

# From Isolationism to War

- Why did the United States choose neutrality in the 1930s?
- How did American involvement in the European conflict grow from 1939 to 1941?
- Why did Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor lead the United States to declare war?

# From Isolationism to War

- Rather than addressing foreign concerns, President Roosevelt focused on domestic issues surrounding the Great Depression during the 1930s.
- Congress further prevented international involvement by passing a series of **Neutrality Acts**.
  - The first **Neutrality Act** prevented the United States from providing weapons to nations at war.
  - The second act banned loans to nations at war.
  - The third act permitted trade of **nonmilitary goods with fighting nations, as long as those nations paid cash and transported the cargo themselves**. This policy became known as **cash and carry**.
- The Neutrality Acts prevented the United States from selling arms even to those nations that were trying to defend themselves from aggression.

# American Involvement Grows

## Debating the American Role

- After the German invasion of Poland, many Americans began to feel that the United States shared the Allies' interests.
- Roosevelt asked Congress to revise the Neutrality Acts to make them more flexible.
- Isolationists formed the [America First Committee](#) to protest increasing American aid to Britain.

## The Lend-Lease Act

- In December 1940, Britain confessed its inability to pay cash for supplies.
- In response, Roosevelt announced a [new plan to provide war supplies to Britain without any payment in return.](#)
- Despite protest from the America First Committee, Congress passed the [Lend-Lease Act](#) in March 1941. This act authorized the President to aid [any nation whose defense he believed was vital to American security.](#)

# Japan Attacks Pearl Harbor

## Final Months of Peace

- In July 1940, Roosevelt began limiting what Japan could buy from the United States.
- General Tojo Hideki, a militant army officer who supported war against the United States, became prime minister of Japan in October 1941.
- Because they had cracked a top-secret Japanese code, American military leaders knew by November 27 to expect a Japanese attack in the Pacific. However, they did not know where.

## The Attack

- On the morning of December 7, 1941, Japanese warplanes attacked the American naval base at Pearl Harbor on the Hawaiian island of Oahu.
- In less than two hours, thousands of Americans were killed and wounded, and hundreds of American ships and planes were destroyed.



