

What if Japan Attacked Russia instead of America?

1 – Contingent Divergence

Japan was faced with a choice: to take the southern option and begin its conquest of the Pacific; or, to take the northern option and join Germany in its invasion of Russia. History followed the former, which had significant impacts on the war. Had it followed the latter, it could have led to the ultimate defeat of the Allies.

At 7:55am local time on Sunday, 7 December 1941, the Japanese began the daring attack on Pearl Harbour, an event that drew the United States directly into the conflict and ruined Hitler's hope that he would be able to defeat Russia before the United States got involved. The American fleet was crippled, granting Japanese mastery of the Pacific, though this mastery was only temporary. What if this attack never happened and Pearl Harbour were never destroyed? What is certain is that the proceeding months and even years could have unfolded very differently. If Japan had taken the northern option and invaded Russia, the attack on Pearl Harbour would not have happened, at least not as soon as it did.

Is this plausible? Yes.

As described in *The Second World War: A Short History* by R.A.C. Parker^[1], on 27 July 1940 the Japanese government decided to take advantage of 'changing world conditions' to deal with 'the problem of the south', but to avoid a direct conflict with the US, which, as believed by the Japanese navy, would follow an attack on the British. However, this was in 1940 and no concrete plan had been executed by the time the situation had completely changed. Their hope of Britain being destroyed by Germany did not seem like it was going to be achieved any time soon as Germany had turned its attention to Russia. Now, Japan's choice was less clear. It could go ahead with expanding south (southern option) or it could help Germany conquer Russia (northern option). The government found it hard to decide and actually prepared for both possibilities. For the northern option, they reinforced the Kwantung Army. Indeed, the size of the Kwantung Army increased from 300,000 in 1940 to 763,000 in 1941, an increase of over 150%. Interestingly, General Tojo, Prime Minister of Japan at this point, served as commander of the Kwantung Army from 1937-38. To prepare for the southern option, the Japanese forced the Vichy French to allow Japanese forces to enter southern Indo-China to set up advanced air and naval bases. This preparation is what resulted in the embargo on oil exports to Japan. The preparation of the northern option, which was clearly the beginnings of an attack on the Soviet Union, provoked no such action.

This leads to the crucial embargo that the United States imposed on oil exports to Japan. As outlined by Parker, one of Japan's fundamental reasons for going to war was the need for resources. Japan's population was constantly growing – in 1920 it was 55.96 million but by 1940 it was up to 73.114 million. Japan has little in terms of resources in its own territory, depending almost entirely on foreign imports for needed resources.

Japan's initial objective was to bring about the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere, which would have several other Asia countries such as China and the Philippines. But these countries would not submit without resistance, and Japan turned to conquest. What is

needed in abundance when supporting a conquest? Resources, something which Japan could not supply on its own.

A major reason as to why Japan decided to attack Pearl Harbour was of course to cripple the US navy in the Pacific. But they would likely never have done this if the US oil embargo were not in place, or at least was but as Roosevelt intended it to be. Parker describes that Roosevelt had meant to limit oil exports to Japan to peace-time quantities, but when he left to meet Churchill off Newfoundland, Secretary of State Hull happened to fall ill and, left to himself, the committee controlling the release of frozen Japanese funds made Japanese purchases impossible^[2]. What is more is that the British and Dutch followed suit and stopped exporting oil to Japan. In an article by the History Channel, it is reported that Japan lost 88% of its imported oil when the embargo was misinterpreted and all exports of oil from the Americans, British, and Dutch were stopped and Japanese assets frozen. Japan had oil reserves for only three years, which would be halved in war-time. Clearly, this left Japan in a difficult situation where they would be forced to declare war or give up on their Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere. If Secretary Hull had not fallen ill, the oil embargo would most likely have been implemented as Roosevelt intended, and he did not fall ill in this alternate reality. This is easily possible as he did not fall seriously ill and was able to return to work shortly after.

Japan's reliance on US resources was remarkably extensive. The report *The Way to Pearl Harbor: US vs Japan*^[3] reports that a massive 80% of Japan's dependence on oil imports came from the United States. Had the US not imposed its complete embargo, it is hard to believe that Japan would have attacked Pearl Harbour, jeopardizing their greatest source of oil and other resources such as scrap-metal (75% came from the US in 1939).

So, let us say that the embargo was imposed as Roosevelt intended. Japan's imports are limited to peace-time amounts but are still something. They knew that a conquest of South Asia and fulfilling their Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere would bring the United States into the war as the British controlled territories there such as Malaya and an attack on them would surely summon the US to help. So, the argument for the northern option has been greatly strengthened. In this alternate reality, the oil embargo is implemented as Roosevelt intended.

The northern option was called Operation Kantokuen and it outlined an invasion and occupation of the far eastern region of the Soviet Union. It would have been the single largest combined arms operation in Japanese history, and one of the largest of all time. Emperor Hirohito approved this plan in part on July 7. The plan aimed to destroy the Soviets in no more than six months.

