlled Manchuria and was also ready to sink deeper into China. The Marco Polo Bridge incident on July 7, 1937, led to a full-scale war between China and Japan. The Nationalist Party and the Chinese Communists suspended their civil war to form a nominal alliance against Japan, and the Soviet Union quickly lent its support by providing a large quantity of equipment to Chinese troops. In August 1937, Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek deployed his best army to fight about 300,000 Japanese soldiers in Shanghai, but after three months of fighting, Shanghai fell. The Japanese continued to push back Chinese forces, seizing the capital Nanjing in December 1937 and leading the Nanjing Massacre. In March 1938, nationalist forces won their first victory in Taierzhuang,[58] but the city of Xuzhou was captured by the Japanese in May. In June 1938, Japan deployed about 350,000 troops to invade Wuhan and capture him in October. The Japanese have won important but world opinion, especially in the United States, condemned Japan, especially after the Panay incident. In 1939, Japanese forces tried to push into the Soviet Far East from Manchuria. They were solidly defeated in the Battle of Khalkhin Gol by a soviet and Mongolian mixed force led by Georgy Zhukov. This stopped Japan's expansion and Soviet aid to China ended following the signing of the Soviet-Japanese Neutrality Pact at the beginning of its war against Germany. [60] Chinese victims of mass panic during a June 1941 Japanese aerial bombardment of Chongqing In September 1940, Japan decided to cut China's only land line to the outside world by seizing French Indochina, which was controlled at the time by Vichy France. Japanese forces broke their agreement with the Vichy administration and fighting broke out, ending with a Japanese victory. On 27 September, Japan signed a military alliance with Germany and Italy, becoming one of the three main axis powers. In practice, there was little coordination between Japan and Germany until 1944, when the United States deciphered its secret diplomatic correspondence. The war entered a new phase with the unprecedented defeat of the Japanese at the Battle of Suixian-Zaoyang, the 1st Battle of Changsha, the Battle of Kunlun Pass and the Battle of Zaoyi. After these victories, Chinese nationalist forces launched a large-scale counter-offensive in the early 1940s; however, due to its low military-industrial capability, it was repelled by the Imperial Japanese Army at the end of March 1940. In August 1940, the Chinese Communists launched an offensive in central China; in retaliation, Japan instituted the three-all policy (Kill all, burn all, plunder all) in the occupied areas to reduce human and material resources for the communists. By 1941, the conflict was at an impasse. Although Japan occupied much of northern, central and coastal China, the nationalist government retreated inland with a provisional capital set up in Chungking while the Chinese Communists remained in control of the base areas of Shaanxi. Moreover, Japanese control of northern and central China was somewhat tenuous, in that Japan was generally able to control railways and major cities (points and lines), but did not have a significant military or administrative presence in the vast Chinese countryside. The Japanese found that its aggression against the withdrawal and regrouping of the Chinese army was blocked by the mountainous terrain of southwestern China, while the Communists organized widespread guerrilla and sabotaging activities in northern and eastern China behind the Japanese front line. Japan has sponsored several puppet governments, one of which was led by Wang Jingwei. However, its policies of brutality towards the Chinese people, not cede real power to these regimes, and support several rival governments have failed to make it a viable alternative to nationalist led by Chiang Kai-shek. Conflicts between Chinese communist and nationalist forces vying for control of the territory behind enemy lines culminated in a major armed confrontation in January 1941, ending their cooperation. Japanese strategic bombing mainly targeted major Chinese cities such as Shanghai, Wuhan and Chongqing, with about 5,000 raid raids 1938 to August 1943 in the later case. Japan's strategic bombings have largely devastated Chinese cities, killing between 260,000 and 350,934 non-combatants. [66] [67] Tensions between Japan and the West As early as 1935, Japanese military strategists had concluded that the Dutch East Indies were, because of their oil reserves, of considerable importance to Japan. By 1940, they had expanded it to include Indochina, Malaysia and the Philippines in their conception of the co-prosperity sphere of East Asia. Accumulations of Japanese troops in Hainan, Taiwan and Haiphong were noted, Imperial Japanese Army officers spoke openly of an inevitable war, and Admiral Sankichi Takahashi reportedly declared that a showdown with the United States was necessary. In an effort to discourage Japanese militarism, Western powers, including Australia, the United States, Great Britain and the Dutch government in exile, which controlled the oil-rich Dutch East Indies, moved to sell oil, iron ore and steel to Japan, denying it the raw materials needed to continue its activities in China and in French Indochine. In Japan, the government and nationalists viewed these embargoes as acts of aggression; imported oil accounts for about 80% of domestic consumption, without which the Japanese economy, let alone its military forces, would stop. The Japanese media, influenced by military propagandists, began to refer to embargoes as the encirclement ABCD ABCD)or ABCD Line. Faced with a choice between economic collapse and the withdrawal of its recent conquests (with its loss of face), the Japanese Imperial Headquarters (GHQ) began planning a war with the Western powers in April or May 1941. Japanese Preparations In preparation for the war against the United States, which would