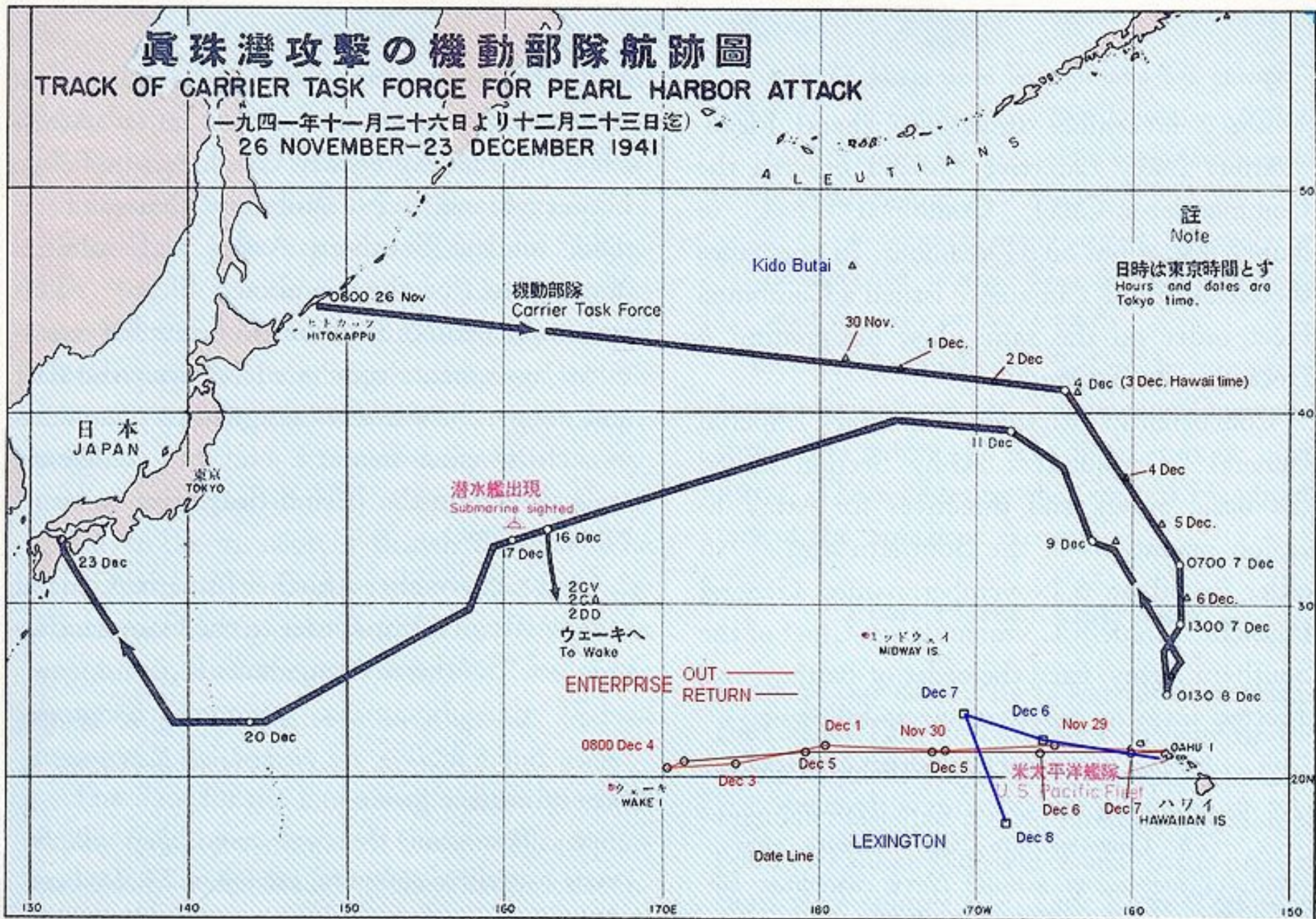




# 真珠灣攻撃の機動部隊航跡圖

## TRACK OF CARRIER TASK FORCE FOR PEARL