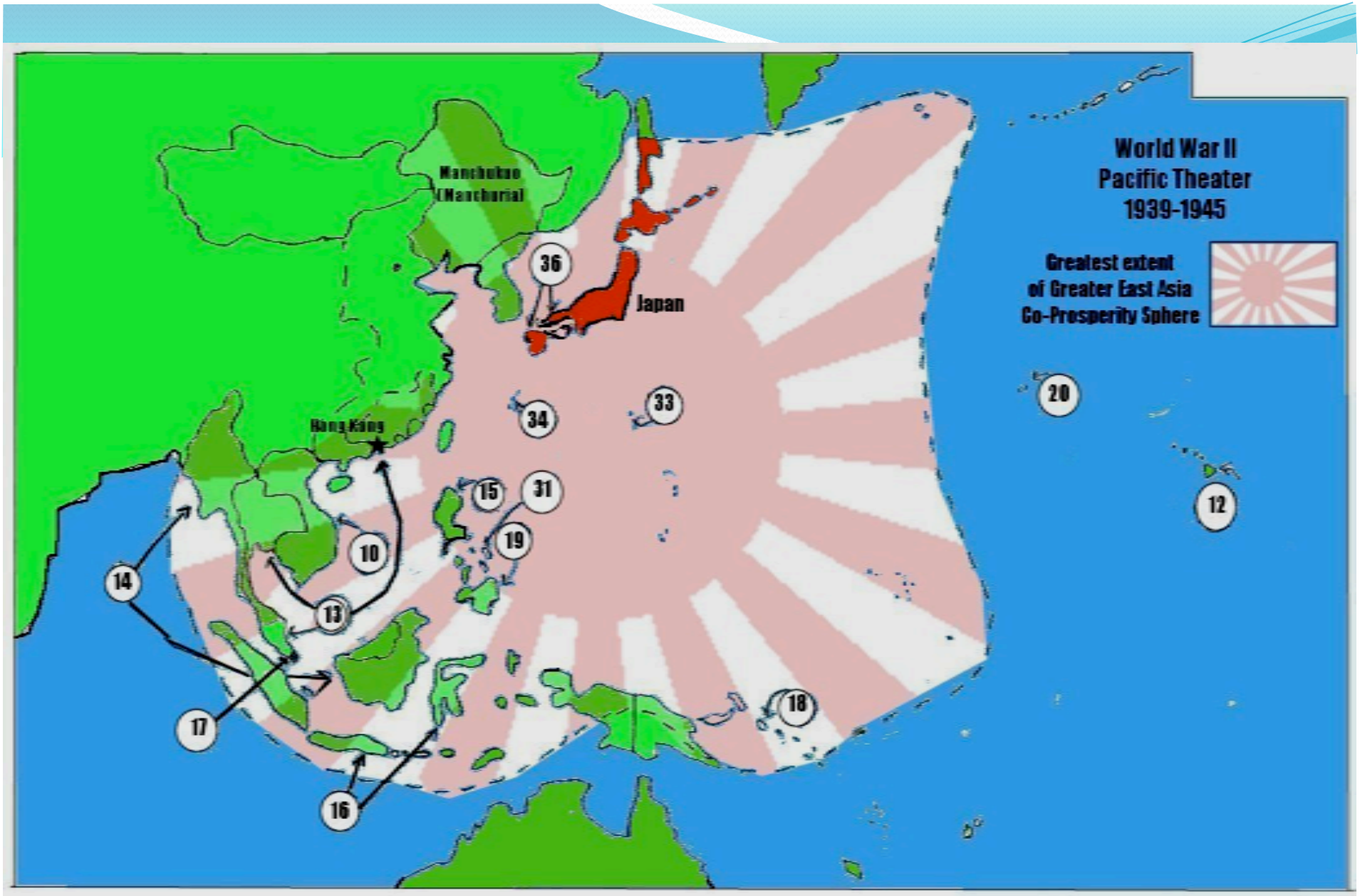
World War II

Outcome: The Pacific Theater

The Pacific Theater

1. **Setting the Stage: Aggression in Asia**
   a. 1931: Japan invaded **Manchuria** (NE province of China rich in **minerals**)
   b. 1937: Japan invaded **China** who was experiencing a **civil war**
   c. Japan needed **raw materials** especially **oil** to be #1 in Asia


