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Chalker Jack Bridger Chalker: Stopping briefly in India, his ship docked in Singapore on 29 January, just 17 days before the garrison faced a humiliating surrender to the Japanese on 15 February. After initial imprisonment at the vast Changi POW camp, he moved first to Havelock Road camp to work on the docks, before being sent north to Thailand arriving at Ban Pong on 19 October. Marched kilometres north through raw jungle to Konyu River camp, Jack worked on the construction of the Thai-Burma Railway. Here the combination of disease, malnutrition and working like slaves meant mortality was high. During an interview in , Jack recalled that early on in Changi he had drawn pictures of sexy ladies for his comrades for whatever the going currency was. But soon he was producing depictions of imprisonment in and around Singapore, including examples of Japanese brutality. On the railway he expanded this work to include the beautiful things that surrounded them – breath-taking scenery, exotic flora and abundant wildlife – as well as details of camp life. Later, at the base hospital camps, he concentrated on recording the medical problems and the improvised equipment used for treatments. In addition he also filled notebooks with anatomical studies. All this work was done at great risk as any form of record-keeping was strictly forbidden by the Japanese. There he completed and added to his collection of drawings and paintings, some of which were used in subsequent war crime tribunals as well as in medical journals in Australia. He retired in . After the war, Jack did not involve himself with the Far East POW community and for many years his artwork from captivity was largely unknown in Britain. However, eventually Jack was tracked down to his studio in rural Somerset. He brought photographic copies of his railway art collection, which he presented to the School. His links and friendships with staff in Liverpool continued throughout the rest of his life. Tim Mercer, who published the volume, said: No bitterness, no regrets and he even said he would not have missed his time as a prisoner of war for anything – Cheers Jack..! Those who knew him remember a delightfully modest and unassuming man. Jack Chalker died on 15 November , aged . Acknowledgements Special thanks to Adrian Chalker and Tim Mercer for their help in compiling this tribute.

### Chapter 2 : Second World War / WWII, Southeast Asia, Philippines, rotting corpse Stock Photo: - Alamy

*The South-East Asian Theatre of World War II was the name given to the campaigns of the Pacific War in Burma, Ceylon, India, Thailand, the Philippines, Indochina, Malaya and Singapore.*

In August, the Allies created the combined South East Asian Command, to assume overall strategic command of all air, sea and land operations of all national contingents in the theatre. The secondary advance was "along the New Guinea-N. On 15 August this was expanded to include the rest parts of Dutch East Indies and southern part of French Indochina. Command arrangements in SEAC were always complicated. Ideally there should have been under the Supreme Commander a Commander in Chief for each of the land sea and air forces. To avoid a potentially cumbersome chain of command and overlapping effort Mountbatten gave orders in December for the two air forces to be integrated under the name Eastern Air Command. At sea, the command structure was relatively simple, since the Royal Navy was providing almost all naval forces in the area. This photograph, taken in February, is from his tour of the Arakan front, as part of the Burma Campaign. It was not until late that the land forces chain of command was clarified, after Stilwell was recalled to Washington. His overall role, and the CBI command were then split among three people: Once most of Burma was re-captured by Fourteenth Army, the command turned its attention towards its next major operational objective: However, the use of atomic bombs on the Japanese mainland brought the war to an abrupt end. The command shifted its emphasis from combat operations to military government, and the repatriation of internees and prisoners of war. The borders of SEAC were adjusted in the aftermath of the war. French Indochina was added, along with Borneo – most of which had already been captured by Australian forces, under the South West Pacific Command – and Java. This added immensely to the problems of the command. Western governments expected SEAC to re-establish colonial regimes in territories lost to Japan in 1945, and in which anti-colonial, nationalist forces had gained strength. British Commonwealth troops were landed in the Dutch East Indies Indonesia and Indochina to facilitate the return of forces from the pre-war colonial powers. Sarawak and Sumatra did not prove to be major headaches for the British, except that one Japanese unit in Borneo refused to surrender until November. Thailand, although it had officially been an ally of Japan, quickly resumed both its independence and its ties with the western powers. The Allies found that their war-time allies in the Viet Minh in Indochina, and Indonesian nationalist forces in the East Indies, were well armed, well-organised and determined. It was intended that British forces would temporarily enforce military government over a small section of Indochina, because of local resistance, logistics and French sensibilities. However, in the end the commander of British forces declared de facto military government, to make it possible for French forces to return. Indonesian National Revolution, 1946 [ edit ] Aided by armed militias formed by the Japanese during the occupation, Indonesian nationalists in Java declared the Dutch East Indies a republic, and independent from the Netherlands. However they initially avoided significant conflict with the nationalists. It was only possible for British forces to establish military government in parts of Indonesia, and they found that the location of Allied prisoners of war – and civilians interned by Japanese forces – were sometimes used by nationalists in bargaining for political ends. British troops found themselves in increasing conflict with the nationalists. The nationalists attacked JSP garrisons awaiting repatriation, to seize their arms. A British Brigadier, A. Mallaby, was killed, as he pushed for the nationalists to surrender their weapons. As a result, on 10 November, Surabaya was attacked by British forces, leading to the bloody Battle of Surabaya. The city was secured later that month. The battle for Surabaya was the bloodiest single engagement of the Indonesian National Revolution. However, the British were reluctant to devote their scarce resources to a defence of Dutch interests, and withdrew from Indonesia. It was no longer felt that a joint command was needed in the area.