HARBOR ATTACK

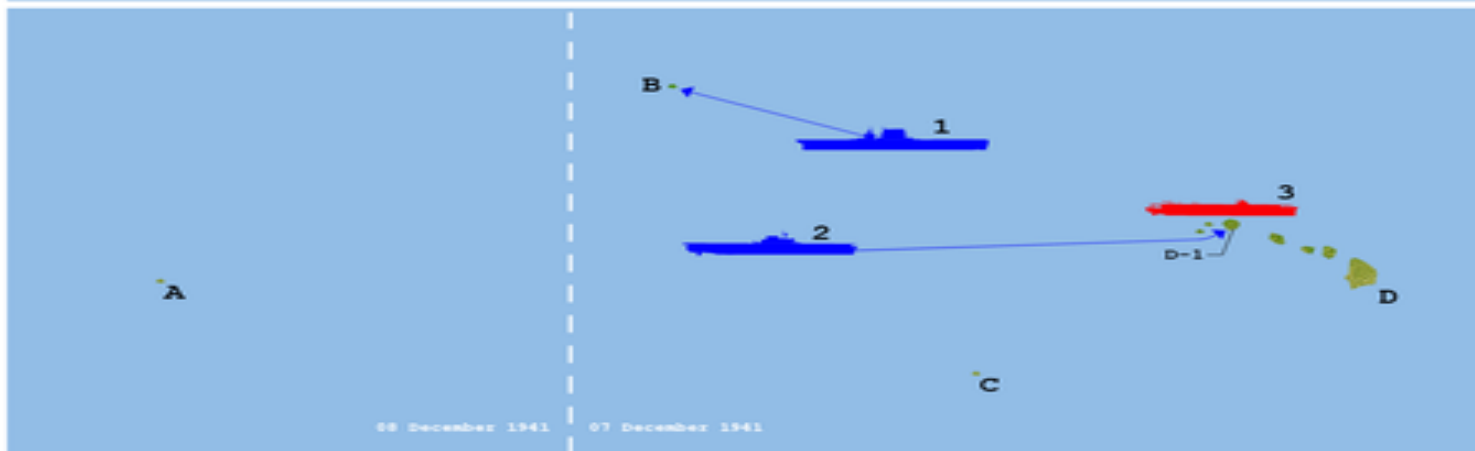
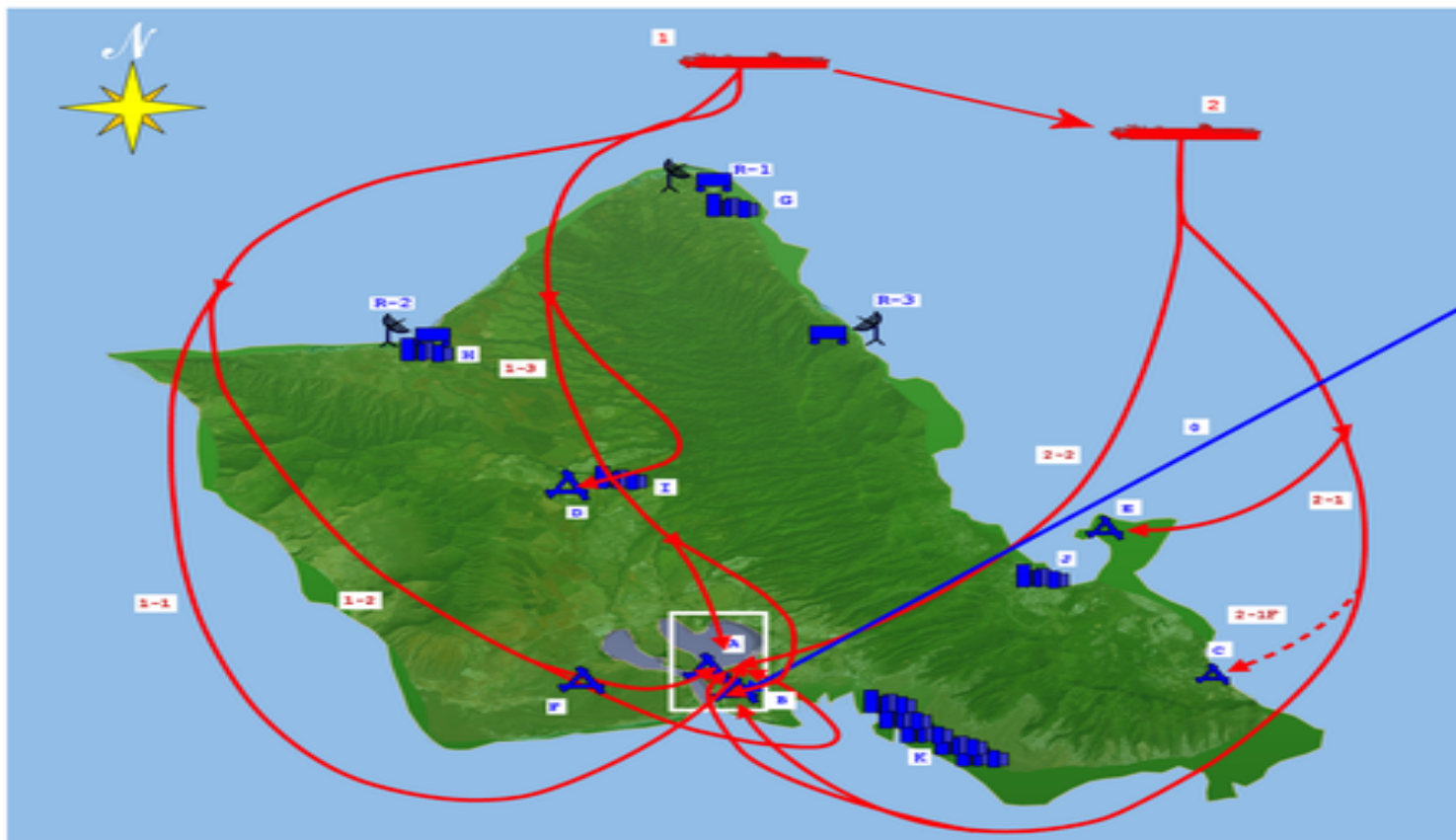
