

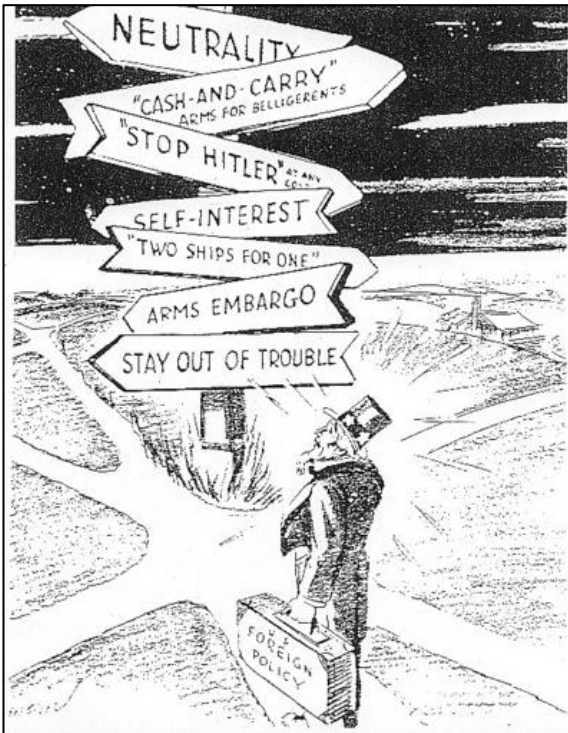
The Roosevelt years from 1933 to 1945

Axis 2 – How did the US become leader of the Great Alliance in WW2?

Documents élèves

1/ The USA at the crossroads 1939 – 1941

A/ To intervene or not to intervene ?



Bressier, March 1939, cartoon published in several American newspapers



Dr Seuss, 1941

B/ Pearl Harbor, a turning point in December 1941

- What happened? Watch the video issued by the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum on You Tube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DNV8enpVwok> (subtitled in English, 2'33) and explain what you understood
- Why did the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor?

Japanese expansion timeline

1910	Japan annexed Korea.
1914	Japan took over Germany's Pacific colonies.
1931	Japan invaded Manchuria.
1933	Japan left the League of Nations.
1941	July Japan occupied French Indo-China. USA banned oil exports to Japan (90 per cent of Japan's oil).
	Dec Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. Sank fourteen US warships. Destroyed more than 300 aircraft. 3500 US casualties. USA and Britain declared war on Japan. Germany declared war on the USA.

Source: J. Patrick, *Study and revise GCSE Modern World History*, WH Smith, 2004

C/ What are the consequences?

Roosevelt's Address to Congress After the Attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 8, 1941

"Mr. Vice President, Mr. Speaker, Members of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives:

Yesterday, December 7th, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

The United States was at peace with that nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its government and its emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. [...]

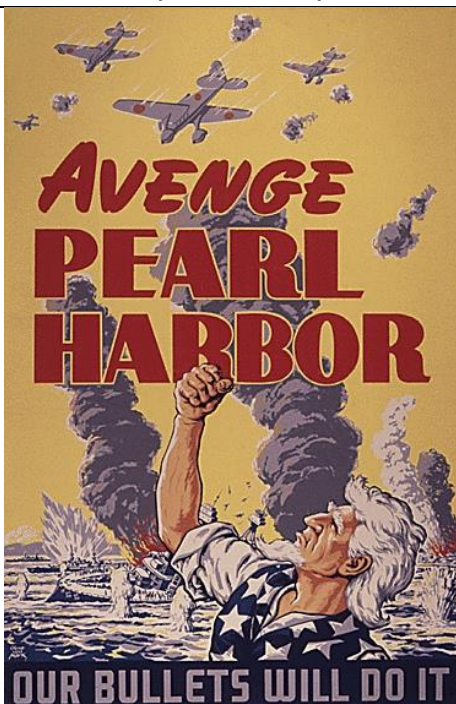
It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time, the Japanese government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. I regret to tell you that very many American lives have been lost. In addition, American ships have been reported torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu... [...]

There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory and our interests are in grave danger.

With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounding determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph—so help us God.