**Chapter 3 : South East Asia Command - Wikipedia**

*From the Marco Polo Bridge Incident of July 7 to the eventual surrender of Japan on August 15, , the Second World War ravaged Asia and Europe alike, with bloodshed and bombardment spreading as far as Hawaii in the United States.*

June 21 Battle of Okinawa ends Guadalcanal After the Japanese defeat at Midway in June , the war in the Pacific shifted south, as the Japanese focused on winning complete control of the Solomon Islands. They already had a strong foothold at the north end of the island chain, but occupying the central island, Guadalcanal, was crucial. When the Japanese took Guadalcanal in July , the move threatened Allied shipping throughout the region, and Allied leaders were determined to respond. On August 7, the Allies launched an offensive on Guadalcanal via an amphibious landing of more than 16, U. Marines onto the island. The landing went relatively smoothly, although the Japanese naval forces sank eight Allied cruisers, two heavy carriers, and fourteen destroyers, killing more than 1, men. Once on the island, the Marines found little resistance at first, since the only Japanese present were construction workers building military facilities. The Americans soon captured an airfield, which they quickly made operational, and all was quiet except for a series of Japanese air raids, which were fought off with the help of U. By mid-October, however, Japan began streaming troops onto the opposite end of the island, sending wave after wave of soldiers despite terrible losses to American gunfire. The Japanese fought to the last man in virtually every engagement, regardless of the odds, which was shocking and intimidating to the U. Attrition and limited supplies eventually resulted in unsustainable losses for the Japanese, but it was a slow process: New Guinea While the Allied campaign in Guadalcanal was going on, the United States and Australia launched a joint offensive on November 16, , into New Guinea, the control of which the Japanese and Allied forces had both been struggling over for many months. As at Guadalcanal, the Japanese displayed a tenacious will to fight for every inch of territory, regardless of the cost in human lives. Although the majority of Japanese forces were driven off the island by January , the Allies were unable to remove them fully, and fighting in New Guinea continued well into Britain, along with its colonial armies in India, took responsibility for containing this portion of the conflict. The British campaign did not go well, however, and on March 8, , the Burmese port of Rangoon fell to Japan. This setback was a particularly bitter loss for the Allies, as it had been a primary supply point and the site of a crucial base for the British Royal Air Force. By May, the Japanese had driven the Allies back across the Indian border. During the rest of , British-Indian forces launched minor offensives into Burma, but with little success. It was only in mid, when the Allies organized a new command structure in the region—the Southeast Asia Command—that they made any substantial progress in driving the Japanese back. Under this new command, the British cooperated with the Chinese to advance on the Burmese border, while U. A major focus of the campaign was to capture the town of Myitkyina, which was a principal Japanese communications post. There was a prolonged struggle for the Myitkyina, which finally fell on August 4, Another goal was to secure the so-called Burma Road, which linked Burma and China but was blocked by Japanese forces. The Burma Road was reopened in January, Finally, the Allies recaptured Rangoon on May 3, The Island Campaigns Following their success in the Solomon Islands, the Allies fought fiercely throughout and to free the many other South Pacific island groups that Japan had seized earlier in the war. Many of these islands had formerly been territories of the United States, Britain, or other Allied countries. The largest of the island groups included the Marshall Islands, the Marianas, the Philippines, and the Ryukyu Islands. The battles took place on land, on the sea, and in the air.