be decided at sea and in the air, Japan increased its naval budget and placed large formations of the army and its air force under the command of the navy. Whereas the IJA once consumed the lion's share of the state military budget because of the IJN's secondary role in Japan's campaign against China (with a 73/27 split in 1940), from 1942 to 1945, there would instead be a distribution of about 60/40 of the funds between the army and the navy. [71] Japan's main objective during the first part of the conflict was to seize economic resources in the Dutch East Indies and Malaysia, which provided Japan with a means of escaping the effects of the Allied embargo. [72] It was also decided — because of the close relationship between the United Kingdom and the United States[73][74] and the (erroneous) belief that would inevitably involve — that Japan would also require to take the Philippines, Wake and Guam. Japanese planning was to wage a limited war where Japan would seize key objectives and then establish a defensive perimeter to defeat Allied counterattacks, leading to a negotiated peace. [75] Attack Attack the U.S. Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, by aircraft based on aircraft carriers of the combined fleet was intended to give the Japanese time to complete a perimeter. The first period of the war was divided into two operational phases. The first operational phase was further divided into three distinct parts in which the main objectives of the Philippines, British Malaysia, Borneo, Burma, Rabaul and the Dutch East Indies would be occupied. The second operational phase called for further expansion into the South Pacific by seizing eastern New Guinea, New Britain, Fiji, Samoa and strategic points in the Australian region. In the Central Pacific, Midway was targeted, as was the North Pacific Aleutian islands. Seizing these key areas would provide defensive depth and deprive the Allies of transit zones from which to mount a counter-offensive. [75] In November, these plans were essentially complete and were changed only slightly in the following month. Japanese military planners expected that the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union would not be able to respond effectively to a Japanese attack because of the threat posed by each of them to Germany; the Soviet Union was even considered unlikely to begin hostilities. Japanese leaders knew that a total military victory in a traditional sense against the United States was impossible; the alternative would be to negotiate for peace after their initial victories, which would recognize Japanese hegemony in Asia. [76] In fact, the Imperial GHQ noted that if acceptable negotiations are concluded with the Americans, the attacks should be quashed, even if the order to attack had already been given. Japanese leaders sought to base the conduct of the war against America on the historical experiences of successful wars against China (1894-1895) and Russia (1904-05), in which a strong continental power was defeated by achieving limited military objectives, not by total conquest. [76] They also planned, if the United States transferred its fleet from the Pacific to the Philippines, to intercept and attack this fleet en route with the Combined Fleet, in accordance with any pre-war Japanese navy planning and doctrine. If the United States or Great Britain attacked first, the plans also stipulated that the military should hold its positions and wait for the orders of the GHQ. Planners noted that the attack on the Philippines and British Malaysia still had potential for success, even in the worst case of a combined pre-emptive attack, including Soviet forces. Japanese Offensives (1941-1942) As a result of tensions between Japan and the Western powers, units of the Imperial Japanese Navy and the Imperial Japanese Army simultaneously launched surprise attacks against the United States and the British Empire on 7 December (8 December in the Asia-Pacific West time zones). The sites of this first wave of Japanese attacks included the U.S. territories of Hawaii, the Philippines, Guam and Wake Island and the British territories of Malaysia, Malaysia, Hong Kong. At the same time, Japanese forces invaded southern and eastern Thailand and resisted for several hours, before the Thai government signed an armistice and entered into an alliance with Japan. Although Japan declared war on the United States and the British Empire, the declaration was not made until after the attacks began. Subsequent attacks and invasions followed in December 1941 and early 1942, leading to the occupation of American, British, Dutch and Australian territories and air raids on the Australian mainland. The Allies suffered many disastrous defeats in the first six months of the war. Attack on Pearl Harbor Main article: Attack on Pearl Harbor USS Arizona burned for two days after being hit by a Japanese bomb in the attack on Pearl Harbor. In the early hours of December 7 (Hawaiian time), Japan launched a major surprise airstrike on Pearl Harbor in Honolulu without explicit warning, which paralyzed the U.S. Pacific fleet, left eight U.S. battleships out of action, destroyed 188 U.S. aircraft and killed 2,403 Americans. The Japanese had bet that the United States, faced with such a sudden and massive blow and loss of life, would accept a negotiated settlement and give Japan free rein to Asia. This bet did not pay off. U.S. losses were less severe than initially thought: U.S. aircraft carriers, which would prove to be more important than the battleships, were at sea, and the vital naval infrastructure (oil tanks, naval facilities and power station), the submarine base and signal intelligence units were unscathed, and the fact that the bombing took place while the United States was officially at war nowhere in the world[6] caused a wave of outrage across the United States. Japan's withdrawal strategy, which relies on a war of attrition to reconcile the United States, exceeds the capabilities of