



BISMUN 2026



**JOINT CRISIS COMMITTEE:
WORLD WAR II**



STUDY GUIDE



TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF THE JCC.....	2
LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS AND ASSISTANT DIRECTORS.....	3
INTRODUCTION TO THE JOINT CRISIS COMMITTEE.....	4
Committee Mandate.....	4
Communiqué Expectations.....	5
BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT.....	5
TIMELINE OF EVENTS.....	6
ELABORATION ON IMPORTANT EVENTS.....	8
Great Depression (24 October 1929).....	8
Anti-Comintern Pact (25 November 1936).....	9
Second Sino-Japanese War (7 July 1937).....	10
Anschluss with Austria (12th March 1938).....	10
Tripartite Pact (27th September 1940).....	11
The Lend-Lease Act (11th March 1941).....	11
Attack on Pearl Harbor (7 December 1941).....	12
IMPORTANT MILITARY TECHNOLOGY HELD BY NATIONS.....	13
QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER (QARMA).....	14
GUIDE TO FURTHER RESEARCH.....	15
Economic Warfare, Oil and Trade.....	15
Asia-Pacific.....	15
Intelligence and Technological Advancements.....	15

LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF THE JCC

Dear Delegates,

I hope this message finds you in good spirits. I'm so excited to be chairing what will hopefully be the best committee of BISMUN 2026. The infamous Joint Crisis Committee (JCC). I'm extremely grateful for this opportunity and it's an honour to be a part of BISMUN. Devanshi and Kanav, your amazing directors and Dev, Ira, Shlok and Nitigya, the best assistant directors have worked alongside me to formulate this comprehensive study guide to introduce you to JCC and provide a timeline of events along with some key details about World War 2. Please however do not only use the study guide as a tool for your research. We encourage you to use this as just your launch pad and starting point.

Here at the JCC we hold our delegates to high standards and together we will address complex global issues, engage in spirited debates, and, most importantly, work together to reach a consensus. It is the diversity of thought and fresh perspective that you, our delegates, bring to this conference that will drive our committee to succeed.

Having chaired several committees in the past such as UNOOSA, Mafia Mania, Futuristic UNSC, UNEP, SDG 4 and JCC I'm incredibly excited for what this committee will hold. I expect delegates to come thoroughly research and prepare as this is what will make the committee fruitful and more fun.

Here's what I expect from delegates in my committee: I expect everyone to be respectful of one another and pay full attention to other delegates while they are speaking. I want you guys to also feel comfortable in approaching the executive board for whatever queries you may have regarding committee and parliamentary procedure. I like to see creative solutions and well researched arguments rather than dramatic over the top speeches. Impress me, don't amuse me. I discourage points of order and information as they waste time in committee and can put certain delegates down. Moreover, I want you guys to collaborate and think critically about problems. Don't send me communiques for the sake of sending communiques.

Lastly, since this is a constant crisis committee, you will be faced with several challenges and will receive continuous updates. We want delegates to be spontaneous and quick on their feet and we promise to provide you with the chance to do so. I would also like to encourage you all to not worry about awards and look at this as an opportunity to have fun and experience something very special in our school. Build friendships with other delegates, try getting out of your comfort zone and never forget to storm the beaches (that pun didn't land).

Have fun, guys! It's going to be an awesome and unforgettable experience. I can't wait to interact with you all in the committee and change the course of history forever. Congratulations on reading this far. Enjoy the rest of the study guide. Let's rewrite history! All the best!

Best Regards,

Arjun Vora

arjun.2379@bis.edu.in

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS AND ASSISTANT DIRECTORS

Dear Delegates,

It is with great enthusiasm that we welcome you to BISMUN 2026 and the Joint Crisis Committee on the brewing World War. Starting on 19th December 1941, this committee places all of you, delegates, at one of the most momentous periods in time wherein the world lies strongly fragmented yet complexly interconnected. The decisions made by each and every one of you will therefore produce a ripple effect determining the fate of nations, millions of people and generations to come.

Set just days after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, this JCC transports you to a moment of great geopolitical uncertainty during World War II. With Europe under Nazi domination, Japan expanding its territorial control in the Pacific, and multiple nations forced into open confrontation, the global order stands at a highly consequential time. The rampant military attacks have cost millions of lives and caused great humanitarian atrocities across continents as well. This war sees layers of conflict unfold: ideological clashes between fascism, democracy and communism, the employment of cutting edge military technologies and strong imperialist agendas. As delegates you will take on the role of important leaders of Axis and Allied powers, neutral nations and occupied states, navigating these challenges strategically.

