**Attack on Pearl Harbor**

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| Attack on Pearl Harbor Japanese planes view.jpgPhotograph of [Battleship Row](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battleship_Row) taken from a Japanese plane at the beginning of the attack. The explosion in the center is a torpedo strike on the [USS *West Virginia*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_West_Virginia_%28BB-48%29). Two attacking Japanese planes can be seen: one over the [USS *Neosho*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Neosho_%28AO-23%29) and one over the Naval Yard. |

The **attack on Pearl Harbor**was a surprise [military strike](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_strike) by the [Imperial Japanese Navy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imperial_Japanese_Navy) against the [United States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) [naval base](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naval_Station_Pearl_Harbor) at [Pearl Harbor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pearl_Harbor), in the [United States Territory of Hawaii](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawaii#Annexation.E2.80.94the_Territory_of_Hawaii_.281898.E2.80.931959.29), on the morning of December 7, 1941. The attack led to the United States' entry into [World War II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II).

The attack commenced at 7:48 a.m. [Hawaiian Time](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hawaiian_Time%22%20%5Co%20%22Hawaiian%20Time).The base was attacked by 353Japanese [fighter planes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fighter_planes%22%20%5Co%20%22Fighter%20planes), [bombers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bombers%22%20%5Co%20%22Bombers), and [torpedo planes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Torpedo_planes%22%20%5Co%20%22Torpedo%20planes) in two waves, launched from six [aircraft carriers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aircraft_carrier%22%20%5Co%20%22Aircraft%20carrier).All eight U.S. Navy battleships were damaged, with four sunk. All but *[Arizona](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Arizona_%28BB-39%29%22%20%5Co%20%22USS%20Arizona%20%28BB-39%29)* were later raised, and six were returned to service and went on to fight in the war. 188 U.S. aircrafts were destroyed; 2,403 Americans were killed and 1,178 others were wounded.

The attack came as a profound shock to the American people and led directly to the American entry into World War II in both the [Pacific](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacific_War) and [European theaters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_theatre_of_World_War_II). The following day, December 8, the United States [declared war](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_declaration_of_war_upon_Japan) on Japan. Subsequent operations by the U.S. prompted Germany and Italy to [declare war](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Axis_Powers#Germany.27s_and_Italy.27s_declaration_of_war_against_the_United_States) on the U.S. on December 11, which was reciprocated by the U.S. the same day.