World War II
Pacific Theater
1939-1945
Greatest extent
of Greater East Asia
Co-Prosperity Sphere
Manchukuo
(Manchuria)
Japan
Hong Kong
36
34
33
20
12
15
31
19
10
14
13
17
16
18

The Pacific Theater

2. Attack at Pearl Harbor

a. Japan had hoped to cripple the **U.S. Pacific fleet**

b. Several carriers were **out to sea** when Japan attacked on Dec. 7, '49

c. Japan also attacked **Guam**, **Wake** Island, Midway Islands, and the Philippine Islands on the same day

d. Once the home front **mobilization** hit high production, Japan truly did awaken a **sleeping giant**

James Doolittle

The Pacific Theater

3. **Doolittle Raid**
   a. **James Doolittle** led a raid on Tokyo with **B-25** bombers
   b. Helped boost American **Morale**
   c. Showed the Japanese were not **invincible**
   d. Inflicted **little damage** to the city

General Douglas MacArthur

The Pacific Theater

4. Island Hopping

a. The **Supreme Allied Commander** for the Pacific Theater was Gen. **Douglas MacArthur**

b. The U.S. adopted the Island Hopping or **Leap Frog** strategy moving from island to island

c. The Fighting in the Pacific was **difficult** for several reasons:

   i. **100** degree heat ---> humidity caused **jungle rot** & **diseases**

   ii. Many **islands**

   iii. Japanese motto "**Death before dishonor**"

   iv. **Kamikaze** attacks: suicide attacks damaged 300 ships and caused 15,000 casualties

SOVIET UNION
Lake Baikal
Amur
SEA OF OKHOTSK
BERING SEA
Attu
ALEUTIAN ISLANDS
MONGOLIA
MANCHURIA
KURILE ISLANDS
Greatest extent of Japanese control
Vladivostok
Peiping
Hwang Ho
SEA OF JAPAN
JAPAN
PACIFIC OCEAN
KOREA
Tokyo
CHINA
Yangtze
EAST CHINA SEA
Chungking
Midway
Okinawa
Iwo Jima
Burma Road
Hong Kong
FORMOSA
HAWAIIAN ISLANDS
BURMA
PHILIPPINE SEA
Mariana Islands
Pearl Harbor
SOUTH CHINA SEA
Philippines
THAILAND
Manila
Saipan
Guam
FRENCH INDOCHINA
Kwajalein
Leyte Gulf
MARSHALL ISLANDS
Palau Islands
Peleliu
CAROLINE ISLANDS
N. BORNEO
BRUNEI
MALAYA
SARAWAK
Singapore
Admiralty Islands
Tarawa
Borneo
Bismarck Sea
GILBERT ISLANDS
Moluccas
NORTHEAST NEW GUINEA
NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES
SOLOMON ISLANDS
PAPUA
Guadalcanal
Coral Sea
INDIAN OCEAN
ALLIED OFFENSIVE
AUSTRALIA
NEW ZEALAND