the IJN. [73] [78] Prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor, America's First Committee of 800,000 members vehemently opposed any American intervention in the European conflict, even as America sold military aid to Britain and the Soviet Union under the Lend-Lease program. Opposition to the war in the United States disappeared after the attack. On 8 December, the United Kingdom[79], the United States[80] Canada,[81] and the Netherlands[82] declared war on Japan, followed by China[83] and Australia[84] the next day. Four days after pearl harbor, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States, luring the country into a war at two theaters. It is widely accepted that this is a major strategic error, as it has repealed both germany's benefit from Japan's distraction from the United States and the reduction of aid to Britain, which Congress and Hitler had managed to avoid for more than a year of mutual provocation, which would otherwise have resulted. Southeast Asian campaigns from 1941-1942 HMS Prince of Wales (left, front) and HMS Repulse (left, rear) attacked by Japanese aircraft. A destroyer is in the Thailand, whose territory already serves as a springboard for the Malay countryside, surrendered within 5 hours of the Japanese invasion. The Thai government officially allied itself with Japan on 21 December. To the south, the Imperial Japanese Army seized the British colony of Penang on 19 December, encountering little resistance. Hong Kong was attacked on December 8 and fell on December 25, 1941, with the Canadian Forces and the Royal Volunteers of Hong Kong playing an important role in the defence. The U.S. bases at Guam and Wake Island were lost at about the same time. British, Australian and Dutch forces, already emptied of personnel and equipment after two years of war with Germany, and heavily engaged in the Middle East, North Africa and elsewhere, were not able to bring much more than symbolic resistance to the hardened Japanese in combat. Two major British warships, HMS Repulse and HMS Prince of Wales, were sunk by a Japanese air strike off Malaysia on 10 December 1941. Following the United Nations Declaration (the first official use of the term United Nations) on 1 January 1942, Allied governments appointed British General Sir Archibald Wavell to the American-British-Dutch-Australian Command (ABDACOM), a supreme allied command in Southeast Asia. This gave Wavell nominal control of a huge force, albeit weakly spread over an area from Burma to the Philippines north of Australia. Other regions, including India, Hawaii and the rest of Australia remained under separate local commands. On January 15, Wavell moved to Bandung, Java, to take control of ASDACOM. Bombing Darwin, Australia, February 19, 1942 In January, Japan invaded British Burma, the Dutch East Indies, New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and seized Manila, Kuala Lumpur and Rabaul. After being driven out of Malaysia, forces allied with Singapore tried to resist the Japanese during the Battle of Singapore, but were forced to surrender to the Japanese on 15 February 1942; about 130,000 Indians, British, Australians and Dutch became prisoners of war. The pace of conquest was rapid: Bali and Timor also fell in February. [89] The rapid collapse of the Allied resistance left the ABDA zone split in two. Wavell resigned from ABDACOM on 25 February, handing over control of the ABDA region to local commanders and returning to the post of commander-in-chief in India. Meanwhile, Japanese planes had virtually eliminated allied air power in Southeast Asia and carried out air strikes on northern Australia, starting with a psychologically devastating but militarily devastating bombardment. Darwin on 19 February, which killed at least 243 people. During the Battle of the Java Sea in late February and early March, the Imperial Japanese Navy (IJN) inflicted a resounding defeat on the main naval force of the ABDA, under the leadership of Admiral Karel Doorman. The Dutch East Indies campaign subsequently ended with the surrender of Allied forces to Java and in March and April, a powerful Ijn transport force launched a raid in the Indian Ocean. British Royal Navy bases in Ceylon were affected and the aircraft carrier HMS Hermes and other Allied ships were sunk. The attack forced the Royal Navy to withdraw to the western indian Ocean. This paved the way for a Japanese assault on Burma and India. In Burma, the British, under intense pressure, retreated from the fighting in Rangoon on the Indo-Burmese border. This cut off the road to Burma, which was the supply line of the Western Allies to the Chinese nationalists. In March 1942, the Chinese Expeditionary Force began attacking Japanese forces in northern Burma. On 16 April, 7,000 British soldiers were surrounded by the 33rd Japanese Division at the Battle of Yenangyaung and rescued by the 38th Chinese Division, led by Sun Li-jen. [96] Cooperation between Chinese nationalists and communists had declined from its zenith to the Battle of Wuhan, and relations between the two had soured as the two had soured as the two attempted to expand their areas of operation into the occupied territories. The Japanese have exploited this lack of unity to move forward in their offensives. Philippines Main Article: Philippine Campaign (1941-1942) U.S. forces surrender in Corregidor, Philippines, May 1942 On December 8, 1941, Japanese bombers strike U.S. airfields on Luzon. They took most of the planes off the ground, destroying 103 planes, more than half of the U.S. Air Force. Two days later, further raids led to the destruction of the naval court in Cavite, south of Manila. By 13 December, Japanese attacks had destroyed all major airfields and virtually wiped out American air power. [97] In the previous month prior to the outbreak of hostilities, part of the U.S. Asian fleet had been sent to the southern Philippines. However, with little air





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