The Joint Crisis Committee will expect you to balance your state and foreign policy while cooperating with your allies effectively to respond to constantly evolving crises. Through fast paced developments, you will be challenged to respond with immediate actions while keeping in mind the geopolitical realities. One of the most exciting aspects of JCC is that the two committees (Allies and Axis) will convene in the latter half of the committee, giving you all a chance to confront delegates from the opposing side directly. The committee will be fast, stakes will be high, and crises constantly evolving. We encourage you to take on every challenge with passion, urgency and a sense of responsibility to rewrite history.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at any time. We look forward to seeing you all in committee!

Until August,

Devanshi Parikh (devanshi.2445@bis.edu.in) - Director (Allies)

Kanav Parikh (kanav.2421@bis.edu.in) - Director (Axis)

Dev Shah (dev.2513@bis.edu.in) & Ira Gandhi (ira.3326@bis.edu.in) - Assistant Directors (Allies)

Nitighya Podar (nitighya.3266@bis.edu.in) & Shlok Manish Bohra (shlok.2565@bis.edu.in) - Assistant Directors (Axis)

INTRODUCTION TO THE JOINT CRISIS COMMITTEE

The Joint Crisis Committee (JCC) is one of the most dynamic and fast-paced committee formats in MUN. Unlike traditional committees, where debates take place within a single committee, a JCC consists of two committees which are interlinked. Decisions taken in one committee directly influence the outcome of the other. One committee will comprise members whose views resonate with the Allied powers, while the other will comprise members whose stance coincides with the Axis powers.

On the first day of the committee, both committees will discuss and debate separately. On the following day, both committees will merge, allowing for direct communication, negotiation and confrontation between delegates.

Committee Mandate

Our committee convenes in the aftermath of the Pearl Harbor attacks in order to address the massive global turn the Second World War has taken. With the USA now at war with Japan, Germany and Italy, the matters of segregation and utilization of military resources between the European and Pacific zones, cooperation with states who have varying priorities and the formalization of coalitions and partnerships, and dealing with territories that are under attack or occupation are of highest importance

The Allies committee should focus on the following:

1. Responding to the immediate losses around the Pacific. This includes the fall of Allied positions in states like the Philippines, Malaya etc.
2. Moving towards a unified and structured Allied coalition/ alliance and creating a consensus on war aims.
3. Strategically prioritizing military capabilities between the various war zones. This includes managing resource commitments from states like India, Canada and more.
4. Managing propaganda and public image after the attacks, especially in the USA.

The Axis committee should focus on the following:

1. Exploiting the momentum created by the attack on Pearl Harbor and the rapid Japanese offensives across the Pacific. This includes the capture of Allied territories such as Hong Kong, Guam and the Philippines.
2. Strengthening strategic coordination between Germany, Japan and Italy by developing a unified Axis grand strategy despite the geographical separation of their theatres of war.
3. Prioritising military and economic resources across the European, Eastern and Pacific fronts while maintaining industrial production and securing critical raw materials such as oil, rubber and steel.
4. Weakening Allied morale and unity through propaganda, diplomacy and intelligence operations, while encouraging anti-colonial and anti-British movements within Allied territories to undermine enemy support.

Communiqué Expectations

As a crisis committee, delegates will be expected to shape the progression of the debate and influence the committee by actively engaging with communiqués. Greater emphasis will be placed on the quality of communiqués rather than the sheer number.

The executive board will look favourably upon communiqués which are detailed, intricate and well thought out. Delegates are encouraged to submit communiqués which are comprehensive and clearly outline objectives, methods of execution and resources involved.

While originality in writing communiqués is needed, all paperwork must be relevant to the committee and meaningfully contribute to the discussion, opening up further avenues for debate. Communiqués should actively move committees forward rather than backward.

Please note that while all paperwork will be marked and graded, not all can be ratified, regardless of quality. We expect delegates to keep the crisis team busy for the duration of the conference.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The roots of the second World War arguably stem from the fragmented international order following the first world war. The treaty of Versailles, signed in 1919, imposed harsh penalties on Germany and its allies, sowing seeds of strong resentment in them. Apart from this, the Great Depression in 1929 had devastating impacts on economies around the globe, creating instability both economically and politically. This instability created fertile grounds for the rise of radicalism, totalitarianism and militarism worldwide, fostering the growth of Fascism in Italy and Germany, and militarism in Japan. These three countries shared an objective: redefining the world order by force. While these states cooperated in various ways through the late 1930s, their alliance was formalized in 1940.