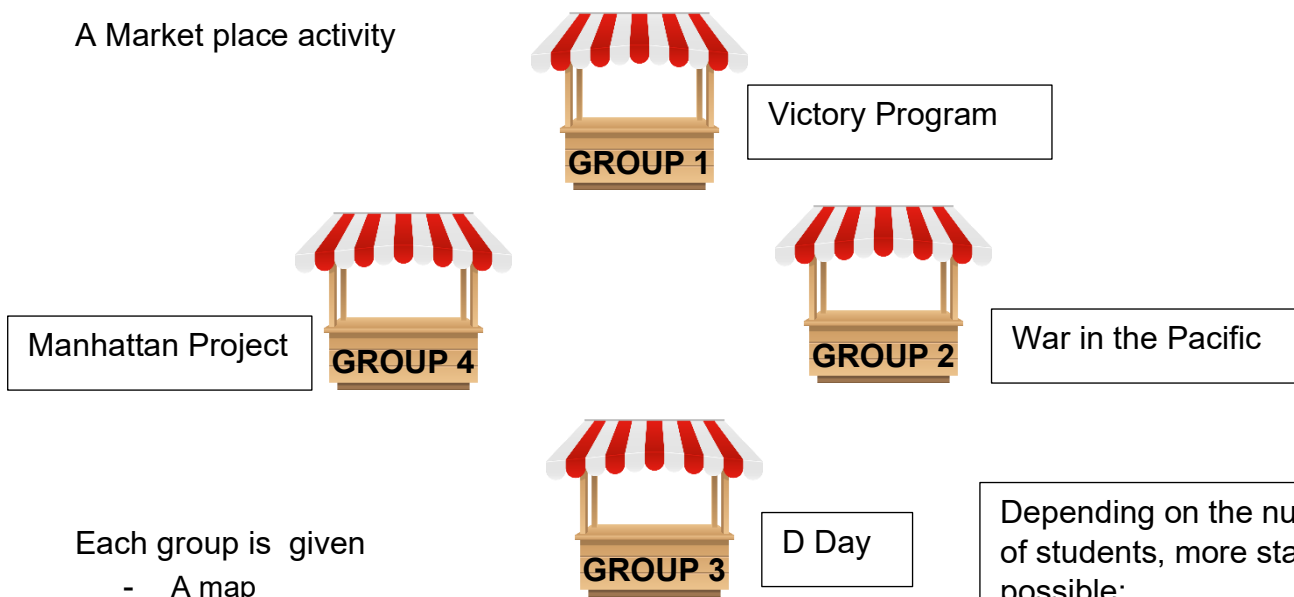
I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December 7th, 1941, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese empire."



"Avenge Pearl Harbor, our bullets will do it", propaganda poster 1942-1943 (Wikipedia)

