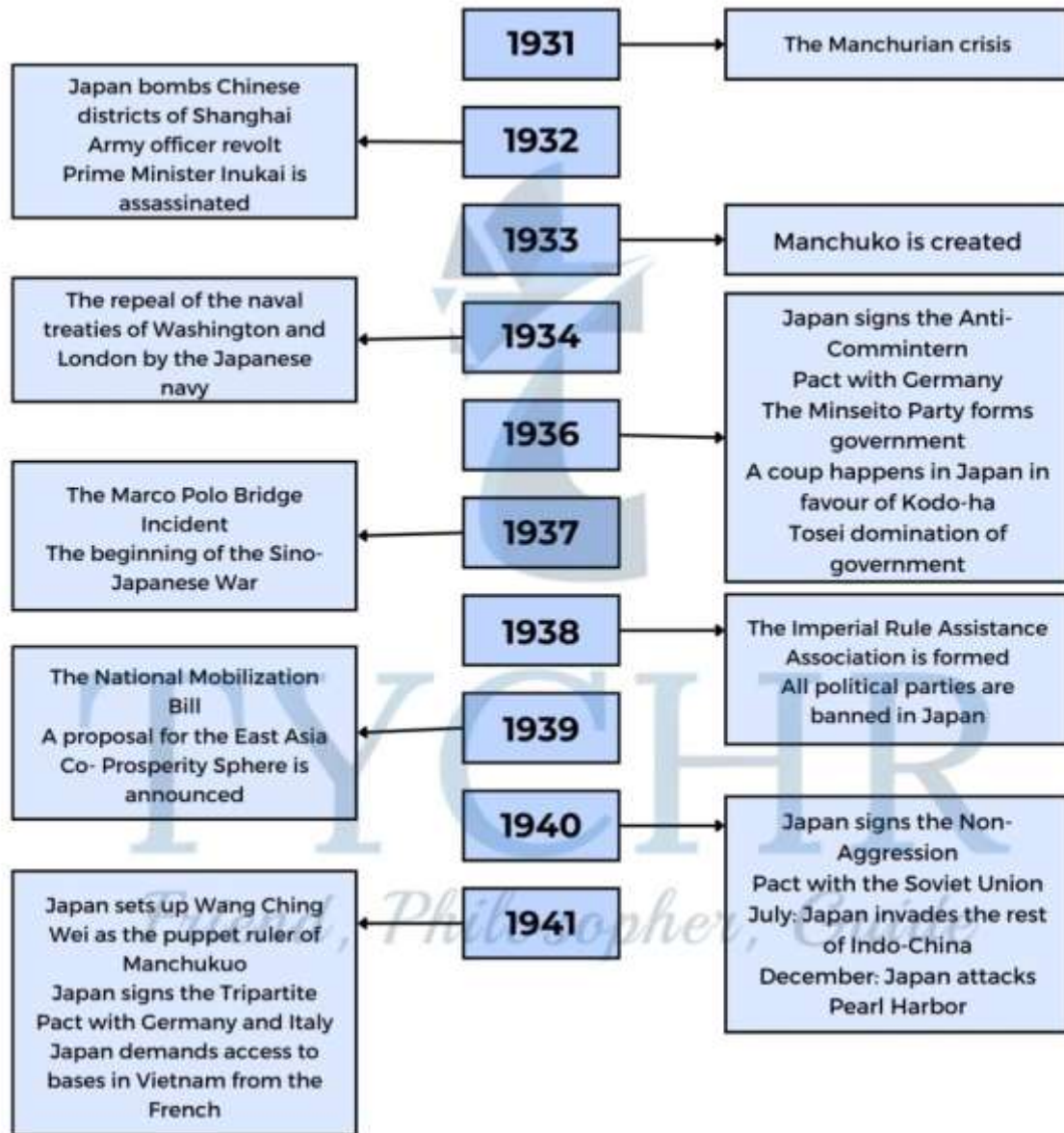




Japanese expansion in South-East Asia, 1931-1941



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Perspectives Regarding What Led To The War Between The USA And Japan In The Pacific

Japan planned a war:

- Aim to dominate Asia could only be achieved through war

War was evitable:

- Japan was willing to achieve its objectives through negotiations
- However, preparation for war was needed

War was forced upon Japan:

- USA and Britain wanted to restrict Japan's aims for expansion

Causes Of Expansion



Jiang Jieshi

- Japanese believed, it was Japan's destiny to become leader of Asia

Political instability in China contributed to Japan's expansionist ideas:

- **The Nationalist Party in China, the Guomindang (GMD), led by Jiang Jieshi**, began campaign of national unification
- The Communist **Party led by Mao Zedong** was set up in 1921
- The Communists joined Jieshi to form the United Front
- The **Northern Expedition** was launched to reduce government control and wrest power from warlords
- However, in 1927, the Nationalists and the Communists **fought against each other.**