Scarred from the atrocities of World War I, Britain and France adopted a policy of appeasement with Germany in response to its growing aggression in the 1930s, making multiple concessions to Hitler in order to avoid direct confrontation and conflict. Germany's invasion of Poland in 1939 sealed the fact that diplomacy had failed, leading to Britain and France declaring war.

While Europe was entangled in conflict, a parallel war ensued in Asia. Through large scale military action, Japan was expanding its territory rapidly into Southeast Asia. Alarmed by the Japanese expansion, the USA used economic sanctions and embargoes to place Japan in a strategic corner. However, this created great animosity and led to Japan's ultimate decision to attack Pearl Harbor. The United States declared war the next day, and Germany and Italy declared war on the United States days later, converting various regional conflicts into a single global war.

By 1941, the conflict divided the world into two distinct blocs. The Allied powers: USA, UK, Soviet Union, China and commonwealth nations, and the Axis powers: Germany, Japan and Italy. United by ideologies and common enemies, these blocs heightened global tensions significantly. With ensuing military combat and a humanitarian crisis, the outcome of the war at this time remained deeply uncertain.

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Signing Of The Treaty Of Versailles (28th June 1919): The signing of the Treaty of Versailles signalled the end of the First World War. This treaty included many stipulations against Germany and its allies during World War I, primarily targeting Germany. Territorial losses, military restrictions and heavy reparations were placed on Germany. While many Allied powers believed the treaty was necessary to prevent tensions from escalating again, critics argued that it was designed to cause instability in Germany.

The Great Depression (October 24th 1929): The Wall Street Crash of 1929 triggered a global economic meltdown. Unemployment rates, social unrest and political unrest increased throughout Europe as well as the United States. Various governments faced increasing pressures, causing extremist political movements to gain support in several countries. This crisis significantly shaped the political climate of the following decade.

Germany's New Chancellor (30th January 1933): Adolf Hitler was appointed Chancellor of Germany. Over the following years, the Nazi government grew in power and implemented policies which aimed at reversing the effects of the German settlement post WWI, including the Treaty of Versailles. Expanding German influence and strengthening the country's military were some of these changes.

Germany Exits the League of Nations (14th October 1933): Germany officially announced its withdrawal from the League of Nations as well as the Geneva Disarmament Conference. This move reflected the growing dissatisfaction with the current system, which was established after the First World War.

German Rearmament (16th March 1935): Germany publicly announced the expansion of its armed forces. These measures exceeded the limitations set by the Treaty of Versailles. Conscription was reintroduced. While several nations made diplomatic protests, no military response followed.

Italian Invasion of Ethiopia (3rd October 1935): Italy launched a campaign inside Ethiopia, one of the few independent states in Africa. This conflict tested the effectiveness of the League of Nations, which imposed sanctions on Italy but was unable to stop the Italian invasion. This directly illustrated the lack of power the League of Nations possessed over Italy.

Remilitarisation of the Rhineland (7th March 1936): The Rhineland, a region which had remained demilitarised under the Treaty of Versailles as it bordered France, was now occupied by German soldiers. Many Germans believed the Rhineland was a constant reminder of Germany's humiliation and a tactical disadvantage as it provided an avenue for Western countries to invade. Both the United Kingdom and France vehemently objected but did not intervene militarily.

Spanish Civil War (17th July 1936): The Spanish Civil War between Republican and Nationalist forces attracted international involvement, with the Soviet Union sending weapons in support of the republican government and Mussolini and Hitler extending their support. Britain and France did not get involved directly. The war became an arena for testing tactics, equipment and ideologies such as the German Luftwaffe that would appear during the Second World War.

Formation of the Rome-Berlin Axis (25th October 1936): Germany and Italy formalised a closer political partnership through the Rome-Berlin Axis. This agreement laid the foundation for collaboration between the two states. This is what caused the Axis powers to receive their name.

Anti-Comintern Pact (25th November 1936): This pact between Germany and Japan was directed against communism. Italy joined this pact in 1937. The agreement made the existing ties between the future Axis powers concrete.

Second Sino-Japanese War (7th July 1937): A full-scale conflict erupted between China and Japan following the Marco Polo Bridge Incident. The war expanded instability in East Asia.

