



WORLD WAR II – PEARL HARBOR

The [Attack on Pearl Harbor](#) was a surprise military strike by the Imperial Japanese Navy against the United States naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on the morning of December 7, 1941. The attack led to the United States' formal entry into World War II. Japan intended the attack as a preventive action to keep the U.S. Pacific Fleet from interfering with its planned military actions in Southeast Asia against overseas territories of the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and the United States. The attack began at 7:48 AM Hawaiian Time. The Japanese attacked with 353 aircraft in two waves, launched from six aircraft carriers. All eight US Navy battleships were damaged, with four sunk. The Japanese also sank or damaged three cruisers, three destroyers, an anti-aircraft training ship, one minelayer and destroyed 188 U.S. aircraft. 2,403 Americans were killed, and 1,178 others wounded. The Japanese lost only 29 aircraft, five midget submarines, 64 killed and one captured. The surprise attack was a profound shock to the American people and led directly to the American entry into World War II. The United States declared war on Japan on December 8.