World War II
Outcome: The Pacific Theater
The Pacific Theater

1. Setting the Stage: Aggression in Asia
   a. 1931: Japan invaded Manchuria (NE province of China rich in minerals)
   b. 1937: Japan invaded China who was experiencing a civil war
   c. Japan needed raw materials especially oil to be #1 in Asia
2. Attack at Pearl Harbor
   a. Japan had hoped to cripple the U.S. Pacific fleet
   b. Several carriers were out to sea when Japan attacked on Dec. 7, ’49
   c. Japan also attacked Guam, Wake Island, Midway Islands, and the Philippine Islands on the same day
   d. Once the home front mobilization hit high production, Japan truly did awaken a sleeping giant
James Doolittle
3. **Doolittle Raid**
   
a. *James Doolittle* led a raid on Tokyo with *B-25* bombers
b. Helped boost American *Morale*
c. Showed the Japanese were not *invincible*
d. Inflicted *little damage* to the city
General Douglas MacArthur
4. **Island Hopping**
   
a. The **Supreme Allied Commander** for the Pacific Theater was Gen. [Douglas MacArthur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Douglas_MacArthur)
   
b. The U.S. adopted the Island Hopping or [Leap Frog](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leapfrog_strategic vmin) strategy moving from island to island
   
c. The Fighting in the Pacific was **difficult** for several reasons:
   
   i. 100 degree heat --> humidity caused [jungle rot](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jungle_rot) & [diseases](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Exotic_disease)
   
   ii. Many [islands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_islands)
   
   
   iv. [Kamikaze](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kamikaze) attacks: suicide attacks damaged 300 ships and caused 15,000 casualties
Kamikaze
The Pacific Theater

5. Key Victories for the Allies
   a. Battle of **Midway**
      i. Japanese hoped to use Midway as a base to **neutralize Pearl Harbor**
      ii. **Balance** of power in the Pacific shifted towards the Allies
The Pacific Theater

b. Battle of Guadalcanal
   i. The Japanese advance was stopped
   ii. All momentum shifted to the U.S.
The Battle of Guadalcanal as seen in...

*Thin Red Line*

*The Pacific*
The Pacific Theater

c. Battle of Iwo Jima
   i. 20,500 Japanese killed and 6,000 U.S. lives lost
   ii. Put Americans within striking distance of Japanese home islands
The Battle of Iwo Jima as seen in...
The Pacific Theater

6. Possible Options for Finishing off the Japanese
   a. Invasion of Japan which could cost over 1,000,000 Allied soldiers
   b. Use of the Atomic Bomb (secret)