

An aerial photograph of a Japanese battleship, likely the Yamato, sailing on the ocean. The ship is viewed from a high angle, showing its long hull and the complex superstructure. The water is a deep blue-grey, and the sky is a pale, hazy blue. The ship's hull number '110' is visible on the bow. The overall scene is somewhat faded and has a historical, grainy quality.

World War II: The Pacific Theater

Japan Expands the War

- December 7th, 1941
 - Japan attacks American forces in Hawaii, Guam and Philippines and British in Hong Kong, Malay peninsula, Singapore, and Burma
 - United States enters war
- Battle of Coral Sea
 - May 1942
 - Japan tries to invade Australia but is blocked by Americans



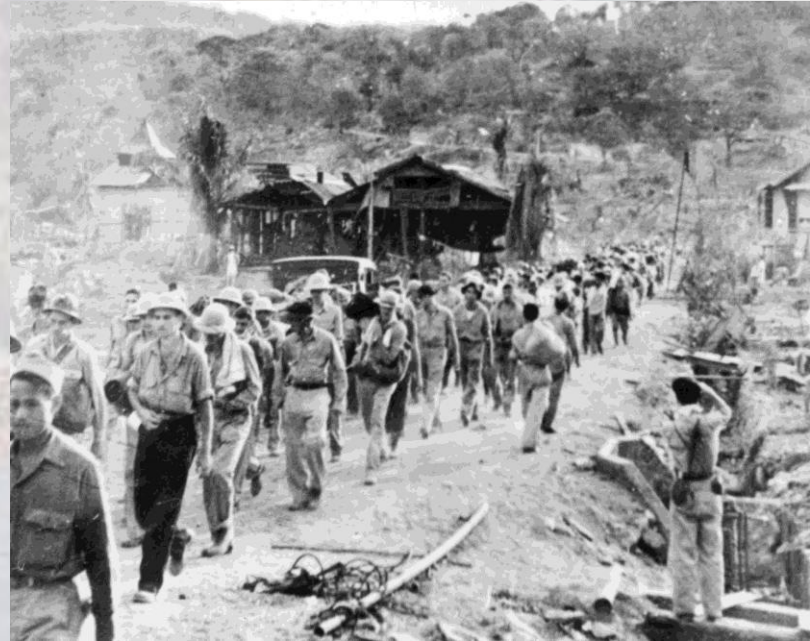
Importance of Aircraft Carriers

- Holds lots of Airplanes
 - Can defend fleet
 - Can attack sea and land targets
- Allows navies to cover larger areas and support more operations

