
1941: World War II

Context

U.S. fascists opposed President Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) from the start. In 1933, "America's richest businessmen were in a panic. Roosevelt intended to conduct a massive redistribution of wealth...[and it] had to be stopped at all costs. The answer was a military coup...secretly financed and organized by leading officers of the Morgan and du Pont empires." A top Wall Street conspirator, Gerald MacGuire, said: "We need a fascist government in this country...to save the nation from the communists who want to tear it down and wreck all that we have built."³⁶

The Committee on Un-American Activities said: "Sworn testimony showed that the plotters represented notable families — Rockefeller, Mellon, Pew, Pitcairn, Hutton and great enterprises — Morgan, Dupont, Remington, Anaconda, Bethlehem, Goodyear, GMC, Swift, Sun."³⁷

FDR also faced "isolationist" sentiments from such millionaires, who shared Hitler's hatred of communism and had financed Hitler's rise to power, as George Herbert Walker and Prescott Bush, predecessors of the current president.³⁸ William R. Hearst, newspaper magnate and midwife of the war with Spain, actually employed Hitler, Mussolini and Goering as writers. He met Hitler in 1934 and used *Readers' Digest* and his 33 newspapers to support fascism and to oppose America's entry into the war.³⁹



On December 8, 1941, the day after the bombing of Pearl Harbour, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the U.S. declaration of war on Japan.

Japan is put into the wrong and makes the first bad move — overt move."⁴²

In *Day of Deceit: The Truth about FDR and Pearl Harbor*, Robert Stinnett notes: "On November 15, 1941,... [Japanese] Admiral Yamamoto's forces moved to the attacking points, both for the Philippines and Pearl Harbor, and Wake and Guam.... General George Marshall, ...the Army's Chief of Staff, called in Washington bureau chiefs of the major newspapers...and magazines. This included the *New York Times*, the *New York Herald Tribune*, *Newsweek* and *Time* magazines, pledged these bureau chiefs to secrecy, and told them that we had broken the Japanese codes, and expected war to start in the first week of December, 1941. The General obviously had... a decoded message from the Japanese Chief of Naval Operations, who on November 5 said that war would start with England, The Netherlands and America the first week of December. This was a message intercepted in Hawaii, not given to Admiral Kimmel [commander of the U.S. Fleet based at Pearl Harbour] or General Short [head of the U.S. Army defense on Hawaii], but given to General Marshall in Washington."⁴³

On November 25, after meeting with FDR, Stimson wrote: "The question was: how we should maneuver them [the Japanese] into the position of firing the first shot."⁴⁴

The U.S. had cracked Japanese diplomatic and military codes.⁴⁵ A Top Secret Army Board report (October 1944), shows that the U.S. military knew "the probable exact hour and date of the attack."⁴⁶ On November 29, 1941, the Secretary of State revealed to a reporter that the attack's time and place was known. This foreknowledge was reported in the *New York Times* (Dec. 8, 1941).⁴⁷



The U.S.S California burns after the Japanese attack of Pearl Harbor.

Pretext Incident

On December 7, 1941, Japanese bombers attacked the U.S. Pacific Fleet in Pearl Harbour, Hawaii, killing about 2,460.⁴⁰ FDR, and his closest advisors, not only knew of the attack in advance and did not prevent it, they actually took deliberate actions to provoke it. Lt. Arthur McCollum, head of the Far East desk for U.S. Navy intelligence, wrote a detailed eight-step plan on October 7, 1940 that was designed to provoke an attack.⁴¹ FDR immediately set this covert plan in motion. Soon after implementing the final step, Japan attacked Pearl Harbour. (See "Smoking Gun," page 11.)

After meeting FDR on October 16, 1941, Secretary of War Henry Stimson wrote: "We face the delicate question of the diplomatic fencing to be done so as to be sure

U.S. National Archives photo

Follow Up

On the day after Pearl Harbour was bombed, FDR signed the U.S. declaration of war on Japan. With media support, "Remember Pearl Harbour!" became an American rallying cry. On December 11, Germany and Italy declared war on the U.S.

As the war wound down, decoded messages revealed to the U.S. military that Japan would soon surrender. They knew the use of atomic bombs to destroy Hiroshima and Nagasaki was militarily unnecessary. Although nuclear weapons are commonly believed to have ended WWII, they were actually the opening salvo of another war, the Cold War against the USSR.