Figure 1: A map outlining the initial Japanese offensive moves of Kantokuen



In general, the commanders of the army preferred *Hokushin-ron* (northward expansion) while the navy wanted *Nanshin-ron* (southward expansion). The army held powerful representatives, such as Prime Minister Tojo himself, who was the leader of the Kwantung Army just a few years prior, so if the northern option did become the more attractive option, there would certainly be influential voices vouching for it. Foreign Minister Yosuke Matsuoka advocated to end the Neutrality Pact with the Soviet Union after Germany's attack on Russia. He was supported by the Imperial Japanese Army General Staff and the Kwantung Army. The army and navy were at odds about what to do next but a compromise was met: if circumstances turned favourable for the northern option, they would take it. In this alternate reality, circumstance did become favourable for the northern option.

Clearly, there was a legitimate plan for invading Russia and if it were not for a couple of factors such as the oil embargo, Japan likely would have taken it. Now let us consider the benefits to Japan of invading Russia.

Russia is a country with a wealth of resources and while Euro-Russia is known for supplying much of it, Siberia also is rich in resources. The chapter *Siberian Resources for Soviet Warfare* in George B. Cressey's book *Science*^[4] records some of the data on natural resources in Siberia. The Soviet Union credited itself with a massive 1,654,361,000,000

metric tonnes of coal, second only to the US; 90% of this reserve lies in Siberia. While Siberia is relatively poor in terms of oil, there is expansive production on the island of Sakhalin, just north of Japan. Siberia is particularly wealthy in minerals such as gold, in which it is second in the world only behind South Africa. Using these statistics, it is clear that Siberia offers great opportunity in terms of natural resources. Japan could also obtain resources by expanding South, but attacking Russia would not bring Japan into direct conflict with the US.

Russia had always been a concern in Japan's plans to expand towards the South. If Japan dedicated its forces to going south, they would leave themselves open to an invasion from Russia. But what if Russia were defeated? Japan had gone to war with Russia before in the Russo-Japanese war of 1904-05, and they had won. Why not eliminate their long-time rival for good this time? Germany provided them with an excellent opportunity to do just this.

Germany dedicated 3.8 million personnel to its attack on Russia, Operation Barbarossa. Such a large force attracted a huge bulk of the Soviet forces to defend on the European front. While the Siberian front would still have some divisions (estimates put it at 14 based on the amount of reinforcements sent to Moscow; sourced from Operation Barbarossa^[5]). Of course, had Japan actually attacked Russia, the Soviet Union would have sent reinforcements (leaving less to defend against Germany). Japan's land army size was 51 divisions; they were slightly less mechanized than the Red Army but they had far greater numbers. They were also battle-hardened and experienced from their invasion of China, and they were not worn out.

A further reason that Japan would take the northern option and invade Russia was that Russia had signed a non-aggression pact with China in 1937 and were supplying the Chinese with arms and equipment. By taking out Russia, Japan would have also greatly hurt China by cutting these supplies.

On the other side of things, a major reason that Japan did not engage in an invasion of Russia was Japan's defeat to Russia at the Battles of Khalkhin Gol in 1939. This resulted in displeasure in the Kwantung Army not because of its defeat but because it attacked without authorization. It all unsurprisingly resulted in the dismissal of the commanding officer, General Ueda. His replacement, General Umezu, came to be highly respected and was promoted to full general on 1 August 1940. So, while the reputation of the Kwantung Army was damaged by this attack, it was not hurt beyond repair.

2 – Major assumptions and assertions

Public opinion and Mass Media

One assumption is that the Japanese people did not have a great desire for war with the US. When deciding war strategy, maintaining public morale and support is crucial. So, if the Japanese were at war for a reason the people believed in, the support would obviously be much higher. Had the Japanese public longed for war with the South Asian countries and the US, it would likely have pushed the Japanese decision makers in the direction of the history we know today, starting with the attack on Pearl Harbour. Furthering this point, if the Japanese people wanted war with Russia, then this would make the northern option a much

more likely path to take. This is not fundamentally necessary for Japan to attack Russia, but it would certainly increase the likelihood.

In Japan, there was great belief in the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere, as many believed it was Japan's purpose to control the world (support for this ideal and its background is shown in the US propaganda film *Know Your Enemy: Japan*^[6], but it is of course exaggerated for war purposes). If the people believed that the expansion of Japan would be most successful by taking out their rival Russia first, then support for the northern option would be greatly increased. So, I make the assumption that there was not avid support for immediately expanding in South Asia but rather that the people knew that starting with an invasion of Russia was in their greater interest.