Anschluss with Austria (12th March 1938): Hitler's aim was to include all German-speaking people in the Reich to form Greater Germany. Many in Austria supported Anschluss. Hitler instructed the Austrian Nazi Party to cause political unrest and demand Anschluss. The Austrian Chancellor appealed to Britain and France for aid. Hitler demanded the resignation of the chancellor, replacing him with the Nazi Leader Seyss-Inquart. German troops marched unopposed in Austria, allowing Germany to win a plebiscite in the region with 99% of the votes. The British Head of State, Neville Chamberlain, supported this union.

Munich Conference (29-30th September 1938): The Munich Conference was held to discuss German demands since Germany demanded a takeover of the Sudetenland. Italy, Germany, Britain and France were present for this conference, but neither the Soviet Union or Czech Republic were included. The Munich Agreement stated that the Sudetenland would be given to Germany and plebiscites would be held in other parts of Czechoslovakia where German residents resided. A guarantee was also established that neither the remainder of Czechoslovakia nor Poland would be attacked in the future.

German Occupation of Czechoslovakia (15th March 1939): German forces entered Prague and established the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia. Slovakia became a separate state which aligned itself with Germany. The president was forced into placing the fortunes of his country into the hands of the German Reich. The German army occupied Prague on 15th March 1939

British and French Guarantees to Poland (31st March 1939): Following the events in Czechoslovakia, Britain and France issued guarantees of support for Polish independence and military support if needed.

Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact (23rd August 1939): Germany and the Soviet Union signed a non-aggression pact. This meant that both states agreed not to attack one another. The agreement reduced the prospect of a two-front conflict for Germany. For the Soviet Union, the pact provided additional time to continue military expansion and reorganisation following the reforms and challenges of the preceding decade. The agreement also contained secret protocols which divided Eastern Europe into German and Soviet spheres of influence, outlining areas in which each power would hold predominant influence.

German Invasion of Poland (1st September 1939): German forces invaded Poland. Many consider this the start of the Second World War. The invasion followed months of escalating tensions and the breakdown of all diplomatic channels. Two days later, Britain and France declared war on Germany. The Soviet Union entered eastern Poland on 17 September in accordance with the secret protocol of the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact.

Britain and France Declare War on Germany (3rd September 1939): Following the German invasion of Poland, Britain and France declared war on Germany since Germany refused to withdraw its forces. This marks the beginning of WWII in Europe.

Soviet Invasion of Eastern Poland (17th September 1939): In accordance with the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact The Soviet Union invaded eastern Poland. Poland was thereafter divided between Germany and the Soviet Union.

German Invasion of Denmark and Norway (9th April 1940): Germany invaded Denmark and Norway. This was done to secure strategic resources and strengthen its position in Northern Europe.

German Offensive in Western Europe (10th May 1940): Germany launched attacks against Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and France. They used Blitzkrieg tactics and rapidly advanced through Western Europe.

Dunkirk Evacuation (26th May - 4th June 1940): Thousands of Allied soldiers were evacuated from Dunkirk to Britain as German forces advanced across France.

French Armistice (22nd June 1940): The French surrendered to Germany. Northern France came under German occupation while Vichy government controlled the south

Battle of Britain (10th July - 31st October 1940): Germany launched an air campaign against Britain. The Royal Air Force successfully defended Britain which forced Germany to abandon plans for an invasion.

Tripartite Pact (27th September 1940): Germany, Italy and Japan signed the Tripartite Pact. This formally established the Axis alliance.

Lend-Lease Act (11th March 1941): The United States began supplying military equipment and resources to countries fighting the Axis powers.

Operation Barbarossa (22nd June 1941): Germany invaded the Soviet Union. This opened the Eastern Front and greatly expanded the war.

Attack on Pearl Harbor (7th December 1941): Japan launched a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor.

ELABORATION ON IMPORTANT EVENTS

Great Depression (24 October 1929)

One of the primary factors which led to the Second World War was the Great Depression caused by the Stock Market Crash of 24 October 1929 because the depression affected the economies of several countries, eroded people's trust in democratic regimes and led them to adopt policies of militarization, totalitarianism and expansionism. The collapse of American financial institutions, industries, international trade and employment was felt around the world. However, the effects of the crisis were particularly severe in Germany. The Treaty of Versailles and reparations for the costs of the war were already having their effect on the country when millions of people became jobless and hungry. It is not surprising that the Nazi Party and its leader Adolf Hitler received mass support from Germans, promising them employment,

patriotism and the opportunity for revenge in regard to the Treaty. Thus, the Nazis provided a clear motive for the future German policy of European expansion. In the case of Japan, much of its economy relied on exports. However, the Great Depression occurred and worldwide trade declined sharply. As a result, Japanese politicians and military leaders were forced to seek alternative means of survival through territorial expansion and military aggression.