2/ A rising military power

A Market place activity



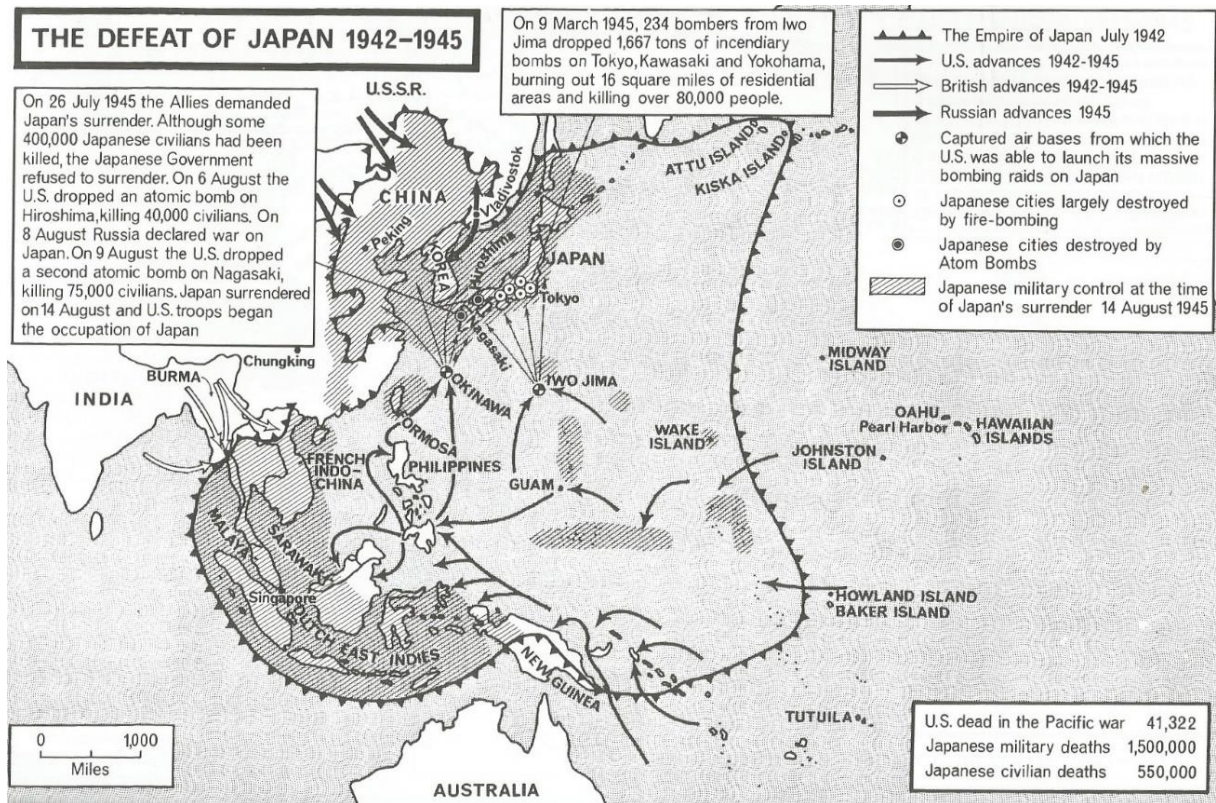
Each group is given

- A map
- A timeline
- Pictures or / and posters
- Quotes by FDR

Depending on the number of students, more stalls are possible:

- Executive Order 9066
- Propaganda
- Women in the War

Example: Group 2 – War in the Pacific



Source: Martin Gilbert, *Atlas of American history*, Routledge, 2003, p.92

War in the Pacific – Timeline

1941

Dec. 7 Japan's surprise attack on Pearl Harbor cripples the US Pacific fleet; Japan moves to occupy much of Southeast Asia and western Pacific.

Dec. 8 Japanese bomb islands of Wake, Guam, and the Philippines.

Dec. 8-23 Wake Island falls to Japanese.

Dec. 10 Japanese forces invade Guam.

1942

June 4-7 Battle of Midway; Japan suffers major losses of ships, aircraft, and men.

Nov. 12-15 The decisive American victory in the Naval Battle of Guadalcanal prevents Japanese from landing reinforcements. Loss of 21,000 Japanese and 5,000 US soldiers.

1944

Mar. 4 Anticipating American invasion, Japanese return to Guam to reinforce southern Marianas.

June 15 US forces invade Saipan, suffering heavy losses.

June 19-20 Battle of Philippine Sea; US Navy carrier forces devastate Japanese fleet.

Aug. 10 US declares Guam secure. Liberation costs over 7,000 American and about 17,500 Japanese casualties.

1945

Guam transformed into military fortress. From here, US B-29s execute bombing raids on Japan.

Feb.-Apr. After 36 days of bitter fighting, US Marines take Iwo Jima; Okinawa soon secured in largest amphibious landing of Pacific war.

Aug. 6 US drops atomic bomb on Hiroshima and, 3 days later, Nagasaki.

Aug. 14 Japan accepts Allied terms for unconditional surrender; signs formal treaty Sept. 2.

<https://npshistory.com/publications/wapa/index.htm>

Pictures of the War in the Pacific (Source: <https://www.magnumphotos.com/newsroom/pacific-war-1942-1945/>)



W. Eugene Smith, The Battle of Iwo Jima, US forces landing on the beach, February 1945



W. Eugene Smith, The Battle of Iwo Jima, US demolition team blasting out a cave on Hill 382, February 1945



"Raising the flag". Members of the United States Marine Corps raise an American flag atop Mt Suribachi - Iwo Jima - amid fighting during World War 2, Japan, February 23, 1945. Original photographer credit Joe Rosenthal/Public Domain



Cecil Calvert Beall, *Now all together*, 1945, US department of the Treasury. Source: <https://www.fdlibrary.org/art-of-war>

February 23, 1942: Fireside Chat 20: On the Progress of the War

My fellow Americans:

Washington's Birthday is a most appropriate occasion for us to talk with each other about things as they are today and things as we know they shall be in the future. For eight years, General Washington and his Continental Army were faced continually with formidable odds and recurring defeats. Supplies and equipment were lacking...

Washington's conduct in those hard times has provided the model for all Americans ever since – a model of moral stamina...

This war is a new kind of war. It is different from all other wars of the past, not only in its methods and weapons but also in its geography. It is warfare in terms of every continent, every island, every sea, every air-lane in the world.