Mass media, as it always does, plays a key role. It is how the people see the war and so can greatly influence support. I assume that Japan would focus on developing propaganda about Russia rather than the US to maintain the public's focus on the northern option. Propaganda negatively portraying the US would result in people calling for arms against the US, which is the opposite of what Japan wanted. A possible option would be to show the prisoner-of-war camps in Siberia or the Gulag and to demonstrate the horrible mistreatment and even the killing of people, maybe even Japanese people.

In our history, Japan tried to ban all American culture, including music, goods, and even movies (though they failed on this last one). In this alternative reality, Japan does not do this as doing it would increase conflict between Japan and America and the US would likely respond by banning Japanese products. Japan's intention is not to start a war with the US just yet, so no ban on US products would be implemented.

Finally, a majority of the American people shared a distaste for war and wanted to avoid joining one at all cost. Many viewed America's involvement in World War One as a grave mistake and they did not want to be drawn into another conflict that would undoubtedly cost the lives of thousands of Americans. Up until Pearl Harbour, the US had refrained from deploying their forces against the Axis powers and kept to the role of simply supplying Britain with resources. It was only the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour and Japan's declaration of war that resulted in the US directly getting involved in World War Two.

Social groups (ethnic, race, class, gender)

I assume that the view held by some Japanese that the Japanese are the supreme race holds and even spreads in popularity. For if this view were to diminish, especially if the leaders no longer had it, then the conquest of South Asia would seem pointless. The urgent need of resources is no longer relevant as the US is still exporting oil to them. So, it is important that the Japanese desire to expand is not solely because of resources but also the simple desire to conquer the 'lesser people' and create the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere. Fundamental to this is the continued following of *Hakkō ichiu*, or in English, the divine right that Japan should unify the eight corners of the world. Without a need of resources or *Hakkō ichiu*, there is little need for Japan to go to war.

Another assumption I make is about the condition in the United States. In our history, the attack on Pearl Harbour led to the American Government setting up internment camps all along the West Coast of the US. Approximately 120,000 Americans with Japanese ancestry were sent to these internment camps, which, while less brutal than the Nazi or Soviet concentration camps, were effectively prisons. Had America gone ahead and done this without Japan striking first at Pearl Harbour, the Japanese government could have been enraged by this and seen it as an attack on Japan. It is unlikely that America would do this without Japan attacking first so I assume that they do not. Similarly, in Japan, I assume that any people of American descent are not treated ill and sent to camps, for such a thing would raise the conflict between Japan and America. Prime Minister Tojo had shown his disdain for America not showing equal rights to Japanese people. When the Immigration Control Act was passed in America in 1924, Tojo stated with bitterness that American whites would never accept Asians as equals and "[the Immigration Control Act] shows how the strong will always put their own interests first. Japan, too, has to be strong to survive in the world". So, America placing all Japanese-Americans in internment camps would have likely enraged Tojo and possibly caused him to declare war on the US.

Leadership

In the run up to the war, there was a Japanese political party who was trying for peace but it was unsuccessful due to the rise in power of the military. I make the assumption that even with the US not imposing a complete embargo on oil exports to Japan, the military and their expansionist view still held the greatest power. Emperor Hirohito is believed by some to be a pacifist and that he was actually opposed to war (he was not tried for war crimes after Japan's defeat). However, I make the assumption that, just like our history, he was relatively powerless and that it was the warlords, such as General Tojo, who were in charge. *Know Your Enemy: Japan*^[6] portrayed Hirohito almost as a God, and that he was behind everything. If this had actually been the case, then Japan may well have sued for peace much sooner than they did. Of course, this is speculation but I make the assumption that the warlords held the power, and the warmongering reigned supreme. This is quite possible as Emperor Hirohito, said by some to be a head of the peace-seekers, came to like and respect General Tojo, who was an advocate for war. So, Hirohito would not likely turn against him.

Another assumption I make is that Hitler wanted Japanese help in his invasion and that his plans would have been fortified, not disrupted, with a Japanese assault from the east. This assumption is well supported as Hitler stated later in the war that, "It is certainly regrettable that the Japanese did not enter the war against Soviet Russia alongside us. Had that happened, Stalin's armies would not now be besieging Breslau and the Soviets would not be standing in Budapest. We would together have exterminated Bolshevism before the winter of 1941." This shows that Hitler, at least in his opinion, would have greatly benefited from Japanese help in the invasion.

I also assume that once the circumstances did become favourable for an attack on Russia, the War Council of Japan would decide on the northern option. The plan for going north was thoroughly thought out and preparation had already begun. Influential leaders such as

Foreign Minister Yosuke Matsuoka and Major General Shinichi Tanaka supported the northern option so the assumption that it would be taken if it was the better option is not unlikely.

An assumption I make in the longer run is that Hitler does not declare war on the United States once Russia falls. Although Russia was an ally of America to some extent, it had been shown that the American people were reluctant to engage fully in a war and that only the attack on Pearl Harbour caused them to join. No such direct attack on American soil had happened. In our history, Hitler declared war on the US in support of Japan who were now engaged in war with the US. He also did it because he believed the US would declare war on him eventually and he wanted to make it look like he wanted war with the US. But now that Japan was not engaged in war with the US, not yet at least, Hitler would not declare war on America immediately.