Japanese domestic issues before 1932: Political crises and the growing influence of the military:

- Japanese supported the warlord Zhang Zuolin (in picture) in Manchuria
- Zhang attempted to expand into Northern China
- If Jiang defeated Zhang, Japan's plans for Manchuria could be hampered

- Japan decided to use **the Kwantung Army to disarm Zhang** and force him to retreat
- However, some army men **forced Jiang's Northern Expedition to halt** in Jinan and **assassinated Zhang on 4 June 1928**
- Japan's **Prime Minister Tanaka failed to discipline the army**, he resigned in July 1929.
- Leader of **Minseito Party, Hamaguchi Yuko became prime minister** but called an election in 1930
- Hamaguchi was unsuccessful in handling the impacts of the Great Depression on the economy
- He was **shot by a right-wing radical and died** in August 1931

Japanese domestic issues: Economic crisis:

- Japan was dependent on world trade, exports fell as other countries raised tariffs
- Duties on Japanese goods rose by 200% and unemployment rose to 3 million
- Manchuria became even more important due to **wealth of resources, market gains and living space**

Events In Manchuria, 1931

The impact of nationalism and militarism on Japan's foreign policy:

- Explosion on Japanese owned South Manchurian Railway near Mukden
- **False claim by the Kwantung Army** that it was blown up by the Chinese
- Japanese **enter Changchun** to the north
- Wakatsuki's government's orders coming from Tokyo were ignored

What Were The Results Of The Manchurian Crisis?

The results for Japan's international relations:

- Breakdown of control over the army was not appreciated internationally
- **Japan left the League of Nations**
- Japan **isolated from international cooperation** and the Washington Treaty System

- **The West** held back Japan's needs for **racist** reasons
- By 1930s, the Japanese view the Soviets as their key potential opponents in Manchuria Japan signs the **Anti-Comintern Pact** with Nazi Germany

Fact:

The Anti-Comintern pact was directed against the Communist International but, by implication, it was specifically against the Soviet Union

- **The results for Manchuria and China:-**



Pu Yi

- Japanese set up a government **under puppet rule of Pu Yi (in picture)** in the new state of **Manchuko** – Japan **bombed** the densely populated residential area of Chapei
- This intensified Chinese outrage and turned the world against Japan

The results for the Nationalist Party in China:

- Jiang Jieshi more focused on defeating Chinese Communists
- There was a combination of non-resistance, no compromise and non-direct negotiation
- There was boycott of Japanese products
- Japan's **control of Manchuria was accepted in May 1933** in the **Treaty of Tangu**
- Jiang agreed to the seizure of inner Mongolia and removed troops from Hebei province

The results for the Japanese government:

- Japan gained economic benefits after capturing Manchuria
- However, the cost of maintaining the army negated these benefits and taxes increased
- Japan needed to protect itself against the Soviet Army and the US navy
- The government was not supported public

Years Of Turmoil: The Descent Into “The Dark Valley”



Political crisis and growing influence of the military:

- Two groups, the **Koda-ha** or **Imperial Way faction** and the **Tosei-ha** or **Control faction** existed
- They wanted Japanese expansion
- Koda-ha believed in military **dictatorship to deliver state socialism**, the Soviet was an enemy
- Koda-ha emphasized national spirit over material force
- The **Tosei-ha were against terrorism**, wished to use legal means to foster military power
- Their objective was **conquest in China, modernization of army** and mobilization of the nation

Three major assassination plots between 1932-1936:

- **Prime Minister Inukai was shot and killed on 15 May 1932**
- Admiral Saito and Admiral Okada formed interim governments



Admiral Saito



Admiral Okada

- Saito favored the Koda-ha but promoted a member of Tosei-ha after discovering a plot against him
- Okada took over in July 1934
- **A Koda-ha officer assassinated General Nagata, the leader of the Tosei-ha**
- There was an **attempted coup on Tokyo** in February 1936 and Okada resigned
- Hirota Koki's government was brought down after the National Diet's concerns about military
- General Hayashi was in power till June 1937, Prince Konoye took over in June
- **General Tojo Hideki became Chief of Staff to the Kwantung Army in July 1937**

A summary chart:

Year	Prime Minister	Features of the period
1931	Wakatsuki	Party Cabinet; undermined by the Kwantung Army taking over Manchuria
1931–32	Inukai	Party Cabinet; assassinated in 1932
1932–34	Admiral Saito	Moderate admirals; power struggle between Tosei-ha and Kodo-ha factions, which resulted in the supremacy of the Tosei-ha and paved the way for more military control over government
1934–36	Admiral Okada	
1936–37	Hirota Koki	Growing militarism; concessions to the army
1937	General Hayashi	
1937–39	Prince Konoe	Unable to control the military; war with China starts
1939	Baron Hiranuma	
1939–40	General Abbe	Japanese expansion in China and South-East Asia Tripartite Pact
1940	Admiral Yonai	
1940–41	Prince Konoe	Diplomatic activity with the USA; fails to control militarists
1941	General Tojo	Attack on Pearl Harbor