**Chapter 4 : Second World War in South East Asia: Ah Chon Ho: calendrierdelascience.com: Books**

*South East Asia Research*, 19, 4, pp doi: /sear Review article *The Japanese occupation of South East Asia during the Second World War* 1 Gregg Huff and Shinobu Majima.

Japan welcomed nationalist leaders whom the colonial governments had forced into exile. Japan specifically appealed to Southeast Asians by: Southeast Asia would provide raw materials for Japanese industries and food for the Japanese people. Southeast Asia would eventually become a market for Japanese manufactured products. Dower, *War Without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War*. Pantheon, New York, , p. It reveals many of the ways the Japanese signified their superiority vis-a-vis other Asians. Not only is his inferior "proper place" as a race, nation, and culture absolutely clear, but so also is his subordinate role in the division of labor within the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere. Seizing the anti-colonialist argument, the Japanese army encouraged the Thais to see Britain as the enemy, as the master puppeteer or manipulator of Thailand. Japanese soldier aggressively charging Britain. Japan promised to drive the British predatory lion out and implied that the U. The Roosevelt-faced animal would stand by and let Britain be ousted. John Bull being ousted. Japanese was welcomed in some places by cheering crowds. Early positive reactions and welcome to Japan often faded as Japan was unable to fulfill its promises. In general in the early part of the war, while Japan was unchallenged and still able to promise Southeast Asians their independence and an increased share of the economic development, the Southeast Asians went along with Japan. By late and early the U. It became increasingly clear that Japan was over-extended. It was running out of funds, personnel replacements, and fuel. Most Japanese troops in Southeast Asia were living off the land with infrequent or no deliveries of supplies or war materiel from home. Many Southeast Asians shifted back to neutral or pro-West positions as it became clear that Japan would lose the war late , early They stepped up to leadership roles. Japan granted Burma independence August , but it was independence in name only. Japan was really overextended. Burmese nationalists realized that Japan could not deliver on its promises. Viet Minh had resisted the French earlier. General MacArthur and Philippines had begged U. Bitter memories of Japanese barbarism remain with Filipinos even 50 years later. Chinese, Indians, and Malays were quite distinct communities rather than in a nationalistic union. National heroes from Dutch prisons in Indonesia When it was clear that independence more symbolic than real, outbreaks against Japan began to increase. Nationalists used the World War II period to organize and develop. They were ready to fight Dutch when they tried to return Review growth of Sareket Islam from previous lecture. Thailand entered the war on the side of Japan and against the U. By the time the war was over, Thailand was against Japan and on the side of the U. How did this flip-flop happen? Was Thailand really pro-Allied or pro-Axis? Most importantly, Thai leaders had not succumbed to getting too deeply in debt to the West. Thailand had experienced a flamboyant growth in modern nationalist feelings in the s like other areas in Southeast Asia. Constitutional monarchy replaced absolute monarch in The nationalist movement emphasized Thailand becoming a part of the world culture and economy. Thai music and literature flourished. Military emphases, Philbun affected dress of European militarists. Many in Thailand admired Japanese achievements in industrialization, economic development, and military diplomacy. Japanese offered to help get back the former "Thai" territories in Laos, Shan states, Malaya, to help Thai achieve their Pan Thai goals. Was Philbun forced to or did he agree to allow Japan passage in return for these returned regions? There was also a Seri Thai group in the U. Pridi - Phibun rival Free Thai students sabotage Japanese trains, buildings. The Thai government did not give support to the 30, Japanese troops. Thais forced Japan to pay gold later. Underground Seri Thai became government of Thailand August once Japan was clearly losing the war. Seri Thai with U. Atomic bombs had ended the war earlier than Allies planned. The war in Asia ended earlier than the British, Dutch, and French had thought it would. The Allies had planned to re-enter their Southeast Asian colonies sometime between September and November of The British, casting Thailand as an enemy-occupied nation, had intended to "liberate" Thailand from the Japanese in September or October. When the British arrived in September as per plan, they were too late to take over. British demands 21 on Thailand; British wanted to treat Thailand as enemy. Decline in Western political interest and power. This continues;

even though Japan "loses the war," it earns the peace. Many Southeast Asian nationalists saw the shifting power structures, the chaos, and crisis of rule during World War II as a time of opportunity. They seized the opportunity to advance their causes. They demonstrated their leadership competencies.