Leading off of this, I must also make an assumption about the US leadership – they do not come to the military aid of Russia and do not declare war on Japan or Germany when Russia is defeated. As previously mentioned, the American people did not want war and many influential figures in the government did not want it either. It is true that Roosevelt did want to do everything he could to defeat the Axis, but he simply could not get enough support to join the war. That is, until Japan attacked Pearl Harbour. But without that attack, Roosevelt would find it hard to join the war until Japan began their attacks on British soil during their southern expansion or until Germany began their final strike on the British.

Economy and economic fortunes

Japan was a resource-barren country and relied extremely heavily on imported resources, as previously discussed. Japan was forced into war against the US largely because of the oil embargo. I make the assumption that if the oil embargo was implemented as Roosevelt intended (limiting oil exports to peace-time amounts), then it would not be made a complete embargo when Japan began their attack on Russia. Doing so was not even Roosevelt's intention when Japan's actions were threatening Malaya, the Philippines, and the East Indies. There was also the political issue that Roosevelt did not want to give more fuel to the people who proclaimed that he was a good friend of Stalin and a supporter of Russia's communist regime. Another important assumption is that Japan would be satisfied with the peace-time oil exports limit that Roosevelt intended. Estimates are that Japan's annual need for oil totalled to 35.9 million barrels^[7]. According to *The 1941 De Facto Embargo on Oil to Japan: A Bureaucratic Reflex* by Irvine H. Anderson, Jr^[8], in 1939, Japan produced 2.3 million barrels domestically, 27.8 million barrels came from the US, 4.8 million barrels from the Indies and Borneo, and 1.5 million barrels from other sources. This puts it to 36.4 million barrels and as Japan expanded into Russia and captured some of their oil resources, they would be able to increase their production. So, despite the fact that imports of oil to them could not be increased due to the 'peace-time' limit, Japan would still have enough for its army. Even if these supplies did not amount to enough, Japan had an amount of oil in reserves which would last a year and a half into the war.

3 – Downstream “if-then” consequences and reactions by other nations

Immediate

The Japanese war council agree upon *Hokushin-ron*, the north option, and begin their expansion northward. The obvious immediate effect of this is that there is no attack on Pearl Harbour and the US stays out of the war for a while longer. Meanwhile, Russia's problems are about to get much bigger.

Germany has already initiated their assault on Russia with Operation Barbarossa on 22 June 1941. The Red Army mobilize to defend against this threat, but this time it is not the only threat. Operation Kantokuen, the Japanese assault on Russia, is not initiated until September 1941. At this point, Germany has only one front between them and Moscow.

Figure 2: Operation Barbarossa



As shown by Figure 2, by 1 September Germany has made considerable distance into Russian territory, and there is only one blockade between them and Moscow. By the time Germany initiates Operation Typhoon and begin its offensive against Moscow on 30 September, the Japanese begin expanding into Siberia.

Germany's tactics are mostly the same as in actual history. The big difference this time is that Russia must split its army and resources to defend on two fronts. As a result, the defining factor is Russia's preparation. In actual history, before Germany attacks Russia had a spy in Japan who informed them that any attack from Japan on Russia had been cancelled. This meant that Russia left minimal troops on the Siberian front and dedicate them instead

to the defence against Germany. In this alternative reality, the Russian agent reports that the Japanese are to strike. In actual history, Stalin was warned in advance of the German attack by intelligence, but Stalin doubted it and was taken by surprise when Operation Barbarossa was initiated. This time, Stalin is less confident in neutrality pacts after Germany's betrayal and would not doubt information of a Japanese attack. So, the Russians send enough troops to defend against the 890,000 men in the Kwantung Army.

This pulls many Russians away from the defence against Germany, resulting in a weaker defence. This weakened defence would be pivotal at two locations: Moscow and then Stalingrad.

October comes and Russia is fighting two armies at once. The Germans have pushed far into Russian land and now the capital of Russia is in their sight: Moscow. In our history, this siege lasted several months and ended unsuccessfully due to the worsening climate and the Russian counter-attack. Russia lasted so long due to their constant supply of troops and resources predominantly from the east. This time, many of those troops and resources are dedicated instead to holding off the Japanese offensive.

In late October 1941, Germany initiates their pincer offensive and this time it proves successful. The Russians in Moscow are weakened and cannot hope to stand against the panzer divisions that advance towards them. Moscow falls. Stalin has prepared his special railway car for retreat (as he did in our reality) and this time he takes it. Stalin escapes but with the fall of the Moscow and with it the Kremlin, the Russian morale tumbles. With Stalin fleeing, the leadership situation is unclear and both the Germans and the Japanese exploit this. They continue their attacks on unprepared Russian forces, the Germans continuing on to Stalingrad and the Japanese expanding further into the north. They meet far less resistance and, just before the blizzards of December hit, the Red Army falls.