The economic depression also contributed to consolidating the fascist rule in Italy under Benito Mussolini. Nationalism and militarism were used to cover up its inherent weaknesses. Conquests, especially African conquests, added prestige. Generally speaking, the economic depression led to loss of trust in moderate political leaders and democracies in many parts of Europe, Asia and America. Extremist regimes capitalized on people's fears, propaganda and promises of recovery to justify their rearmament and territorial expansion. It also led to lack of international cooperation as countries became inward-looking, imposed greater restrictions on international trade and competed fiercely for limited resources. It led to more recession in the world and hence raised chances of war. Due to the weaknesses associated with the international system then, the organization failed to check aggression perpetrated by countries like Japan, Italy and later Germany and thus demonstrated that countries could defy international law without suffering serious consequences. From the above analysis, it can be seen that the Great Depression did not only affect the economies of countries but was also a political factor that provided the necessary environment for dictatorships and wars.

Anti-Comintern Pact (25 November 1936)

The importance of the signing of the Anti-Comintern Pact by Germany and Japan on 25 November 1936 is connected with the fact that for the first time there was a connection of a political and ideological nature between two future Axis powers. By signing this document, Germany and Japan declared that they were ready to join forces to fight against the same enemy, which is the communist regime. The question of what this document had to do with becomes clear when the word "Comintern" is analyzed. It means Communist International, the existence of which contributed to the dissemination of communism around the world. When discussing Germany and Japan, it should be said that their plans of expansion and regimes were under threat from communism, which, in the opinion of leaders like Adolf Hitler, posed a challenge to the ambitions of these countries.

While the Anti-Comintern Pact was initially regarded as an anti-communist pact, its real significance lay in the fact that it was one of the earliest moves that helped to create an axis as both Germany and Japan had a common militarism and aggressive tendency towards international politics. Other states of the world, especially Italy, were able to understand that aggressive powers were forming due to this pact, which forced Italy to join them; thus, strengthening the axis further. This pact made such states like the Soviet Union, Britain, France, and America scared because it showed that the world will be divided into blocks in the future and cooperation between aggressive dictators will increase. It can therefore be noted that considering the long-term effects of the Anti-Comintern Pact, one could state that it impacted the World War Two politics framework in terms of German-Japanese cooperation, increased tensions in the Atlantic-Pacific region and the approaching global war.

Second Sino-Japanese War (7 July 1937)

The Second Sino-Japanese War never started with the official proclamation of any policy but rather through an isolated gunfire exchange at the Marco Polo Bridge near Beiping on the night of 7 July 1937, an event of such little importance that both parties tried to resolve it locally. Weeks later, though, the situation escalated out of control, resulting in the start of total continental war between the Japanese forces and a Chinese government, albeit weaker militarily, which did not show signs of yielding.

Since before the war, the Japanese military had seen China not only as an important source of resources but also as a vital component in its strategy. The Japanese conquest of Manchuria in 1931 proved the practicality of continental expansion, with the Japanese army hoping for an equally easy victory in this new confrontation with China, thus guaranteeing its hegemony in the region. But instead, they found themselves involved in a long-term struggle with a huge loss of human and material resources. The Nationalist government under Chiang Kai-shek retreated westward rather than surrender, forcing Japan to garrison enormous stretches of Chinese territory while never achieving the decisive political settlement it sought. By the time the wider war began in 1939, Japan had over a million soldiers committed to China with no clear path to withdrawal.

The war was one that included horrors on an unprecedented scale, the most notorious being the infamous massacre in Nanjing that occurred from December 13th to January 25th of 1937, during which hundreds of thousands of Chinese civilians and POWs were slaughtered by Japanese troops. The atrocities sparked international condemnation, including in America, where sympathy for China was high to begin with. This resulted in aid coming out of America in support of the nationalist government, while also leading to an increased conviction on the part of the American government regarding Japan's intentions in Asia. Thus the Second Sino-Japanese War marked a point from which a worsening of relations between America and Japan could no longer be avoided.

In relation to this committee's focus, the importance of the Second Sino-Japanese War is that it was what made Japan strategically overextended prior to Pearl Harbor even occurring. Japan in 1941 was a country that had already begun fighting a massive land war, while at the same time trying to seize oil-rich areas, and is now in a confrontation with both Britain and America.