**Chapter 5 : South-East Asian theatre of World War II - Wikipedia**

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For more information, please see the full notice. Decolonization of Asia and Africa, 1945–1975. Between 1945 and 1975, three dozen new states in Asia and Africa achieved autonomy or outright independence from their European colonial rulers. In some areas, it was peaceful, and orderly. In many others, independence was achieved only after a protracted revolution. A few newly independent countries acquired stable governments almost immediately; others were ruled by dictators or military juntas for decades, or endured long civil wars. Some European governments welcomed a new relationship with their former colonies; others contested decolonization militarily. The process of decolonization coincided with the new Cold War between the Soviet Union and the United States, and with the early development of the new United Nations. Decolonization was often affected by superpower competition, and had a definite impact on the evolution of that competition. It also significantly changed the pattern of international relations in a more general sense. The creation of so many new countries, some of which occupied strategic locations, others of which possessed significant natural resources, and most of which were desperately poor, altered the composition of the United Nations and political complexity of every region of the globe. In the mid to late 19th century, the European powers colonized much of Africa and Southeast Asia. During the decades of imperialism, the industrializing powers of Europe viewed the African and Asian continents as reservoirs of raw materials, labor, and territory for future settlement. In most cases, however, significant development and European settlement in these colonies was sporadic. However, the colonies were exploited, sometimes brutally, for natural and labor resources, and sometimes even for military conscripts. In addition, the introduction of colonial rule drew arbitrary natural boundaries where none had existed before, dividing ethnic and linguistic groups and natural features, and laying the foundation for the creation of numerous states lacking geographic, linguistic, ethnic, or political affinity. After the Japanese surrender in 1945, local nationalist movements in the former Asian colonies campaigned for independence rather than a return to European colonial rule. In many cases, as in Indonesia and French Indochina, these nationalists had been guerrillas fighting the Japanese after European surrenders, or were former members of colonial military establishments. These independence movements often appealed to the United States Government for support. While the United States generally supported the concept of national self-determination, it also had strong ties to its European allies, who had imperial claims on their former colonies. The Cold War only served to complicate the U.S. position. Several of the NATO allies asserted that their colonial possessions provided them with economic and military strength that would otherwise be lost to the alliance. The U.S. Government did not force the issue, it encouraged the European imperial powers to negotiate an early withdrawal from their overseas colonies. The United States granted independence to the Philippines in 1946. This might serve to shift the international balance of power in favor of the Soviet Union and remove access to economic resources from the U.S. Events such as the Indonesian struggle for independence from the Netherlands in 1945–50, the Vietnamese war against France in 1945–54, and the nationalist and professed socialist takeovers of Egypt and Iran served to reinforce such fears, even if new governments did not directly link themselves to the Soviet Union. Thus, the United States used aid packages, technical assistance and sometimes even military intervention to encourage newly independent nations in the Third World to adopt governments that aligned with the West. The Soviet Union deployed similar tactics in an effort to encourage new nations to join the communist bloc, and attempted to convince newly decolonized countries that communism was an intrinsically non-imperialist economic and political ideology. The newly independent nations that emerged in the 1950s and the 1960s became an important factor in changing the balance of power within the United Nations. These new member states had a few characteristics in common; they were non-white, with developing economies, facing internal problems that were the result of their colonial past, which sometimes put them at odds with European countries and made them suspicious of European-style governmental structures, political ideas, and economic institutions. These countries also became vocal advocates of continuing decolonization, with the result that the

UN Assembly was often ahead of the Security Council on issues of self-governance and decolonization. The new nations pushed the UN toward accepting resolutions for independence for colonial states and creating a special committee on colonialism, demonstrating that even though some nations continued to struggle for independence, in the eyes of the international community, the colonial era was ending.

**Chapter 6 : Syllabus: World War II in Southeast Asia**

*This paper analyzes how Japan financed its World War II occupation of Southeast Asia, the transfer of resources to Japan, and the monetary and inflation consequences of Japanese policies.*