The Sino-Japanese War Of 1937

- Fighting broke out between Japanese and **Chinese forces on 7 July 1937 at the Marco Polo Bridge**
- This led to a full-scale war with China
- Japan took control of Beijing by the end of July while fighting in Shanghai continued
- **The Rape of Nanjing:**
- Nanjing was the capital of the Chinese nationalist government
- **Japanese captured it on 13 December**
- Chinese soldiers and civilians were subjected to appalling atrocities

Fact:

Nanjing Massacre, conventional **Nanking Massacre**, also called **Rape of Nanjing**; (December 1937–January 1938) included mass killing and ravaging of Chinese citizens and soldiers by soldiers of the Japanese Imperial Army after its seizure of Nanjing, China, on December 13, 1937

What Were The Results Of The Sino-Japanese War For Japan?

- Chinese nationalism was underestimated, they refused to agree to terms of peace
- Japan had to fight on and push Chinese further into the interior
- In November 1938 the New Order in East Asia came into existence
- It was a union between Japan, Manchuko and China, Jiang rejected this idea and continued war

Why Did The Conflict Deepen After 1938?



Prince Konoye

The militarists take control:

- **Prince Konoye (in picture), established and developed the Imperial Rule Assistance Association, a unity party.**
- It was set up to limit military powers but it failed
- The military was in total control by October 1941 and **General Tojo took over as Prime Minister**
- **The impact of war in Europe:**
- Hitler had swift victories in Europe
- Japan pressurized France into allowing its forces to have troops and airfields in Indo-China

Events 1940-41

- **The Three Power/ Tripartite Pact and the Neutrality Pact:**
- Foreign Minister Matsuoka Yosuke, signed the **Tripartite Axis Pact**
- Germany and Italy would dominate Europe and leave East Asia for Japan
- Matsuoka entered into a **Neutrality Pact** with the Soviets
- Japan moved into **southern Indo-China on 24 July**, they could now threaten Siam and Malaya
- USA and Britain alarmed by this, **froze trade with Japan** and increased aid to Chiang in China
- When Japan attacked Western colonies in November 1941 it was still at war with China

Pearl Harbor And The Outbreak Of War



On 7 December 1941, Japanese bombers attacked US ships and installations at Pearl Harbor

Why did Japan attack Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941?

- Japanese could not sustain war in China if the embargo was not lifted
- Washington wanted Japan to agree to respect the territorial integrity of its neighbors
- Japan could not agree and Japanese navy presented its plan for war

- **On 4 September 1941 it was decided that if demands weren't met by 10 October** then Japan **would wage war** against the United States, Britain and the Netherlands
- A huge naval task force prepared secretly to attack the USA if negotiations failed
- **On 7 December 1941, Japanese bombers attacked US ships and installations at Pearl Harbor (in picture)**
- The USA incurred huge losses, its sea power badly damaged
- Japan simultaneously attacked Hong Kong and Wake Island
- By **mid-1942 Japan had taken countries like Indo-China, Siam, Malaya, the dutch East Indies, the Philippines and Singapore.**

Perspectives

- Left-wing historians identify the Manchuria incident of 1931 as the start of the war
- They hold the “militarist capitalist clique” responsible for the 15-year war
- Right-wing historians identify December 1941 as the starting point for the war
- They believe that Japan was freeing Asia from the exploitation of Western colonialism
- They argue that Japan had been forced into a war with the USA by the oil embargo
- Orthodox historians in the USA believe that the war began in 1937 after the Marco Polo Bridge.
- Revisionist US historians argued that Japan's actions up to 1941 were aimed at purging Asia from Western corruption
- They identify Roosevelt's role as key in provoking Japan
- Traditionalist historians of the emperor's rule argue that the emperor had no choice but to submit to the militarists.

List Of Important Names And Events

Names	Related activities/events
Jiang Jieshi	Leader of the Nationalist Party in China, the Guomindang (GMD)
Mao Zedong	Leader of the Communist Party set up in China in 1921
Zhang Zuolin	Warlord in Manchuria supported by the Japanese
Hamaguchi Yuko	Leader of the Minseito Party, became Prime Minister in 1930
Pu Yi	The last emperor of China, puppet ruled the new state of Manchukuo
Prince Konoye	Set up the Imperial Rule Assistance Association to tackle the Japanese army but failed
Matsuoka Yosuke	Foreign Minister who signed the Tripartite Axis Pact and entered into the Neutrality Pact with the Soviet

Friend, Philosopher, Guide



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