Medium

Once the Soviet Union falls, the German and Japanese armies turn in different directions. The Germans, having now achieved Hitler's dream of crushing Communist Russia, turns its attention back to the British. Meanwhile, Japan, having now eliminated their northern enemy, now dedicates complete focus to expanding into South Asia and achieving their dream of the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere.

Germany now has the bountiful resources and industry of Euro-Russia and they also have millions of Russian prisoners. The Russians who are able physically are sent to work and this includes all the soldiers who were captured. The number of Russians working in industrial labour in 1941 was 11 million. A high majority of these people are forced to work for the Germans and if they refused, they are shot.

Those who are not deemed capable of physical labour suffer a grave fate. Hitler dreamed of populating Russia with his own people, German people, and anyone who was not German would be disposed of. Hitler hated communism, and all of Russia for that matter, with a passion, and Hitler had already shown what he did to people whom he despised. The Jewish death camps are repeated in Russia and the death count is terribly high. For reference,

there were about 9 million Jews in Europe before World War 2; about 6 million of them were killed during the holocaust. Germany now has control of all of Euro-Russia, which accounted for about 75% of Russia's population (which was 196,716,000 in 1941). It is grim to say that tens of millions of Russians are killed now that Russia is conquered.

While the massacres of Russia people are happening, Germany plans its attack on Britain. Poor Russian weather greatly delays the movement of the German army out of Russia and back into western Europe. The harsh Russian winters begin around December 1 and usually continue all the way until the last day of February. The German army begin its departure likely around mid-January 1942, after consolidating their position in Russia.

The Germans eventually return to France and Hitler and his Chief of Staff begin a rejuvenised Operation Sealion. They had bountiful resources coming in from Russia supplying their forces and now they devote a majority of their army on a singular attack on Britain. Britain stands alone. Britain falls alone.

Japan has goals elsewhere. Their first move is to play out a point in our history: the attack on Pearl Harbour. They do this because if they are to successfully expand southward, taking territories such as Malaya, the Philippines, and eventually New Guinea, they need to have mastery in the Pacific. Their only real competitor is the US, and a great portion of the US Pacific navy is stationed at Pearl Harbour. So, around mid-1942, Japan launches their daring attack on Pearl Harbour. This time, however, a few things are different.

In our history, the aircraft carriers USS Enterprise and USS Lexington were not at Pearl Harbour during the attack because they were transporting aircraft to island outposts. Now, these missions were completed a while ago and so these two ships are in the harbour. The third aircraft carrier, USS Saratoga, was planned to be transferred to Pearl Harbour but, in our history, the date of this transfer was to be after the attack. Now, this transfer has happened. Therefore, three aircraft carriers are at Pearl Harbour.