The World at War: Many of the young soldiers mobilized into the Japanese army by the early 1940s came from the rural areas, where the effects of the depression were devastating and poverty was widespread. Their commitment to the military effort to expand Japanese territory to achieve economic security can be understood partly in these terms. The depression ended in the mid-1930s in Japan partly because of government deficits used to expand greatly both heavy industry and the military. Internationally, this was a time when "free trade" was in disrepute. The great powers not only jealously protected their special economic rights within their colonies and spheres of influence, but sought to bolster their sagging economies through high tariffs, dumping of goods, and other trade manipulation. The Japanese, with few natural resources, sought to copy this pattern. They used cutthroat trade practices to sell textiles and other light industrial goods in the East Asian and U.S. They also developed sources of raw materials and heavy industry in the colonies they established in Korea, Taiwan and Manchuria. Japan used high tariffs to limit imports of American and European industrial products. The Japanese military faced a particular tactical problem in that certain critical raw materials—especially oil and rubber—were not available within the Japanese sphere of influence. The Japanese army governed Manchuria indirectly through the "puppet" state of Manchukuo and developed heavy industry there under its favorite agencies, disliking and distrusting the zaibatsu large Japanese corporations. Meanwhile in China, the intensification of Chinese resistance to the pressure of the Japanese military drew Japan into a draining war in the vast reaches of China proper, and in 1940 into operations in French Indochina, far to the south. Thus, when the navy pressed for a "southern" strategy of attacking Dutch Indonesia to get its oil and British Malaya to control its rubber, the army agreed. While it seems that economic factors were important in Japanese expansion in East Asia, it would be too much to say that colonialism, trade protection, and the American embargo compelled Japan to take this course. Domestic politics, ideology and racism also played a role.

**Domestic Politics** The political structure of Japan at this time was inherited from the Meiji era and was increasingly dominated by the military. During the Meiji period, the government was controlled by a small ruling group of elder statesmen who had overthrown the shogun and established the new centralized Japanese state. These men used their position to coordinate the bureaucracy, the military, the parliament, the Imperial Household, and other branches of government. Following their deaths in the early 1930s, no single governmental institution was able to establish full control, until the Manchurian Incident, when Japan took control of Manchuria. This began a process in which the military behaved autonomously on the Asian mainland and with increasing authority in politics at home. From 1937 on, Japan was at war with China. The emperor has been criticized for not taking a more forceful action to restrain his government, especially in light of his own known preference for peace, but Japanese emperors after the Meiji Restoration had "reigned but not ruled. The doubts are strengthened in light of the difficulty the emperor had in forcing the military to accept surrender after the atomic bombings.

**Ideology** The emperor-based ideology of Japan during World War II was a relatively new creation, dating from the efforts of Meiji oligarchs to unite the nation in response to the Western challenge. Before the Meiji Restoration, the emperor wielded no political power and was viewed simply as a symbol of the Japanese culture. Westerners of that time knew him only as a shadowy figure somewhat like a pope. The people were not allowed to look at the emperor, or even to speak his name; patriotism had been raised to the unassailable level of sacredness. It is sometimes difficult to comprehend the extreme sacrifices the Japanese made in the name of the emperor. This can perhaps best be viewed, however, as extreme patriotism—Japanese were taught to give their lives, if necessary, for their emperor. But this was not entirely different from the Americans who gave their lives in the same war for their country and the "American" way. The kamikaze pilots, who were named for the "divine wind" kami kaze that destroyed the Mongol fleet in the thirteenth century and saved Japan from invasion, might be compared to the young Iranian soldiers fighting in suicide squadrons in the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s, or even to fanatical Shiites responsible for the truck bombing

of the U. Lebanese embassy in Racism The Japanese were proud of their many accomplishments and resented racial slurs they met with in some Western nations. Their attempt to establish a statement of racial equality in the Covenant of the League of Nations was vetoed by the United States because of opposition in California and Great Britain Australian resistance. The Japanese greatly resented this. The Japanese military was convinced of the willingness of its people to go to any sacrifice for their nation, and it was contemptuous of the "softness" of the U. They sought to liberate Asian colonies from the Westerners, whom they disdained. But although the Japanese were initially welcomed in some Asian colonies by the indigenous populations whom they "liberated" from European domination, the arrogance and racial prejudice displayed by the Japanese military governments in these nations created great resentment. This resentment is still evident in some Southeast Asian nations.