That is the reason why I have asked you to take out and spread before you a map of the whole earth, and to follow with me in the references which I shall make... The broad oceans which have been heralded in the past as our protection from attack have become endless battlefields on which we are constantly being challenged by our enemies...

We knew that the war as a whole would have to be fought and won by a process of attrition against Japan itself. We knew all along that, with our greater resources, we could ultimately out-build Japan and ultimately overwhelm her on sea, and on land and in the air. We knew that, to obtain our objective, many varieties of operations would be necessary... MacArthur's army of Filipinos and Americans, and the forces of the United Nations in China, in Burma and the Netherlands East Indies, are all together fulfilling the same essential task. They are making Japan pay an increasingly terrible price for her ambitious attempts to seize control of the whole Asiatic world...

The consequences of the attack on Pearl Harbor – serious as they were – have been wildly exaggerated... The number of our officers and men killed in the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7th was 2,340, and the number wounded was 940. Of all of the combatant ships based on Pearl Harbor – battleships, heavy cruisers, light cruisers, aircraft carriers, destroyers and submarines – only three (were) are permanently put out of commission. Very many of the ships of the Pacific Fleet were not even in Pearl Harbor. The report that we lost more than a thousand (air)planes at Pearl Harbor is as baseless as the other weird rumours. The Japanese do not know just how many planes they destroyed that day, and I am not going to tell them. But I can say that to date – and including Pearl Harbor – we have destroyed considerably more Japanese planes than they have destroyed of ours...

Let me say once and for all to the people of the world: We Americans have been compelled to yield ground, but we will regain it. We and the other United Nations are committed to the destruction of the militarism of Japan and Germany. We are daily increasing our strength. Soon, we and not our enemies, will have the offensive; we, not they, will win the final battles; and we, not they, will make the final peace...

Our first job then is to build up production – uninterrupted production – so that the United Nations can maintain control of the seas and attain control of the air – not merely a slight superiority, but an overwhelming superiority...

Press release by President Bill Clinton, February 19, 1995 at the Iwo Jima 50th anniversary commemoration, Arlington, Virginia

Today on this wonderfully quiet morning, on the edge of our national cemetery... we recall the fury of war and a landmark in our history that is one of both loss and triumph... Fifty years ago, with their lives before them, they left everything -- their families, their loved ones, the serenity and security of their homes -- to fight for a just cause... To all of you who served at Iwo Jima, we are the children of your sacrifice, and we are grateful...

Today the dimensions of their struggle still stagger us. When they attacked Iwo Jima, the enemy was so deeply dug in as to be invisible and all but impregnable. The carnage on the beaches was almost unimaginable... Trying to claim just a few hundred yards, troops were raked by gunfire and pinned down. On the first day 2,400 were killed. On hearing of the casualties, President Roosevelt was reported to have gasped with horror for the first time since Pearl Harbor.

Securing Iwo Jima was supposed to take less than two weeks, but it took five... But never were the words "issue in doubt" -- the call for withdrawal -- uttered. The 75,000 who went ashore pulled together... Navy corpsmen saved one life after another, pulling the wounded from battle...

Admiral Nimitz put it perfectly: "Among the Americans who served on Iwo Jima, uncommon valor was a common virtue." Our country saw the true definition of courage... This is the legacy of all of you who served -- to those in the units that took Suribachi; to the nurses and doctors who worked under constant fire on the beachfronts; to the sailors on the hundreds of support ships; to the African American Montford Point Marines, who fought off the last desperate attack by the enemy; to the families who so courageously endured at home...

This image of the flag-raising over Mt. Suribachi, known around the world from Joe Rosenthal's picture... tells it all. Instantly it became the symbol of our effort in World War II... Six men straining together, giving all they have, faces turned to the task of planting our flag: Block, Sousley, Hayes, Bradley -- the Navy corpsman -- Gagnon and Strank. A real picture of America -- a Texan, and Kentuckian, a Wisconsin farm boy, a Native American, a New Englander of French-Canadian stock, a kid from the coal country of Pennsylvania.

Hard men wept when they saw the flag fly over Suribachi. President Roosevelt wanted the flag-raisers brought stateside as he rose to boost morale on the home front. But three of them never got the chance. They were on Iwo Jima when they were killed days later. They gave us still forever this picture of common purpose of striving together, of the unity that our nation forged out of the many who make it up.
May God bless them all. And may God bless America.

3/ Towards a New World Order

Question: **What kind of post-war world do Roosevelt and the Allies want to draft?**

Group work: Study the documents and fill in the chart from the most important ideas on the top to the least important ideas at the bottom.