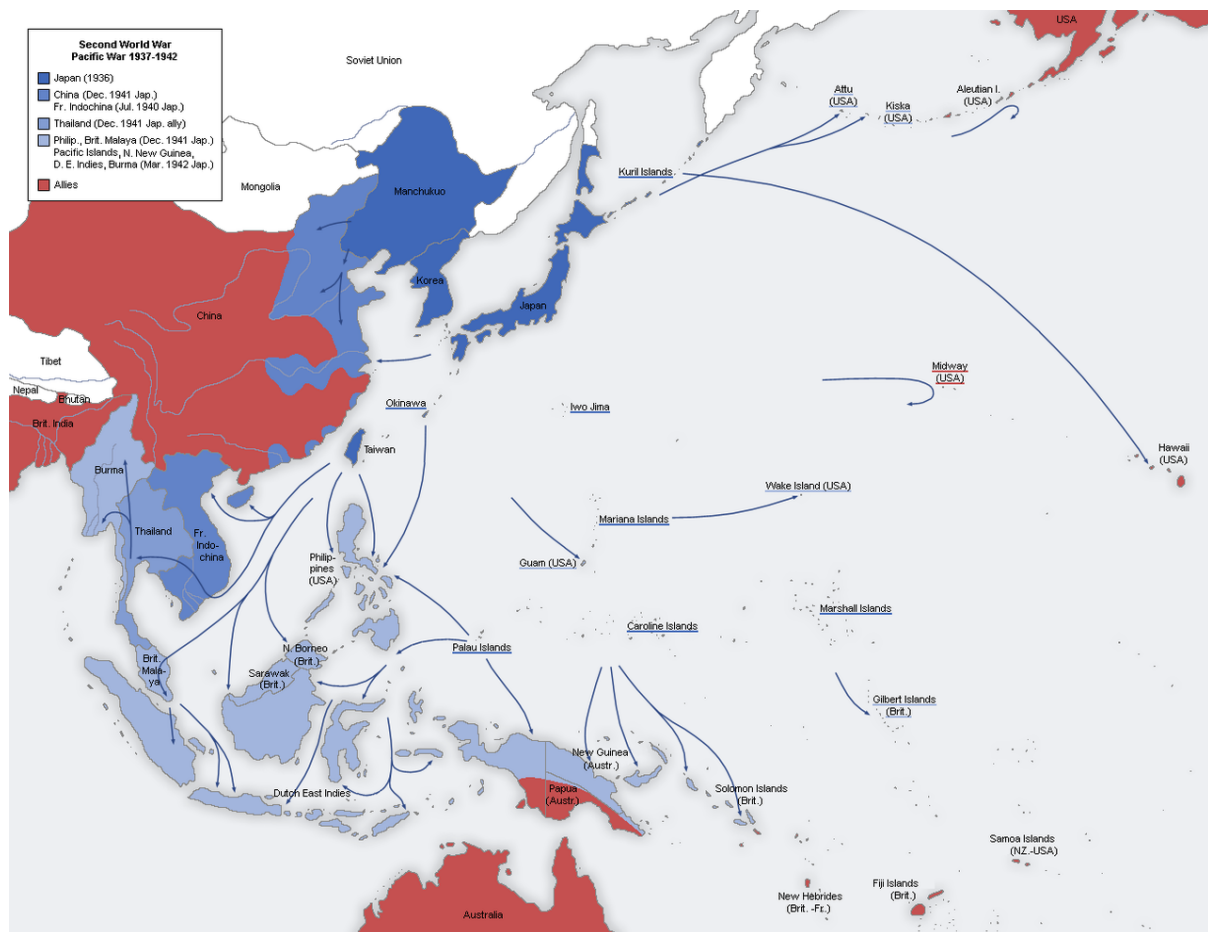
The US navy are unprepared as racist stereotypes about Japan's inability to launch a meaningful attack still existed. Japan's attack on Russia does little to change this opinion as, despite their importance in drawing away Russia troops from defending against the Germans, the Japanese army is seen as insignificant compared to the more advanced and larger German army during the assault on Russia.

Of course, the Japanese are not incompetent and this time they have more aircraft, as they had more time to build. The attack on Pearl Harbour in 1942 is devastating and cripples the US Pacific Navy for an extended period. This, finally, draws the US into the war.

Once the US declares war on Japan, Hitler declares war on the US, this time with readiness and satisfaction. He had achieved his goal of defeating Russia before the US got involved and now the US worried him far less.

Japan's Kwantung Army has been weakened during Operation Kantokuen, but their navy received little to no damage. Japan continues its expansion south as they did in our timeline. They do not try to avoid British controlled territories as there was no need to keep the US out of the war, as they are already in it.

Figure 3 - A map outlining Nanshin-ron, Japan's southern expansion



The dates are very different than those shown in Figure 3 but the battle-plan is somewhat similar. At this point, the US stops exporting any oil to Japan as they are at war, so Japan immediately invades territories with oil. French Indochina is one of the first to be invaded and they are soundly defeated by the well-prepared and experienced Kwantung Army. Japan then continues on into the Philippines, Burma, Thailand, and Malaya.

They would meet some resistance from whatever General MacArthur could muster, but it would not be enough unless the US devoted most their effort to it. So, the US is faced with a choice: prioritize the war in Europe or prioritize stopping the Japanese expansion.

Even before Japan attacked, the US knew about the possibility that they would end up in a two-frontal war. There was great debate as to what they should do in such a scenario. Roosevelt was of the mind of Europe-first (the plan to take out Germany first). But several high-ranking military officers opposed this and thought Japan should be dealt with first, such as Army Chief of Staff General Marshall, stating in 1940 "this understanding, which included a recognition that Germany was the main enemy and that the major effort would be made initially in Europe, was obviously not applicable in the present situation. Of first importance now was the necessity to check the Japanese." Public opinion also tended towards having a greater hatred for the Japanese than the Germans. In a public opinion poll taken in February 1943, 53% of Americans said that Japan was the "chief enemy" compared to 34% choosing Germany. A future poll revealed that 82% of Americans believed that the Japanese were

more "cruel at heart" than Germans. Indeed, even in our reality, the US sent more troops to the Pacific than to Europe in the first six months that they were in the war (300,000 compared to 100,000).

In this alternative reality, both the situation in the Pacific and Europe are more dire. This time, the US maintains its focus on the Pacific. It still sends resources and some troops and artillery to Europe, but Japan needs to be kept in check. So, the US quickly rebuilds its Pacific navy and sends its troops in aid of General MacArthur.

By the time the US are able to reinforce MacArthur's force, Japan has begun its invasion of New Guinea. It is a violent campaign with the Australian forces teaming up with the Americans, and it lasts for several months. The Allies suffer many casualties and lose many ships but they are successful in driving the Japanese out, as the problem of lack of food still plagues Japan in this campaign (in our reality, it is reported that 97% of the 127,600 Japanese casualties during this campaign were from disease and starvation). America also has a stronger force in this alternate reality as they had put greater emphasis on the Pacific campaign. For the first time in over a year, the Japanese taste defeat and the Allies are victorious.