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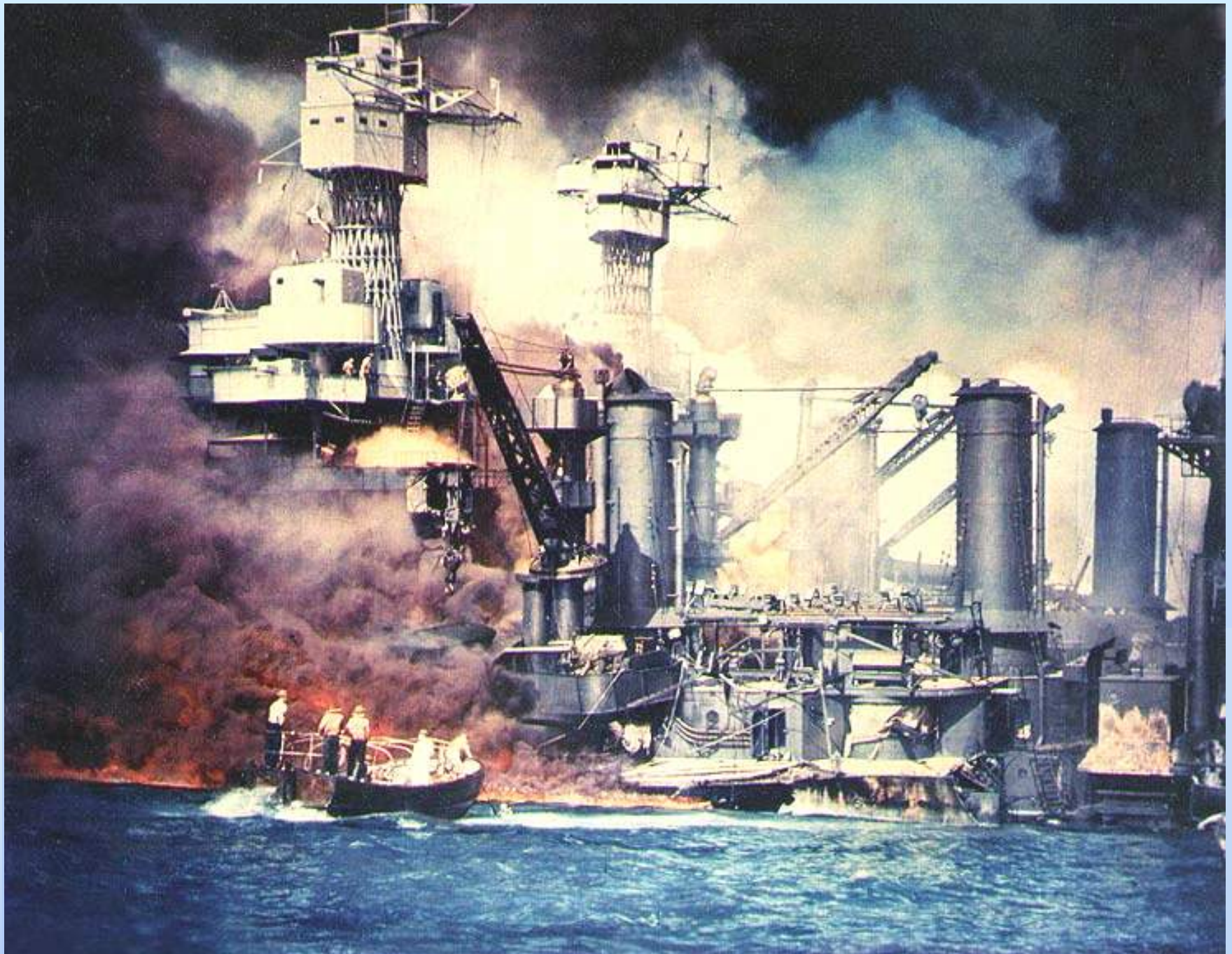