Kamikaze

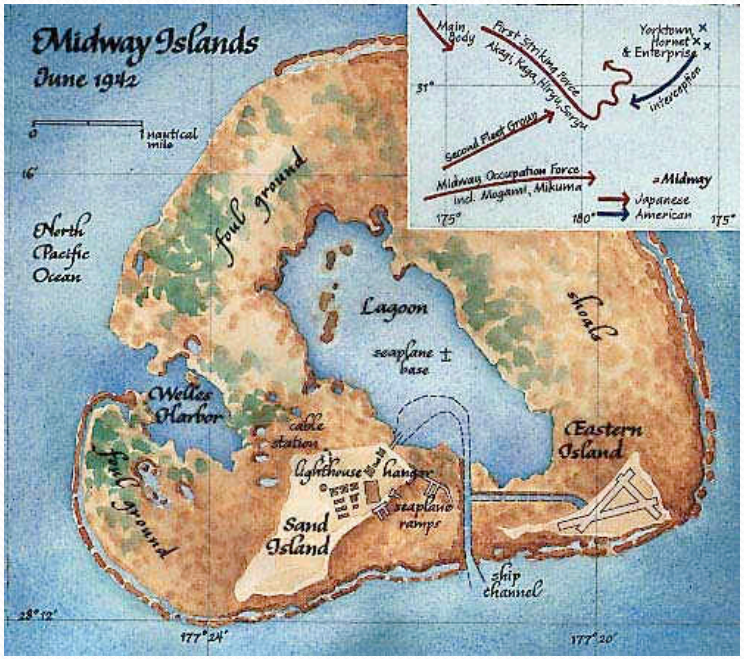
The Pacific Theater

5. Key Victories for the Allies

a. Battle of Midway

i. Japanese hoped to use Midway as a base to neutralize Pearl Harbor

ii. Balance of power in the Pacific shifted towards the Allies



The Pacific Theater

b. Battle of Guadalcanal

i. The Japanese advance was **stopped**

ii. All **momentum** shifted to the **U.S.**

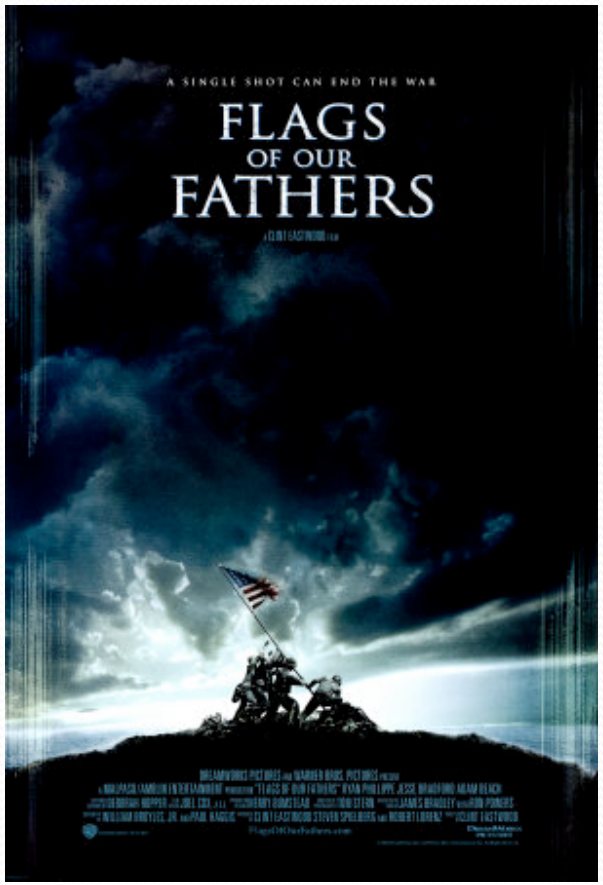
Photo # 80-G-20683 U.S. Marines resting in the field on Guadalcanal, 1942

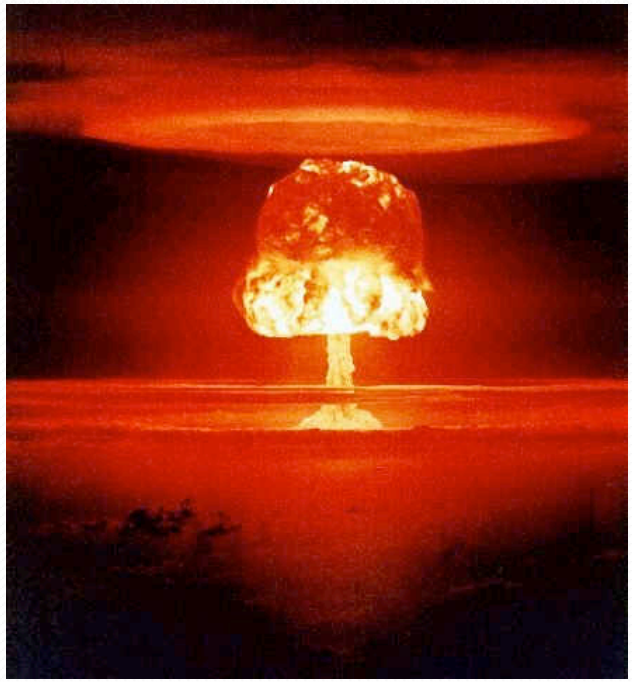
The Battle of Guadalcanal as seen in…

The Pacific Theater

c. **Battle of Iwo Jima**
   i. 20,500 Japanese killed and 6,000 U.S. lives lost
   ii. Put Americans **within striking distance** of Japanese home islands

The Battle of Iwo Jima as seen in…



The Pacific Theater

6. **Possible Options for Finishing off the Japanese**
   a. **Invasion of Japan** which could cost over 1,000,000 Allied soldiers
   b. Use of the **Atomic Bomb** (secret)