Discussion Questions What was the economic situation in Japan around ? Who dominated the government in Japan at this time? What was their ambition? Describe the international economic situation that fueled military conflict among nations. How did Japan fit into this situation? Who was General Hideki Tojo? Explain what an "ideology" is? What ideology was propagated by the Japanese leaders to unite the country behind the war? What role did racism play – the belief in the special qualities of Japanese and other Asian peoples? Give an example of a situation where the Japanese felt insulted by what they perceived as the racism of Western countries. But between and , they fought a bitter and bloody war, which many people remember well today. Why did they fight this war? The answer on the American side is simple: The Americans were angry at the Japanese for their invasions of first Manchuria , then China , and later French Indochina After the Japanese moved into Indochina, President Roosevelt ordered a trade embargo on American scrap steel and oil, on which the Japanese military depended. But the American people felt that Asia was far away, and a large majority of voters did not want to go to war to stop Japan. The surprise attack on the Pacific fleet at Pearl Harbor on December 7, changed this, outraging the whole U. Why did Japan attack the United States? This is a more complicated question. Japan knew the United States was economically and military powerful, but it was not afraid of any American attack on its islands. Japan did worry however, that the Americans might help the Chinese resist the Japanese invasion of their country. When President Roosevelt stopped U. Without imports of steel and oil, the Japanese military could not fight for long. Without oil, the navy would not be able to move after it had exhausted its six-month reserve. Roosevelt hoped that this economic pressure would force Japan to end its military expansion in East Asia. The Japanese military saw another solution to the problem: The only force that could stop the Japanese was the American Pacific fleet – which was conveniently gathered close to Japan at Pearl Harbor, in Hawaii. Knowing that many Americans did not want to fight a war against Japan, the military thought that if it suddenly destroyed the U. Japan was not militarily or economically powerful enough to fight a long war against the United States, and the Japanese military knew this. Its attack on Pearl Harbor was a tremendous gamble – and though the short-run gamble was successful, the long-run gamble was lost because the Japanese were wrong about the American reaction. But behind this mistake was another, earlier miscalculation. After an amazingly short time, Japan was able to develop the economic and military strength to join this competition for dominance of the Asian mainland. Japan defeated China in and Russia in , in battles over who should dominate Korea. Japan joined the allies against Germany in in a struggle to control a portion of China and then conquered Manchuria in in an effort to secure a land area rich in raw materials. The Japanese nation and its military, which controlled the government by the s, felt that it then could, and should, control all of East Asia by military force. The Japanese military tried to convince the Japanese people that complete loyalty and obedience would make Japan invincible. The Japanese navy was destroyed. When this was followed by massive bombardment from the air and the final blow of the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japanese invincibility was proven to be a myth. At the end of the war, the Japanese nation was not only starving and devastated by the bombing, but bewildered and shocked by the defeat.

Discussion Questions Was Japan the first country to try to dominate other countries in Asia? Why did it seem logical to the Japanese that they, rather than the European powers, should be dominant in Asia? Explain the economic reasons for establishing colonies. What in particular did Japan hope to gain from its colonies? Locate Pearl Harbor on a map. In what ways was the Japanese attack a tactical miscalculation? In what sense could you say that Japan actually

defeated itself?

*Second World War A Quick Guide To Japan's Role In The Second World War In December Japan, already at war with China, attacked British, Dutch and American territories in Asia and the Pacific.*

