Japan in the 1930s

The Roots of the Pacific War
Isoroku Yamamoto
Nagasaki
Basics to Remember

• Japan lacks the needed resources for modern industrialization.
• No oil. (energy)
• No hard coal. (energy)
• No iron ore. (steel)
• PLUS-- in the 1920s and 1930s there was a fear of overpopulation and basic lack of food due to limited productive farm land.
“Japanism,” Fascism & Communism
Characteristics of Fascism

- Leader who intuits the needs of his people.
- Nationalism
- Race
- Admiration of military; glorification of war.
- Emphasis on class-- elite should rule.
- Emphasis on agrarian values.
- Suspicion of urban laboring class.
- Attitude toward women
Progression of Events Leading to Pearl Harbor
Japanese Fear of Rising Chinese Nationalism
Chiang Kaishek and the Unification of China

(The Northern Expedition)
1926-1928
First Japanese attempt to take control of Manchuria!
Assassination of Zhang Zuolin
1928

Zhang Zoulin
• Cabinet leaders fail to support Manchurian Invasion in 1928; fear of Chinese Nationalism.
• Prime Minister signs Kellogg-Briand pact.
• Prime Minister leads deflationary policy.
• Stock market crashes in U.S.; Japan has double depression!
• Parliament leaders appear corrupt.
• Big Business prospers; the People suffer.
• Depression deepens
Call for a Showa Restoration
Emperor Showa
(Hirohito)
(r. 1926-1989)
Showa Restoration

- Cherry Society (Sakura-kai) founded 1930
- Manchurian Incident (Sept. 18, 1931)
- Shanghai Incident (January, 1932)
- Manchukuo proclaimed (March 9, 1932)
- League of Nations & Lytton Commission
- Japan leaves the League in 1933 in protest.
Manchurian Incident
1931

Zhang Xueliang
“The Young Marshal”
Henry P’u Yi
(1906-1967)

ca. 1934

1922
Internal Japanese Political Strife over Manchuria

• Inukai ki (Tsuyoshi) becomes Prime Minister and opposes military policies of expansion.
• Military factions talk of “Restoration”
The End of Party Rule
The Assassination of Inukai Ki
March 15, 1932
Meiji Constitution gives military the tools to take control

- Meiji Constitution like German Constitution.
- Meiji Constitution protects power of the government.
- Government ministers appointed by Emperor.
- Actually, *genro* (oligarchs) choose ministers.
- All ministers have direct access to Emperor.
- Army minister must be an active duty officer.
- All cabinet posts must be filled for cabinet to function.
Japanese troops shout “Banzai!” atop the Great Wall of China

March 10, 1933
"With the help of Japan, China, and Manchukuo, the world can be in peace."
Marco Polo Bridge Today
KMT Army trained by German Army
Chiang & KMT move capital to Chongqing
Rape of Nanjing
(December, 1937)
The China Quagmire
1937-1940
Japan’s Situation in 1940
Propaganda played an important part of every country’s war effort. China was receiving relief from the United States through legal and illegal means before the war began.

This poster reminded Americans that China had been fighting the Japanese for ten years before Pearl Harbor.
Chinese soldier guards Flying Tiger P-40s
October 1941
Ledo Road
Burma