Real Reasons

Because powerful U.S. interests were so opposed to U.S. involvement in WWII, FDR needed a particularly emotive, war pretext incident. American warplanners used WWII to maneuver the U.S. into a position of superiority over former imperial rivals in Europe. In Parenti's words, the U.S. "became the prime purveyor and guardian of global capitalism."⁴⁸ As the only nation wielding nuclear weapons, the U.S. also became the world's sole superpower.

In the "fateful period between Nov. 27 and Dec. 6, 1941,....numerous pieces of information came to our State, War and Navy Departments in all of their top ranks indicating precisely the intentions of the Japanese including the probable exact hour and date of the attack."

Source: Excerpt, Top Secret Report, Army Pearl Harbor Board, Oct. 20, 1944, from *Pearl Harbor Attack*, Part 39.

Footnotes:

36. Steve Kangas, "Business Plot to Overthrow Roosevelt," *Liberalism Resurgent*, 1996.
 37. Dale Wharton, Eclectica Book Review of Jules Archer's *The Plot to Seize the White House* (1973).
 38. Webster Tarpley and Anton Chaitkin, "The Hitler Project," *George Bush: The Unauthorized Biography*, 1992.
 39. David Nasaw, "Remembering 'The Chief,'" interview, *News-hour*, Sept. 7, 2000.
 40. Joseph Czarniecki, Richard Worth, Matthias C. Noch and Tony DiGiulian, "Attack on Pearl Harbor, 7 December 1941," *The Battles Of The Pacific*.
 41. Steve Fry, "Author: FDR knew attack was coming," *The Capital-Journal*, June 12, 2001.
 42. Henry Stimson, cited by Robert Stinnett, *Day of Deceit: The Truth about FDR and Pearl Harbour*, 2000.
 43. Robert Stinnett, "Pearl Harbour: Official Lies in an American War Tragedy?" Speech, Independent Institute, May 24, 2000.
 44. Henry Stimson, cited by Robert Stinnett, *Day of Deceit: The Truth about FDR and Pearl Harbour*, 2000.
 45. "The MAGIC Documents: Summaries and Transcripts of the Top-Secret Diplomatic Communications of Japan, 1938-1945," GB 0099 KCLMA MF 388-401.
 46. Paul Proteus, "Part 1: Pearl Harbour," *America's Phoney Wars*.
 47. Rivero
 48. Michael Parenti, *Against Empire*, 1995, p.36.
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"Smoking Gun": Provoking the Pearl Harbour Attack

Arthur McCollum's Secret Memo

By Robert B. Stinnett, author, *Day of Deceit: The Truth about FDR and Pearl Harbor* (1999).

Germany, Italy and Japan signed a mutual assistance treaty on September 27, 1940. Ten days later, Lieutenant Commander Arthur McCollum, a U.S. Naval officer in the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI), saw an opportunity to counter the U.S. isolationist movement by provoking Japan into a state of war with the U.S., triggering the mutual assistance provisions of the Tripartite Pact, and bringing America into World War II.

Memorialized in McCollum's secret memo dated October 7, 1940, and recently obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, the ONI proposal called for eight provocations aimed at Japan. Its centerpiece was keeping the might of the U.S. Fleet based in the Territory of Hawaii as a lure for a Japanese attack.

Source: "December 7, 1941: A Setup from the Beginning," *Honolulu Advertiser*, December 7, 2000.

Arthur McCollum's five-page memo was submitted to Navy Captains Walter Anderson and Dudley Knox, two of President Roosevelt's most trusted military advisors. Soon

after the U.S. implemented step H, Japan attacked Pearl Harbour.

Here is McCollum's summary of the secret, eight-step plan to provoke the Japanese to attack the U.S.:

- A** Make an arrangement with Britain for the use of British bases in the Pacific, particularly Singapore.
- B** Make an arrangement with Holland for base facilities and acquisition of supplies in the Dutch East Indies.
- C** Give all possible aid to the Chinese government of Chiang Kai-Shek.
- D** Send a division of long range heavy cruisers to the Orient, Philippines or Singapore.
- E** Send two divisions of submarines to the Orient.
- F** Keep the main strength of the U.S. Fleet now in the Pacific in the vicinity of the Hawaiian Islands.
- G** Insist that the Dutch refuse Japanese demands for undue economic concessions, particularly oil.
- H** Completely embargo all U.S. trade with Japan, in collaboration with the similar embargo imposed by the British Empire.

Lieutenant Commander McCollum concluded his memo by stating:

"If by these means Japan could be led to commit an overt act of war, so much the better. At all events we must be fully prepared to accept the threat of war."

Source: Excerpted from scanned photographs of the original document that can be seen online at: <www.whatreallyhappened.com/McCollum>