

Chapter 19 - Day 3

- Sept. 1940 a German sub fired on the American destroyer *Greer* which had been radioing German sub positions to GB. FDR responded with “shoot on sight” policy toward Germany subs
- Germany escalated targeting 2 American destroyers sinking the *Reuben-James* killing 115 sailors
- Roosevelt’s decision to help Great Britain influenced Japan into attacking the US
- FDR introduced policies to discourage Japan from attacking the British Empire
- FDR blocked the sale of airplane fuel and scrap iron to Japan
- Japan furious signed alliance with Germany and Italy
- FDR gave Lend-Lease support to China after Japan attacked them
- Japan’s control of Indochina (Vietnam) gave them a position to strike Britain in Hong Kong and Singapore
- FDR responded by freezing Japanese assets in the US and sent Gen. Douglas MacArthur to the Philippines to build up American defenses there
- Japan was making plans to control Southeast Asia and attack the US navy at Pearl Harbor at the same time going through the motion in negotiations with the US
- 6 Japanese aircraft carriers, 2 battleships, and several other warships set sail for Hawaii while negotiating in “good faith”
- Sunday Dec. 7, 1941 at 7:59 am Japan’s surprise attack sank or damaged 21 ships of the US Pacific Fleet including 8 battleships, 3 cruisers, 4 destroyers, 6 other vessels, 188 airplanes, killing 2,403 and injuring 1,178
- Mon. Dec. 8, 1941 Congress voted to declare war on Japan. Hitler thought Japan would easily defeat the US. He hoped by helping Japan now they would help him defeat the USSR. Dec. 11, 1941 Germany and Italy both declared war on the US