Britain's situation is far more dire and it does not know the taste of success this time. Hitler, now able to dedicate the main body of his force against Britain, launches a huge offensive against Britain. Churchill makes an inspirational speech, stating that the final stand of Britain lays ahead and the future of all Britons depends on victory. The few who were owed so much by so many, are defeated.

The Royal Air Force are stronger than what they had in 1940 but any increase in strength is outmatched by the Luftwaffe. The Germans now have the industry of Russia and its resources allowing it to dwarf the production capabilities of Britain. The US still sends resources to Britain and some troops, but not enough. The Luftwaffe dominates the skies allowing the huge German landing force to reach Britain. It was the Luftwaffe's 'finest hour'.

Once the landing force reaches Britain, it is all over for the British. With the Germans sweeping through the nation, Churchill puts everything he could against them. The British make an admirable stand, but they fall. Winston Churchill, the Roaring Lion, is executed and Hitler installs a puppet government with David Lloyd George in charge, as he met with Hitler before and spoke well of him. Some British still stand in Africa and Asia, but they are few in number. They are led by General Montgomery, who keeps fighting in Africa until the very end.

Roosevelt and the US are greatly discouraged and disheartened by the loss of their most powerful ally, but they do not concede. They look to form other alliances, so that they might now stand against both the Germans and the Japanese. They look towards South America.

South America does not have a strong military but it does have a lot of resources, notably oil in places such as Venezuela. The US is able to set up harbours further south so that they can broaden their reach of the Pacific. A crucial ally is Panama, as it gives them secure control over the Panama Canal which provides a path between the Pacific and the Atlantic,

important now that the US needs to defend from both fronts. Brazil also gives them a much closer point of access to Africa, where there is still fighting between the Axis and Montgomery's forces.

The US offers great incentives for the Latin America forces to join them, and they do. Argentina and Chile, allies of the Axis, are invaded and conquered easily enough by the much larger combined US and Latin America force, and so North America and South America join to create Greater America.

The war continues for several years with vicious fighting in the Pacific and the newly developed Nazi fleet increasing its influence in the Atlantic. Between 1943 and 1946, naval battles are taking place between the new German fleet and the American Atlantic fleet. Germany has the weaker fleet but still has aircraft carriers. Hitler sends his land armies to Africa to eradicate the Allies from there and is successful. America and Japan continue fighting in the Pacific. Hitler now has dominance of Europe and Africa, Japan of Asia. The US has North and South America.

While this is happening, development of the atomic bomb continues. The Manhattan Project, the name given to America's development of the nuclear bomb, takes longer due to America's delayed entry into the war and the lack of any British help. The German discovery comes about quicker than in our reality because Germany now had access to Britain's nuclear development sites as well as top scientists who had originally fled there, such as Erwin Schrödinger and Klaus Fuchs. Hitler refrains from killing these scientists despite the great pleasure it would give him, as Germany had been experiencing trouble in developing the nuclear bomb and needed help. Therefore, America and Germany develop nuclear weapons at about the same time.

Then, in mid-1946, the nuclear bomb is developed.

Through intelligence, both the US and Germany know of the other having nuclear weapons and so are hesitant in using them, as mutual destruction would likely be unavoidable. Roosevelt therefore sues for peace with the Axis. Hitler's goals are to establish a new racial order in Europe dominated by the German "master race" and he has done that. Japan now has control of all of South-Asia reaching all the way down to Papua and up into Siberia, achieving their goal of the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere. So, in late 1946, a peace is declared and World War Two officially ends. But this peace is a tense one.

Hitler eventually becomes unsatisfied by dominance in Europe, and the existence of 'free' America in the west nags at him. He continues spending high amounts of money on the military, hoping to find new technologies to destroy the US without resulting in Germany's own destruction. The US also continues its development of weapons, always worrying that a German invasion could happen at any time. Japan also tries its hands at this, but are much less successful, not even being able to develop the nuclear weapon after several years (Hitler never gives them the instructions on how to do it). This all combines to create an extremely tense peace among all three nations, which is an arms race at this point, or what might be called a cold war. This continues for about 15 years.

Long-term

The cold war does not see any drop in hatred between the Axis and the Americans. In fact, the hatred has just grown. In America, Roosevelt had long since passed away and Truman had served his term. The war is seen as a failure and Dwight Eisenhower is not elected as president. Instead, Richard Nixon runs for president in 1952, and wins. In 1960, Hitler is still in power at the age of 71 and is greatly admired by the German people. He had liberated Europe and created a greater race, and reached almost god-like status.