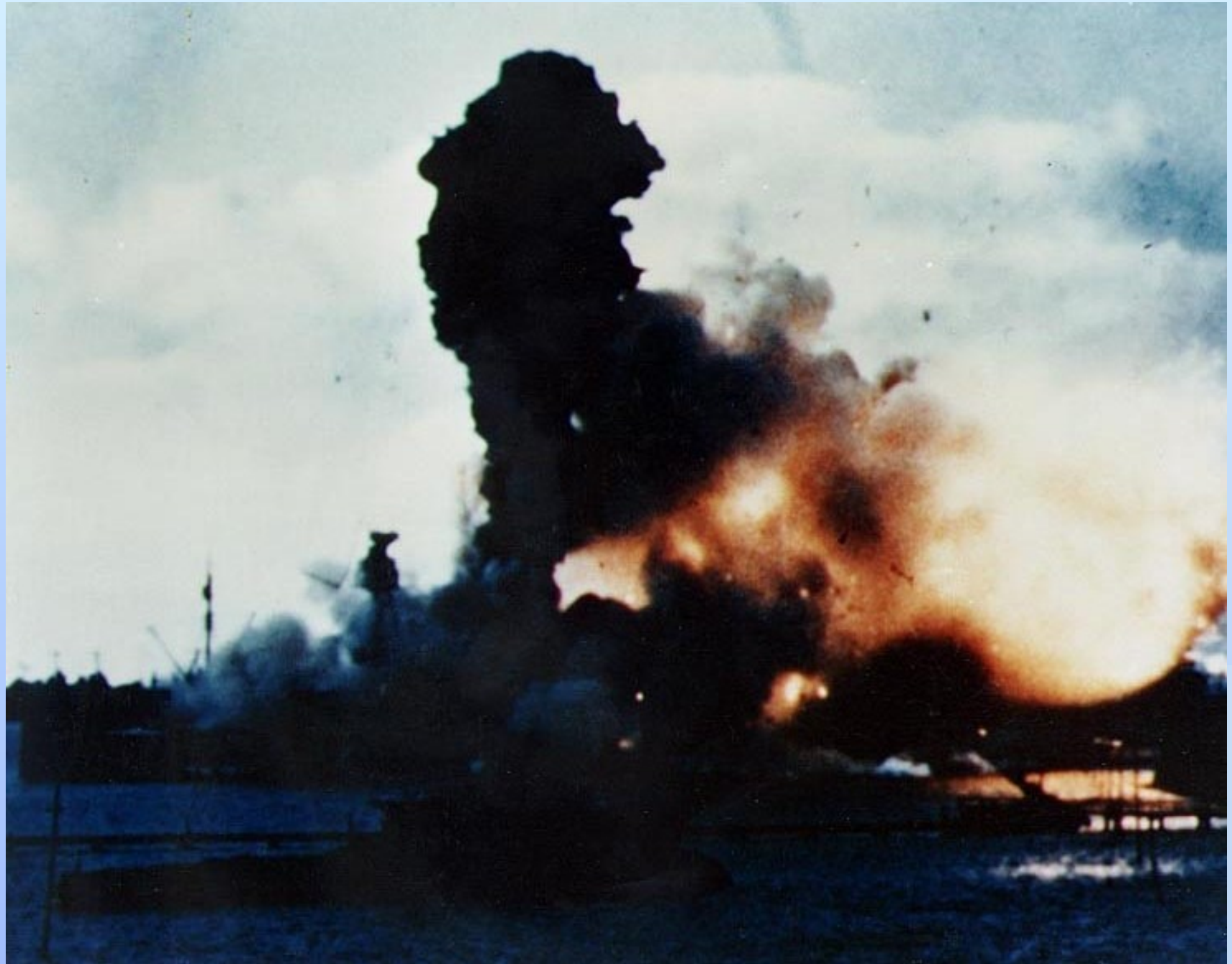




Photo # 80-G-19943 Wrecks of USS Downes & Cassin, 7 Dec. 1941





# United States Declares War

- The attack on Pearl Harbor stunned Americans. Roosevelt declared December 7, 1941 as “a date which will live in infamy.”
- On December 8, Congress passed a war resolution, and Roosevelt signed a declaration of war on Japan.
- On December 11, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States. America was once again involved in a world war.





# From Isolationism to War —Assessment

Which of the following did the Lend-Lease Act provide?

- (A) Trade in nonmilitary goods to fighting nations
- (B) An end to loans to nations at war
- (C) Aid to nations deemed vital to American security
- (D) Sale of weapons to nations at war

What did the America First Committee advocate?

- (A) More American aid to Britain
- (B) Less American aid to Britain
- (C) More American spending on the military
- (D) Less American spending on the military

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