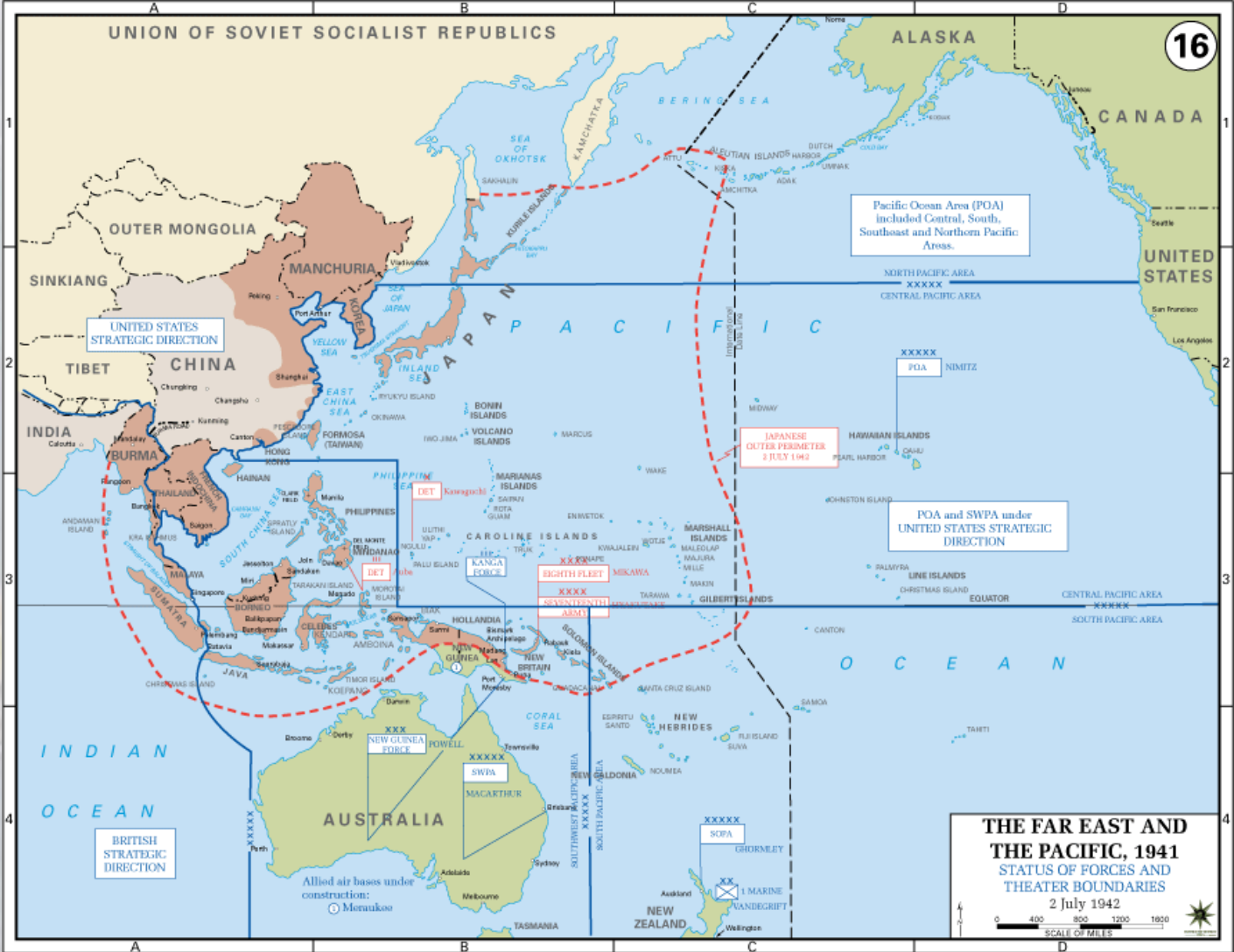


The Fall of the Philippines

- Japanese invade American holding of Philippines in 1941
- Americans unable to supply or support
 - Forced to surrender in May 1942
- Japanese differed from others in how prisoners should be treated
 - Bataan Death March



Japan's Empire



THE FAR EAST AND THE PACIFIC, 1941
STATUS OF FORCES AND THEATER BOUNDARIES
 2 July 1942



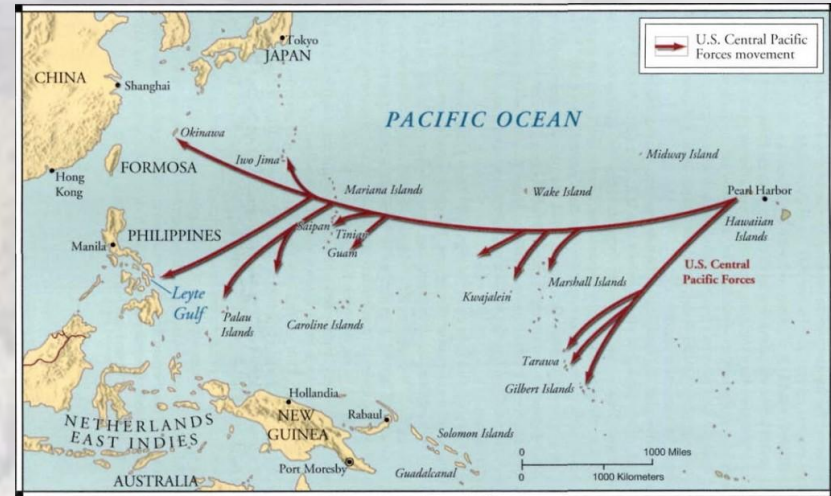
Battle of Midway

- June 1942
- Americans learn of coming Japanese attack against Midway
 - Americans surprise Japan's surprise attack
 - Japan loses all major aircraft carriers
- Turning Point – Japan now on the defensive



Island Hopping

- American Strategy for eliminating Japanese from Pacific Islands
- Attack an island, establish an airbase, and use it to attack other nearby islands
 - Skip some and cut off supplies



Island Hopping in Action

- Americans have to fight their way across South Pacific
 - Guadalcanal
 - 1942-1943
 - Gilbert and Marshall Islands
 - 1943-1944
 - Mariana and Palau Islands
 - Jun 1944-Sept 1944
 - Philippines
 - October 1944



Japanese Defenders

- Used jungles and natural terrain to hide
 - Sometimes even in trees
- Had built fortifications underground, and even into the sides of volcanoes
- Had been trained to never surrender
 - Led to mass suicides and bonzai charges



The Kamikazes

- Towards end of war Japan was running out of trained pilots
 - Started training new pilots to crash their planes into American aircraft carriers
 - Planes filled with explosives



The Invasion of Okinawa

- April – June 1945
- A Japanese home island
- Japanese strongly defended
 - 50,000 American casualties
 - 95,000 Japanese casualties
 - 40,000-100,000 civilians killed
- Used as a base to bomb rest of Japan



The End of the War in Japan

- American had sophisticated bombers to attack Japan
 - Using traditional bombs could wipe out entire cities
- Wanted to end the war quickly
 - Hiroshima bombed August 6th, 1945
 - Nagasaki bomber August 9th, 1945
- Japan surrenders August 15th, 1945