This perspective needs to be reversed. The great Asian war had a seismic momentum of its own. Between and alone, war claimed around 24 million lives in Japanese-occupied Asia, perhaps 3 million Japanese, and 3. But such tallies do not convey the full scale of the tragedy. Roads to war The roots of war lay in western imperial competition in Asia and the quest of newly modernising states such as China and Japan for wealth, power and equality. To Japan, to be a modern power was to be a colonial power. By the war, she controlled the assets of Korea and Taiwan, and demanded greater access to those of China. Resistance to Japanese imperialism was a defining moment of national awakening in China. Many Japanese soldiers and politicians now saw the international system as a form of racial exclusion, designed by the western powers to protect their own imperial interests, and to deny newcomers theirs. In , Prince Fumimaro Konoe, a later prime minister, wrote that it condemned Japan "to remain forever subordinate to the advanced nations". When after , a stronger central government arose in China under Chiang Kai-shek, and was recognised by the west, Japan was increasingly isolated. As the great depression squeezed resources, many argued that the only way for Japan to progress was to go it alone. The initiative came from commanders in the field who wanted to commit civilian politicians at home to a bolder imperial policy. When the capital Nanjing fell in December , a huge number of civilians, probably more than , were massacred. This brutal campaign overshadows Sino-Japanese relations to this day. The Chinese government of Chiang Kai-shek fled to the inland city of Chongqing. It was weakened and corrupt, but committed to modernising China and restoring its sovereignty. It was a fragile truce, not a working alliance. But he was not prepared to go to war for it. Nor were the British. Instead they supplied Chongqing by air and road over the "Hump" from British Burma. Japan now felt even more tightly encircled by the ABCD powers: The Netherlands East Indies was the best available source of oil for the war effort in China: Borneo and South Sumatra produced more than eight million tonnes a year. On 27 September , Japan entered into a fateful tripartite pact with Germany and Italy. For Japan, Wilhelmine Germany had been a model for a modernising, martial monarchy. As Japanese politics lurched to the right, fascism too seemed a "kindred spirit". Both Germany and Japan spoke of shattering and remoulding the international order. But Japanese leaders were motivated by a deeper conviction that Emperor Hirohito was to be the nucleus of a new regional cosmology: After the fall of Paris, Japan occupied French Indochina to cut off a supply route to Chongqing and as a springboard to the south. It caused the United States to expand its navy and to look more sympathetically upon the British empire in Asia, to help Britain fight on in Europe. In late and , as positions hardened and diplomacy failed, the argument was voiced in Tokyo that only by war could these obstacles be overcome. The British had long expected this, but failed to launch their planned pre-emptive strike into neutral Thailand, so-called Operation Matador. What was not foreseen was the simultaneous strike by air and sea at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. This achieved the short-term goal of removing the immediate threat of the US Pacific fleet. The British in Malaya viewed the Japanese with racist contempt. But British, Australian and Indian troops were confronted by hardened veterans of the China war, advancing 20km a day by bicycle. Allied forces fell back into Singapore with a speed that did not allow them to regroup and counter-attack effectively. But "fortress Singapore" was a myth. Reinforcements poured into Singapore, only to witness in disgust the scorched earth destruction of the naval base they had been sent to defend. The brutal reality was that for Churchill and the chiefs of staff in London, the first call on war materials was the Mediterranean theatre. Churchill ordered the garrison to fight and die to the last man. But at the hour of the final assault on Singapore town, fearing a wholesale slaughter of civilians, local commanders were given leave to surrender on 15 February The campaign had lasted only 70 days. Lost armies Without pause, the Japanese pressed on into the Indonesian and Philippine archipelagos. The Australian cabinet demanded the recall of their troops. Many of them were among the 85, soldiers marched into captivity in Singapore. The entire colonial order in Asia was incarcerated. Of the , prisoners of war, 35, died in captivity. But these figures do not include the Asian soldiers

captured, the 45, Filipinos who fought with the Americans, or some 40, Indians in Singapore. Abandoned by their European officers, the Indians were presented with a huge moral dilemma. British prestige in Asia was shattered by the abandonment of its people. The ugly evacuation of Europeans was, as one British nurse in Penang put it, "a thing that I am sure will never be forgotten or forgiven". Convinced that the British empire was on the point of collapse, Japan attacked Burma from Thailand. The initial aim was limited: But it became all-out conquest. British reluctance to call on the Chinese to save the British empire meant that intervention by Chinese forces under Stilwell came too late. As the British retreated, one of the largest displacements of people in history occurred as around , Indian refugees fled west to Bengal; as many as 80, of them died on the wayside. It was the Indian army that made Britain a power of consequence in Asia. During the war, more than two million Indians were recruited to arms. The "Quit India" protests of were a challenge on a scale not seen since the great rebellion of As the stragglers from Burma stumbled into the great imperial city of Calcutta, it seemed to herald the imminent apocalypse of the Raj. In Burma, the Japanese were welcomed by some as liberators. Around 18, young nationalists travelled in their train as a "Burma independence army". In the villages, they kindled a promise of freedom and martial revival. In Indonesia, it was said that the Japanese fulfilled the prophecy of the 12th-century king, Joyoboyo: But for the 2. Chinese volunteers fought in the last-ditch defence of Singapore, and joined guerrilla bands in the jungle. One Japanese commander described entering Malaya as if it was "the crossroads of the central province of China". When Singapore fell, between 50, and , Chinese were slaughtered in a so-called "purification by elimination". Rape was an instrument of war; the standard military-issue condom was branded "Assault No 1", and young girls began to be coerced as "comfort women" for Japanese soldiers, perhaps 80, to , across occupied Asia. But no American air-carriers or submarines had been destroyed at Hawaii, and they now preyed on Japanese shipping. Dutch and British "scorched earth" further reduced the spoils of conquest. By , oil production in Indonesia was below half its pre-war level. The military-industrial arithmetic was decisive. During the war, Japan produced 70, warplanes; the US , " and 10 times more munitions. This was now global total war. But in many ways Japan was as isolated as ever. Axis cooperation amounted to little. There was no concerted assault on India. Strategic objectives diverged further over Russia. Japan had joined the axis partly to reduce the risk of war with the Soviets. But this again became a possibility when the Nazi-Soviet pact was thrown aside. But at the same moment, it was contained and turned back in the Pacific at Coral Sea and Midway, where the Japanese lost four carriers and more than warplanes. In the south, the Japanese suffered their first defeat by land, when their landings in New Guinea were repulsed by the Australians and Americans in a series of battles that saw some of the heaviest casualty rates of the war. These were not perhaps the irreversible "turning points", but they allowed the allies to think in offensive terms. One effect of containment in Asia was to allow the United States to maintain a strategy that placed "Europe first". In Cairo, between 22 and 26 November , Churchill, Roosevelt and Chiang came face to face for the first time. Roosevelt gave the generalissimo great power status, but privately he asked Stilwell: Unable to take war to Japan themselves, the British employed others to wage it on their behalf. In Malaya, by August , around 5, fighters of the Malayan Communist party were kitted out with guns and khaki by air drops to support the allied invasion that never came. The seeds of future confrontations were sown. The new Asia As the first fury of conquest subsided, the Japanese attempted to build a new Asia. A formidable propaganda machine promoted Nippon language, culture and modernity, and attempted to recruit Asian leaders to its cause. Attempts to rally Islam by calls of jihad, and ordering worshippers in the mosques to bow in prayer not towards Mecca, but towards the imperial palace in Tokyo, outraged the Muslims of Malaya and Indonesia. Japanese pan-Asianism was less important in what it achieved for Japan than in providing a platform for Asian politicians " men such as Sukarno in Indonesia and Aung San in Burma " to realise their own national visions, and to raise their own armies. On 4 July , prime minister Tojo appeared at a rally in Singapore. In a rare joint operation, he was transferred from a German to a Japanese submarine off the coast of Madagascar and flown to Tokyo. He proclaimed a provisional government of "free India", and toured the region, raising funds.

