

# Chapter 16-2

- **Japan Strikes in the Pacific**

- I) Japan Seeks a Pacific Empire
- II) The Allies Strike Back



**Prime Minister  
Tojo**

# I) Japan seeks a Pacific Empire

- Japanese expansion began in 1931 when troops took over Manchuria and six years later armies swept through the heartland of China
- When the Japanese overran French Indochina in July 1941, the United States cut off oil shipments to Japan.
- On December 7, 1941, Japanese Admiral **Isoroku Yamamoto** led a surprise attack on the US naval base in **Pearl Harbor**.
- 18 ships were sunk or damaged, 2400 Americans killed in what President Roosevelt would call “a date which will live in infamy.”

video

<http://military.discovery.com/videos/world-war-ii-in-color-pearl-harbor-attacked.html>

Photo # 80-G-19930 Rescuing survivor near USS West Virginia, during Pearl Harbor raid



# I) Japan seeks a Pacific Empire

- After Pearl Harbor the Japanese had planned a series of strikes at the United States in the Pacific.
- They seized Guam and Wake Island in the western pacific, then launched an attack on the Philippines. By January of 1942 they were marching in Manila.
- Japanese also hit the British, seizing Hong Kong, invading Malaya and reaching Singapore.
- By the time Burma fell, the Japanese had conquered more than a million square miles with about 150 million people.
- Native people or prisoners often received brutal treatment, such as the Bataan Death March.

## II) The Allies Strike Back

- Seeking revenge for Pearl Harbor, Lieutenant Colonel James Doolittle leads a bombing raid to Tokyo, which despite little damage, showed the Japanese were vulnerable. April 1942.
- In the Battle of the Coral Sea featured a new kind of sea warfare where the opposing ships did not fire a single shot against each other, rather aircraft taking off from huge carriers did all the fighting. While the Allies lost more ships, strategically the Americans stopped Japan's advance.

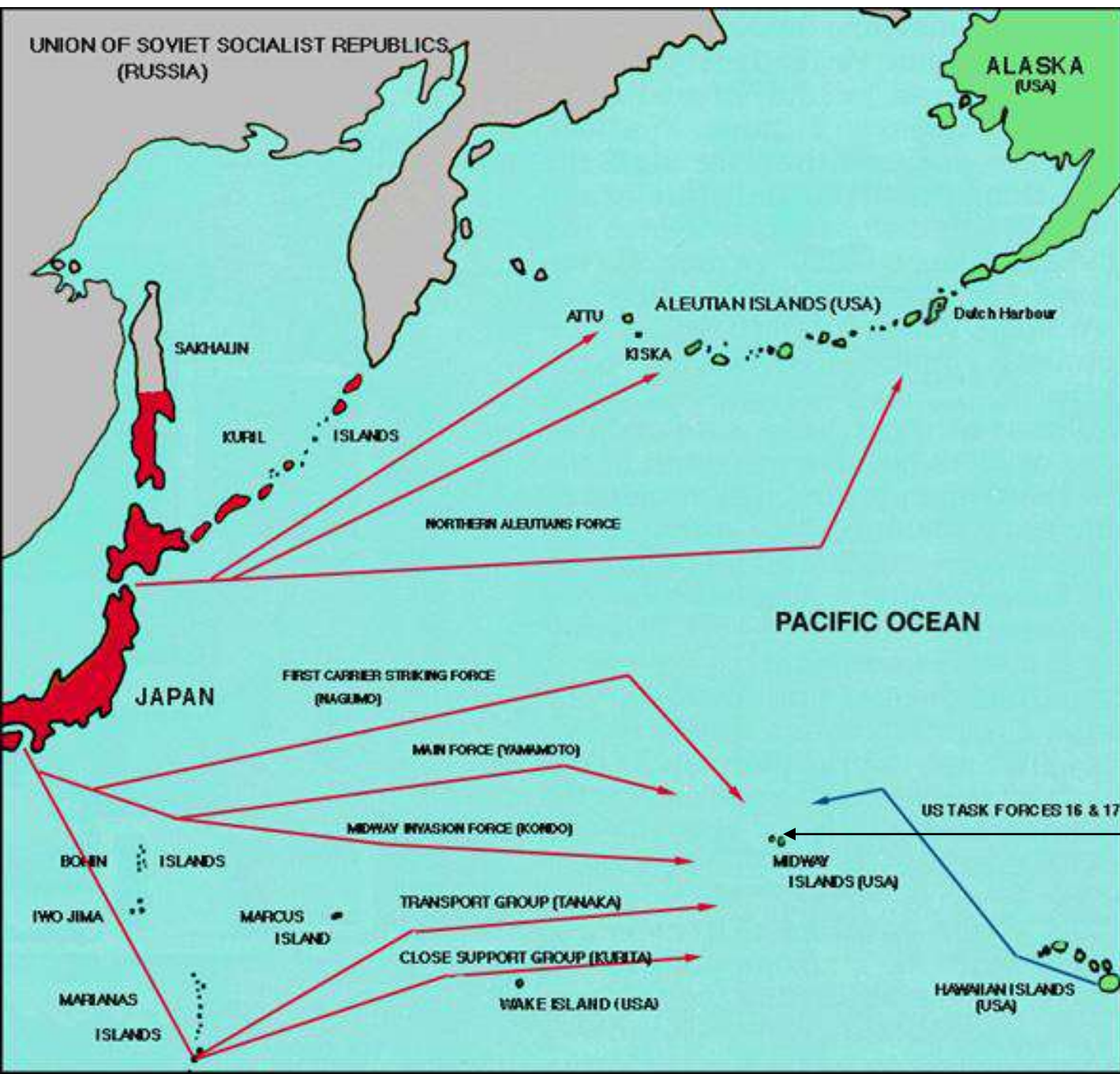


Doolittle raid  
video

## II) The Allies Strike Back

- By June of 1942, the allies had broken the Japanese codes.
- Admiral Nimitz prepared an ambush for the largest fleet ever assembled (150 Japanese ships) at Midway Island.
- American carrier planes swooped in to attack the Japanese fleet, destroying all 4 aircraft carriers, one support ship and 332 planes.
- In the **Battle of Midway** the Americans had avenged Pearl harbor and turned the tide of the war





**Midway Island**

## II) The Allies Strike Back

- The Allies took the offensive with the morale high after Midway
- General Douglas MacArthur led the allies in a policy of island hopping past Japanese strong points.
- The Allies had to strike quickly at the island of Guadalcanal after learning the Japanese planned to build a huge air base.
- After 6 months of fierce fighting, the **Battle of Guadalcanal** finally ended with an allied victory and 23,000 out of 36,000 Japanese troops dead. Aug. 1942 – Feb 1943





Admiral Chester  
Nimitz



Admiral Yamamoto



**General Douglas  
MacArthur**

# Internment Camps –U.S.

- every Japanese could be a potential spy, ready and willing to assist in an invasion that was expected at any moment.
- everyone of Japanese ancestry, including American citizens born in the United States, needed to be removed from the West Coast
- February 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an executive order that moved nearly 120,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans into 10 isolated relocation centers in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Idaho, Utah, and Wyoming