Anschluss with Austria (12th March 1938)

The Anschluss of Austria in March 1938 represented a major turning point on the road to the Second World War because it demonstrated both the growing strength of Nazi Germany and the international community's inability to effectively resist German expansion. Despite the Treaty of Versailles and the Treaty of Saint-Germain explicitly prohibiting political union between Germany and Austria, German troops entered Austria without military opposition and incorporated the country into the German Reich. The annexation added nearly seven million people to Germany's population, increased its industrial and economic resources, and provided control over Austria's military assets and strategic position in Central Europe. More importantly, the lack of meaningful resistance from Britain, France and the League of Nations convinced Hitler that the Western powers were unwilling to intervene militarily to enforce the post-World War I settlement. This emboldened Germany to pursue further territorial expansion, most notably in the Sudetenland and later the rest of Czechoslovakia. The Anschluss therefore not only

strengthened Germany economically and militarily but also encouraged increasingly aggressive foreign policy decisions that accelerated Europe's march toward war.

Tripartite Pact (27th September 1940)

With the signing of the Tripartite Pact in Berlin on 27th September 1940, Germany, Italy and Japan had moved to a more organized form of cooperation where they formally recognized each other as allies of common cause. Clause number two of the pact, which focused on defense, stated that should any of the parties become involved in war with a state that is not involved in a state of war with the said party, other two parties will lend all forms of assistance necessary for success of the struggle. Such specific language of the clause only pointed out to a single power: America.

For Germany, the pact ensured its safety from further entanglement in European matters because at the time, Germany already had a war in Europe whereas America posed the possibility of future war in the Pacific area. Similarly, it served as insurance against attack from the Americans because in case of an attack, they would know that Germany would respond in the Atlantic Ocean.

Attitude of the American public and government had changed as well to support the British without reservations. Moreover, with the attack on Pearl Harbor, America entered the war which rendered logic behind the pact meaningless.

In addition, it made official the name of the alliance. Since their alliance began in 1936, both Germany and Italy have referred to their alliance as the Rome-Berlin Axis; however, with the addition of Japan to the Axis system, the Axis Powers were now the name of the actual alliance. However, the pact was rather empty for a number of reasons. First of all, neither Germany nor Japan fought on the same front; they lacked any form of coordination in grand strategy. Moreover, there was no intelligence or military planning shared between any of the signatories with the other two. In addition, the role of Italy's military was quite detrimental to the Alliance. The Axis powers had only an illusion of cooperation.

The Lend-Lease Act (11th March 1941)

By autumn 1940, Britain had won the Battle of Britain but found itself increasingly strapped for money. At that time, Britain was spending some three million pounds daily on the war effort and rapidly running out of foreign currencies and American stocks, which it was selling off in order to purchase American goods under the terms of cash-and-carry agreements. In December 1940, Churchill penned his famous letter to Roosevelt stating that the hour was coming when Britain would no longer be able to pay for the ships, planes, and weapons it required. This is when Roosevelt responded by passing the Lend-Lease Act, a revolutionary piece of legislation which completely redefined American neutrality.

Passed into law by Congress on 11th March 1941, the Lend-Lease Act provided the President with the power to lend, lease, or otherwise transfer materials essential to the prosecution of the war to any nation whose defence he believed to be necessary to ensure American security. The financial system established by the legislation was set up in such a way as to avoid falling into the controversy over war debts which had poisoned relations between the Americans and the British following the end of the First World War.

It is clear from what has been described above that the significance of the Act transcended merely material considerations. Indeed, the Lend-Lease program was taken to be a definitive policy declaration of the American government and it was seen as such in London as well as Tokyo. The impact of

Lend-Lease could be seen in London and Tokyo in different ways. In London, the Lend-Lease meant that survival was now possible whereas in Tokyo, it reaffirmed a consistent trend in American commitment that had already emerged and which showed no sign of slowing down. Each step taken by America, from the embargo of aviation fuel to the prohibition on scrap iron and steel and now the military supply of its enemies to boot, pointed in one direction.