## Chapter 8 : Milestones: “ - Office of the Historian

*South East Asia Command (SEAC) was the body set up to be in overall charge of Allied operations in the South-East Asian Theatre during World War II.*

For operations against Japanese aircraft and naval units by squadrons based in Ceylon during the Japanese attacks of April Indian Ocean naval campaigns “45[ edit ] Main article: The Japanese minesweeping capability was never great, and when confronted with new types of mines they did not adapt quickly. Japanese shipping was driven from the Burmese coast using this type of warfare. British submarines based in British Ceylon operated against Japanese shipping. It was only after the war in Europe was clearly coming to an end that large British forces were dispatched to the Indian Ocean again. Following the neutralisation of the German fleet in late and early , forces from the Home Fleet were released, and the success of Operation Overlord in June meant even more craft could be sent, including precious amphibious assault shipping. During late , as more British aircraft carriers came into the area a series of strikes were flown against oil targets in Sumatra , such as Operation Meridian. The oil installations were heavily damaged by the attacks, aggravating the Japanese fuel shortages due to the American blockade. The final attack was flown as the carriers were heading for Sydney to become the British Pacific Fleet. After the departure of the main battle forces the Indian Ocean was left with escort carriers and older battleships as the mainstay of its naval forces. Nevertheless, during those months important operations were launched in the recapture of Burma, including landings on Ramree and Akyab and near Rangoon. Command structures[ edit ] Allied command structure[ edit ] At the start of the war the British had two commands with responsibilities for possessions in the theatre. In August the Allies formed a new South East Asian Command to take over strategic responsibilities for the theatre. The reorganisation of the theatre command took about two months. On 15 November, Auchinleck handed over responsibility for the conduct of operations against the Japanese in the theatre to Mountbatten. SEAC was disbanded on 30 November Command problems with General Stilwell and his interactions with the U. Joint Chiefs of Staff had precipitated the change. It was commanded by General Count Hisaichi Terauchi , who commanded it from to These consisted of 11 infantry divisions, six independent infantry brigades, and six tank regiments, plus artillery and support troops. The Japanese extensively used bicycle infantry , which allowed them quick movement over vast distances.

## Chapter 9 : World Health Organization, History of the WHO South-East Asia Region

*This Second Sino-Japanese War would continue for the duration of World War II, resulting in the deaths of approximately 2,, Chinese soldiers and a horrifying 20,, Chinese civilians. Many of Japan's worst atrocities and war crimes took place in China, its traditional rival in East Asia, including the Rape of Nanking.*