Group answer:

A pyramid-shaped chart consisting of 10 empty rectangular boxes arranged in five rows. The top row has one box, the second row has two boxes, the third row has three boxes, the fourth row has two boxes, and the fifth row has one box. This structure is used for ranking ideas from most important at the top to least important at the bottom.

Document 1: The State of the Union Address to Congress, Delivered January 6, 1941



In the future days, which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms.

The first is freedom of speech and expression - everywhere in the world.

The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way - everywhere in the world.

The third is freedom from want - which means economic understandings which will secure to every nation a healthy peacetime life for its inhabitants - everywhere in the world.

The fourth is freedom from fear - which means a world-wide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbour—anywhere in the world.

That is no vision of a distant millennium. It is a definite basis for a kind of world attainable in our own time and generation... The world order which we seek is the cooperation of free countries, working together in a friendly, civilized society... Freedom means the supremacy of human rights everywhere...

Document 2: The Atlantic Charter, August 14, 1941



The President of the United States of America and the British Prime Minister

Respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live; and they wish to see sovereign rights and self government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them...

After the final destruction of the Nazi tyranny, they hope to see established a peace which will afford to all nations the means of dwelling in safety within their own boundaries, and which will afford assurance that all the men in all the lands may live out their lives in freedom from fear and want.

Document 3: The Theran Conference, December 3, 1943



We, The President of the United States, the Prime Minister of Great Britain, and the Premier of the Soviet Union... express our determination that our nations shall work together in war and in the peace that will follow...

And as to peace—we are sure that our concord will win an enduring peace. We recognize fully the supreme responsibility resting upon us and all the United Nations to make peace. We shall seek the cooperation and active participation of all nations, large and small, whose peoples in heart and mind are dedicated to the elimination of tyranny and slavery, oppression, and intolerance.

Document 4: Message to Congress on the Bretton Woods Agreements, February, 1945 (The Bretton Woods conference took place July, 1944)



As we dedicate our total efforts to the task of winning this war we must never lose sight of the fact that victory is not only an end in itself but, in a large sense, victory offers us the means of achieving the goal of lasting peace and a better way of life... we must see that the institutions of peace rest firmly on the solid foundations of international political and economic cooperation. The corner stone for international political cooperation is the Dumbarton Oaks proposal for a permanent United Nations. International political relations will be friendly and constructive, however, only if solutions are found to

the difficult economic problems we face today. The cornerstone for international economic cooperation is the Bretton Woods proposal for an International Monetary Fund and an International Bank for Reconstruction and Development...

What we need ... in other words, more goods produced, more jobs, more trade, and a higher standard of living for us all. To the people of the United States this means real peacetime employment for those who will be returning from the war and for those at home whose wartime work has ended. It also means orders and profits to our industries and fair prices to our farmers.

Document 5: The Yalta Conference, February 11, 1945



It is our inflexible purpose to destroy German militarism and Nazism and to ensure that Germany will never again be able to disturb the peace of the world...

We are resolved... of a general international organization to maintain peace and security.

The highest aspiration of humanity [is] a secure and lasting peace which will, in the words of the Atlantic Charter, "afford assurance that all the men in all the lands may live out their lives in freedom from fear and want". Victory in this war and establishment of the proposed international organization will provide the greatest opportunity in all history to create in the years to come the essential conditions of such a peace.

Document 6: The San Francisco Conference, April-June 1945

"Representatives of 50 nations met in San Francisco April-June 1945 to complete the Charter of the United Nations. In addition to the General Assembly of all member states and a Security Council of 5 permanent and 6 non-permanent members, the Charter provided for an 18-member Economic and Social Council, an International Court of Justice, a Trusteeship Council to oversee certain colonial territories, and a Secretariat under a Secretary General.

The Roosevelt administration strove to avoid Woodrow Wilson's mistakes in selling the League of Nations to the Senate. It sought bipartisan support and in September 1943 the Republican Party endorsed U.S. participation in a postwar international organization, after which both houses of Congress overwhelmingly endorsed participation. Roosevelt also sought to convince the public that an international organization was the best means to prevent future wars. The Senate approved the UN Charter on July 28, 1945, by a vote of 89 to 2. The United Nations came into existence on October 24, 1945, after 29 nations had ratified the Charter."

Source: <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1937-1945/un>

Note: Franklin Roosevelt died on April, 12, 1945