Attack on Pearl Harbor (7 December 1941)

Pearl Harbor attack, which was carried out in 1941 on 7th December, is seen as a significant moment in the history of World War II, indeed. In reality, the Pearl Harbor attack forced the USA to participate in World War II actively, thus making it a world scale conflict in several ways. Until that point, the USA only participated in the conflict by supporting other countries such as the UK, China, and many others, but it still did not involve itself directly since it was neutral at that time. Japan carried out this attack because of some conflicts between Japan and the USA that escalated to a point where any peaceful resolution was impossible anymore. In reality, Japan kept expanding its territory all through the previous decade and attacked Manchuria in 1931, and started a war with China in 1937. The USA did not approve such behavior and imposed economic sanctions on Japan, namely an oil embargo in 1941. As Japan relied heavily on importing oil, the question that arose was, if they did not get it, it would do irrevocable harm to them in the long run, with respect to their economy, naval forces, and air force. It was clear to the decision-makers of Japan that there were only two alternatives open to them, either give up their aggressive policy stance, abandon their conquered territories, which was unacceptable to them, or conquer the mineral-rich areas of Southeast Asia, which included Dutch East Indies, British Malaya, and other parts influenced by Europeans.

They were aware that this would not go unchallenged, as the Americans would definitely intervene militarily in view of the fact that they would not stand idle watching Japan conquer parts of Southeast Asia that were considered as "their backyard". Therefore, a plan was devised according to which the American Pacific Fleet stationed at Pearl Harbor would be attacked. The Japanese planes attacked Pearl Harbor in Hawaii on 7 December 1941. The attacks caused considerable damage to battleships, aircrafts, and military equipment. Moreover, lots of Americans were killed in those attacks. Nevertheless, the Japanese failed in their attempts to destroy important aircrafts and plants of the USA. Rather than frightening the American people out of participating in the war, this event made them even more eager to do so. On December 8, 1941, the American President Franklin D. Roosevelt announced that this was "a day which will live in infamy," and he declared war on Japan. Later, Germany and Italy declared war on the USA, bringing the country to participate in both European and Pacific wars. As a result, the whole power of the US was used by the Allies. Factories started manufacturing large amounts of ships, planes, tanks, and ammunition; millions of Americans entered the war. Therefore, this attack was the critical point when WWII got its full meaning of being a worldwide war, in which all important countries participated, resulting in the defeat of Axis countries, namely, Japan, Germany, and Italy. In that way, it can be considered one of the key moments in WWII history.

IMPORTANT MILITARY TECHNOLOGY HELD BY NATIONS

Germany

Germany's military relied heavily on mechanised warfare and close coordination between tanks, infantry and aircraft. Its armoured forces were primarily equipped with the Panzer III and Panzer IV, which formed the backbone of German operations during the invasions of Poland, France and the Soviet Union.

The German Air Force, the Luftwaffe, operated aircraft such as the Messerschmitt Bf 109, one of the most advanced fighter aircraft of the period, and dive bombers used extensively in Blitzkrieg operations.

At sea, Germany made extensive use of Type VII U-boats, which played a central role in the Battle of the Atlantic. German air-defence systems also utilised radar stations to detect incoming aircraft.

Japan

Japan possessed one of the most advanced naval aviation forces in the world. The Japanese Navy's carrier strike force operated aircraft such as the Mitsubishi A6M Zero, a highly manoeuvrable fighter with exceptional range, as well as the Nakajima B5N torpedo bombers and dive bombers, all of which were used during the attack on Pearl Harbor. Japan's fleet included six major aircraft carriers, the largest concentration of carrier power in the world at the time.

Italy

The Regia Marina maintained one of the largest navies in Europe, including modern battleships such as the Littorio and Vittorio Veneto.

Italian air power relied heavily on aircraft such as the Macchi C.202 Folgore, regarded as one of Italy's most effective fighter aircraft during the war.

United States

The United States Navy operated modern aircraft carriers including the USS Enterprise, USS Lexington and USS Saratoga, which became increasingly important after the Pearl Harbor attack. American armoured units were equipped with the M3 Stuart light tank.

The United States was also a leader in radar technology, deploying radar systems on ships, coastal installations and military airfields. Aircraft such as the P-40 Warhawk formed an important part of American air power in 1941.

United Kingdom

Britain's air defence system relied heavily on the Chain Home radar network, the world's first integrated air-defence radar system. The Royal Air Force operated the famous Supermarine Spitfire and Hawker Hurricane, both of which played major roles during the Battle of Britain. British armoured forces in North Africa utilised tanks. The Royal Navy also operated aircraft carriers alongside one of the world's largest battleship fleets.

Soviet Union

The Soviet Union possessed some of the most advanced tank designs of the war. The T-34 combined mobility, armour and firepower in a way that surprised German commanders during Operation Barbarossa. The Soviets also fielded the heavily armoured KV-1 tank. Soviet aircraft included the Yakovlev Yak-1 fighter and the Ilyushin Il-2 Sturmovik, a ground-attack aircraft that would become one of the most produced military aircraft in history.

QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER (QARMA)

Issue Identification

1. What is the specific problem or crisis being addressed?
2. How does it threaten international peace and security?

Objectives and Goals

1. What are the primary goals of the resolution?
2. How will the resolution contribute to resolving the issue?

Parties Involved

1. Which countries or entities are directly involved in the situation?
2. Are there any regional or international organisations relevant to the issue?

Means of Resolution

1. What diplomatic, economic, or other measures are proposed to address the issue?
2. Are there any sanctions or incentives suggested?

Humanitarian Considerations

1. How will the resolution ensure the protection of civilians and respect for human rights?
2. Are there provisions for humanitarian aid and assistance?

Enforcement Mechanisms

1. Is there a plan for enforcing the resolution, and if so, what are the specifics?
2. Are there potential consequences for non-compliance?

Timeline

1. What is the proposed timeline for the implementation of the resolution?
2. Are there specific milestones or deadlines?

Monitoring and Reporting

1. How will the resolution be monitored?
2. Are there reporting mechanisms in place to assess progress?

International Cooperation

1. How does the resolution encourage cooperation among member states and international organisations?
2. Are there provisions for joint actions or collaborative efforts?

Resource Allocation

1. What resources, such as personnel, funding, or technology, are required for the resolution's implementation?
2. How will these resources be obtained and distributed?

Post-Resolution Stability

1. How does the resolution contribute to long-term stability and security in the region?
2. Are there measures to prevent a recurrence of the issue?

GUIDE TO FURTHER RESEARCH

Economic Warfare, Oil and Trade

1. <https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/military-history-and-science/freezing-japanese-assets>
2. https://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/ns120.asp

Asia-Pacific

3. <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/liberation-china-and-pacific>
4. <https://www.asianstudies.org/publications/ea/archives/japan-the-u-s-and-the-asian-pacific-war/>

Intelligence and Technological Advancements

5. <https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/military-history-and-science/scientific-and-technological-advances-world-war-ii>
6. <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/scientific-and-technological-advances-world-war-ii>
7. https://api.pageplace.de/preview/DT0400.9781135262501_A23789377/preview-9781135262501_A23789377.pdf

Works Cited

- Bell, Michael. "First Washington Conference: ARCADIA." *The National WWII Museum* | New Orleans, 14 Jan. 2022, <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/first-washington-conference-arcadia>.
- Chen, Peter. "Soviet-Japanese Neutrality Pact." *WW2DB*, 2021, https://ww2db.com/battle_spec.php?battle_id=199.
- Harrison, Mark. *World War II: Economic Warfare*. 2018, https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/economics/staff/mharrison/war_and_economy/10_ww2_economic_warfare.pdf.
- National Army Museum. "Second World War | National Army Museum." *Www.Nam.Ac.Uk*, 2025, <https://www.nam.ac.uk/explore/second-world-war>.
- Goeschel, Christian. "Performing the New Order: The Tripartite Pact, 1940–1945." *Contemporary European History*, vol. 33, no. 2, 13 July 2022, pp. 1–17, <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/contemporary-european-history/article/performing-the-new-order-the-tripartite-pact-19401945/C8C90DF43CF992DA8353AF6BDC1814E6>, 10.1017/S0960777322000340. Accessed 10 July 2026.
- Richie, Alexandra. "The Invasion of Poland." *The National WWII Museum* | New Orleans, Alexandra Richie, 17 Oct. 2023, <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/invasion-poland-september-1939>.
- The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. "Dunkirk Evacuation." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 15 Feb. 2019, <https://www.britannica.com/event/Dunkirk-evacuation>.

“Britain and France Declare War.” *Encyclopedia.Ushmm.Org*,

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/timeline-event/holocaust/1939-1941/britain-and-france-declare-war>. Accessed 10 July 2026.

“Invasion from the East.” *Warfare History Network*, 26 Aug. 2025,

<https://warfarehistorynetwork.com/article/soviet-invasion-of-poland/>.

“Swift Invasion of Denmark.” *Warfare History Network*, 25 Sept. 2025,

<https://warfarehistorynetwork.com/article/german-invasion-of-denmark/>.

“USCG at Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941.” *Www.History.Uscg.Mil*,

<https://www.history.uscg.mil/Browse-by-Topic/Conflicts/World-War-II/Pearl-Harbor-December-7-1941/>.