

October 29, 2025

The Expert Council for Aiming Japan's True Independence (ECAJTI)

**Open Statement of the 80 Years Anniversary after the End of World War II**  
**Don't Say "Remember Pearl Harbor" Anymore!**  
**Say "Remember the Hull Note".**

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the beginning of the Japan-US War. From this war, Americans have evoked "Remember Pearl Harbor" as a reminder of military vigilance. The most inappropriate use of this warning, though, was after the 9/11 terrorist attacks in 2001. This warning is nothing less than deceitful and an affront to Japan and the Japanese people—the outbreak of the Japan-US War did not rest entirely with Japan.

Superficially, the Japan-US War began with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. In fact, the war was initiated by American actions well before the Pearl Harbor attack. In this sense, "Remember Pearl Harbor" is not based on historical truth. We Japanese resent the fact that Americans use this totally unacceptable slogan without thinking.

Rather than "Remember Pearl Harbor", we believe something much more appropriate would be "Remember the Hull Note". "Remember the Hull Note" points out that the US was mostly responsible for starting the Japan-US War since the Hull Note, handed to Ambassador NOMURA Kichisaburo by US Secretary of State Cordell Hull, on November 26, 1941, was essentially an ultimatum to the Japanese government. This would be the response from us Japanese whenever Americans or anyone else parrots "Remember Pearl Harbor". This may become a new meme.

US President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) called December 7 a "Day of Infamy", claiming Pearl Harbor was a "sneak attack". One day after the attack, he asked Congress for a declaration of war against Japan during his "Day of Infamy" speech.

There are many Americans who do not know of the Hull Note. But, when we answer "Remember the Hull Note" in reply to "Remember Pearl Harbor", not a few intellectual Americans may want to know about the Hull Note. Inherently, Americans should really examine the Hull Note for themselves, because it is one of the most important documents regarding the causes of World War II.

If we want to encapsulate US responsibility for the Japan-US War in a short statement, "Remember the Hull Note" will do. Prior to the Hull Note Japan as a nation

was in fact already in deep economic trouble due to freezing of Japanese overseas assets on July 25 and a total ban of oil exports to Japan on August 1, 1941, imposed by FDR.

The Japanese government sought to avoid a war with the US through staggering efforts even after August 1, 1941. On August 29, Prime Minister KONOE Fumimaro proposed to FDR a Japan-US summit. On October 3, and October 9, Ambassador Nomura asked Secretary Hull what Japan could do to avoid war with the US. Moreover, in Tokyo on October 10, Japanese Foreign Minister TOYODA Teijiro asked the same to US Ambassador to Japan Joseph Grew.

Japanese Ambassador Nomura, working to avoid war, met with Secretary Hull 60 times and with FDR 10 times within slightly more than 7 months, ever since he was appointed as Japanese Ambassador to the US in April 1941. However, the FDR Administration took dishonest measures from start to end. I have followed the path of Japan-US negotiations before the issuance of the Hull Note. I will say that the so-called negotiations had the character of a gangster-like US stringing Japan along and honest but naïve Japan doing whatever the US said to do. It seems to me that the FDR Administration shoved Japan into a war it did not want.

According to a national opinion poll immediately before the outbreak of war, 85% of the American public and 75% of Congress opposed war. The FDR Administration nonetheless pushed Japan into a corner in order to obtain a pretext for going to war because it already made up its mind to fight Japan.

Even though the US set up a war with Japan, the US unthinkingly repeats “Remember Pearl Harbor” as a warning to avoid military disaster—as if Japan was totally responsible for the outbreak of the Japan-US War. “Remember Pearl Harbor” is a total fraud, and this phrase is an insult to Japan and the Japanese people every time it is repeated.

Nowadays, as far as I know, there are more than a dozen US books showing how FDR used economic and diplomatic means to goad Japan into firing the first shot. Some of these include those written by retired US generals, such as Admiral James O. Richardson, *On the Treadmill to Pearl Harbor*, 1973, and Rear Admiral Robert A. Theobald, *Final Secret of Pearl Harbor: the Washington Contribution to the Japanese Attack*, 1954.

As mentioned earlier, FDR called on Congress to declare war on Japan in his “Day of Infamy” speech on December 8, 1941. The “Day of Infamy” was in fact a “Day of Deceit” as Robert B. Stinnett mentioned in his book, *Day of Deceit: the Truth about FDR and Pearl Harbor*, 1999. Stinnett saw through FDR’s deceit.

Although one can identify immediate causes for the outbreak of the Japan-US War, there

are more distant reasons for the war as well.

The US was astonished by Japan's military victories both on land (the Battle of Mukden) and on sea (the Battle of Sea of Japan) during the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905). Ever since, the US perceived Japan as a security threat. From 1906 through 1940, the US formulated and frequently updated "War Plan Orange", its military strategy to defeat Japan. This comprehensive and very aggressive plan included a plan to disrupt Japanese shipping, culminating in "Operation Starvation" during the Japan-US War. There are elements of racism in it, as not a few Americans loathed Japan, the only non-white nation at the time that achieved rapid industrial modernization and Westernization.

The US considered all of Latin America as its private domain since the elaborating the Monroe Doctrine in 1823, rejecting European encroachment in the Western Hemisphere. At the same time, the US State Secretary John M. Hay declared the "Open Door Policy" in 1899, an "open door" and "equal trade opportunities" in China. The underlying purpose of this fine-sounding talk was US economic expansion in China as the US lagged behind Europe and Japan in entering China. In other words, the US conducted double-standard foreign policy, one towards Latin America and a different one towards China.

The so-called Open Door foreign policy conflicted with key, established Japanese rights and interests in China. At that time, Japan's vital role in China was largely agreed upon by the major European powers. The have country of greedy America put tremendous pressure on the have-not country of Japan.

The Sino-Japanese War erupted in July 1937 and lasted much longer than expected because of vast and continuous US support for Kuomintang Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek. Indeed, the Sino-Japanese War was a "Japan-US War", since Chiang Kai-Shek could not fight Japan without US economic and military support. The Sino-Japanese War was what we would call today a "proxy war". The US sought to weaken the Japanese military at the expense of Chiang Kai-Shek. For countries waging a proxy war, it is not merely for self-defense. Consequently, proxy wars are in fact a violation of international laws. Moreover, American military industries benefited tremendously from FDR's proxy war.

After World War II, the Allied Military Occupation in Japan imposed "Good America and Evil Japan" thinking by a brain washing program, the War Guilt Information Program (WGIP) and through suppression of free speech. It is now time to break out of brain washing imposed over the past 80 years and to clear Japan's name. We are holding our 3rd Open Symposium, "Pulling Out the Victorious Nations' View of

History by Its Roots: It Is Time to Clear Japan's Name" in Tokyo on November 3.

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