The Korean and Vietnamese wars never happen. The areas that are known as Korea and Vietnam in our reality are under the firm control of Japan, whose reach now goes as far as the Middle East (though, Germany controls all of the oil fields there).

Throughout his presidency, Nixon is against provoking a war with Germany and Japan. In our history, he showed in his policy of Vietnamization that he was against America's involvement in the Vietnamese war. However, this does not mean he stops developing defences. Another problem he faces is a growing pro-Nazi movement in the US. Pro-Nazis are inspired by Hitler's success and his dominance of Europe, and want America to fall under his aura of influence. An even bigger issue is that Nixon depends on these people as they make up a sizable portion of his electoral support. Throughout Nixon's presidency, these pro-Nazis become more and more vocal, holding protests, and as a result, Nixon relents in some areas. America becomes more segregated and it becomes more and more clear that whites in America have all the power.

Hitler knows about this insurgence of Nazi support and sends ambassadors to meet with Nixon, in private. He promises Nixon power beyond his term limit (1960) if in return he converts America to resemble the Nazi regime. With the end of his presidency in sight, Nixon agrees.

Nixon and his party, controlling Congress and most State legislatures, are able to rush through a series of amendments to the Constitution. He removes the term limit on presidency, weakens the judiciary, and slowly removes rights on non-white Americans. He achieves this by silencing the voices of those against him and granting more power to those on his side. He gains the support of the military by asking for something in return from Hitler.

The cold war between America and Germany ends with the US basically becoming another Nazi nation. Borders are opened and the American regime slowly becomes one of white supremacy. However, there is a term given by Nixon in this agreement. Hitler is to stand by and allow America to take control of the Pacific. Hitler agrees.

Gaining permission to destroy the Japanese gains Nixon support from millions of Americans who fostered a deep loathing for them ever since the attack on Pearly Harbour. Military leaders, especially General MacArthur, side with Nixon as the prospect of obliterating Japan is just too tempting.

Taking out the Japanese is not challenging for America. America has nuclear weapons. Japan does not.

America has over 100 nuclear weapons at this point and threatens Japan into surrender. Japan, seeing surrender as dishonourable, reject the terms and fights. A fight is not the way historians describe it. General MacArthur is in command of Pacific operations still and is a believer in using the nuclear bomb (having shown interest in using them on China in our reality). With his advice, Nixon authorizes use of a nuclear bomb and the military directs it at a significant Japanese location: Hiroshima. It has a population of about 500,000 and it is obliterated the bomb, for Japan has no defence against such a thing. Japan continues 'fighting'. Next comes Nagasaki and at this point, the Emperor Hirohito and the military leaders call for surrender on the condition that Japan could still maintain influence in parts of southern Asia. America says that they could keep influence in China and south-east Russia to compensate for their growing population. However, the areas of most value in resources go to America. With little choice, the Japanese agree and so a majority of the Pacific countries are handed back to the Americans. Hitler does not intervene at all in this, despite the Japanese pleas, as he did not see America expanding, but rather his Nazi regime expanding.

Timeline

22 June 1941 – Operation Barbarossa begins

September 1941 – Operation Kantokuen begins

30 September 1941 – Operation Typhoon begins

Late November 1941 – The Red Army is defeated

March 1942 – Japan attacks Pearl Harbour

May 1942 – Germany attacks Britain and defeats them

June 1942 – Greater America is formed

July 1942 – Battle of New Guinea

1943 – 1946 – Germany mobilizes its Atlantic fleet and deploys its land armies in Africa, which is conquered in early 1943. Japan and America continuing battling in the Pacific

Mid 1946 – The nuclear bomb is developed by Germany and the US

June 1946 – A peace is settled between the Allies and the Axis and World War Two ends

October 1960 – the cold war ends with Nixon forming an agreement with Germany

December 1959 – The US defeats the Japanese Empire

4 – Abstract sketch of entire narrative

Japan, not having an extreme lack of oil, decides to help Germany in the conquest of Russia. As a result, Operation Barbarossa and Operation Kantokuen are a success and Russia is defeated before the end of 1941. Germany then turns its focus towards Britain and defeats it six months later due to superior forces and resources. Japan expands south into the

Pacific, stopping their advance only when they are held off in Papua. North America and South America combine to make Greater America in the hope of holding off the Axis. After the US and Germany develop the nuclear bomb at the same time, the Axis and Allies agree on a tense peace which develops into a 15 year long cold war. This climaxes in America adopting the Nazi regime from internal pressure and Hitler's promise to Nixon, and the end of the Japanese Empire.

Disclaimer

- Research possibility of Nixon becoming president in 1952. Possibly Eisenhower becomes president but dies of a heart attack.
- Read "Hitler's England: What if Germany Invaded Britain in May 1940?" and "Nazi Europe: What if Nazi Germany Had Defeated the Soviet Union?"
- Further research of period 1943-46
- Possibly make it a narrative for my final. Or might focus on cold war; rise of Naziism in America.

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