

US history 2024

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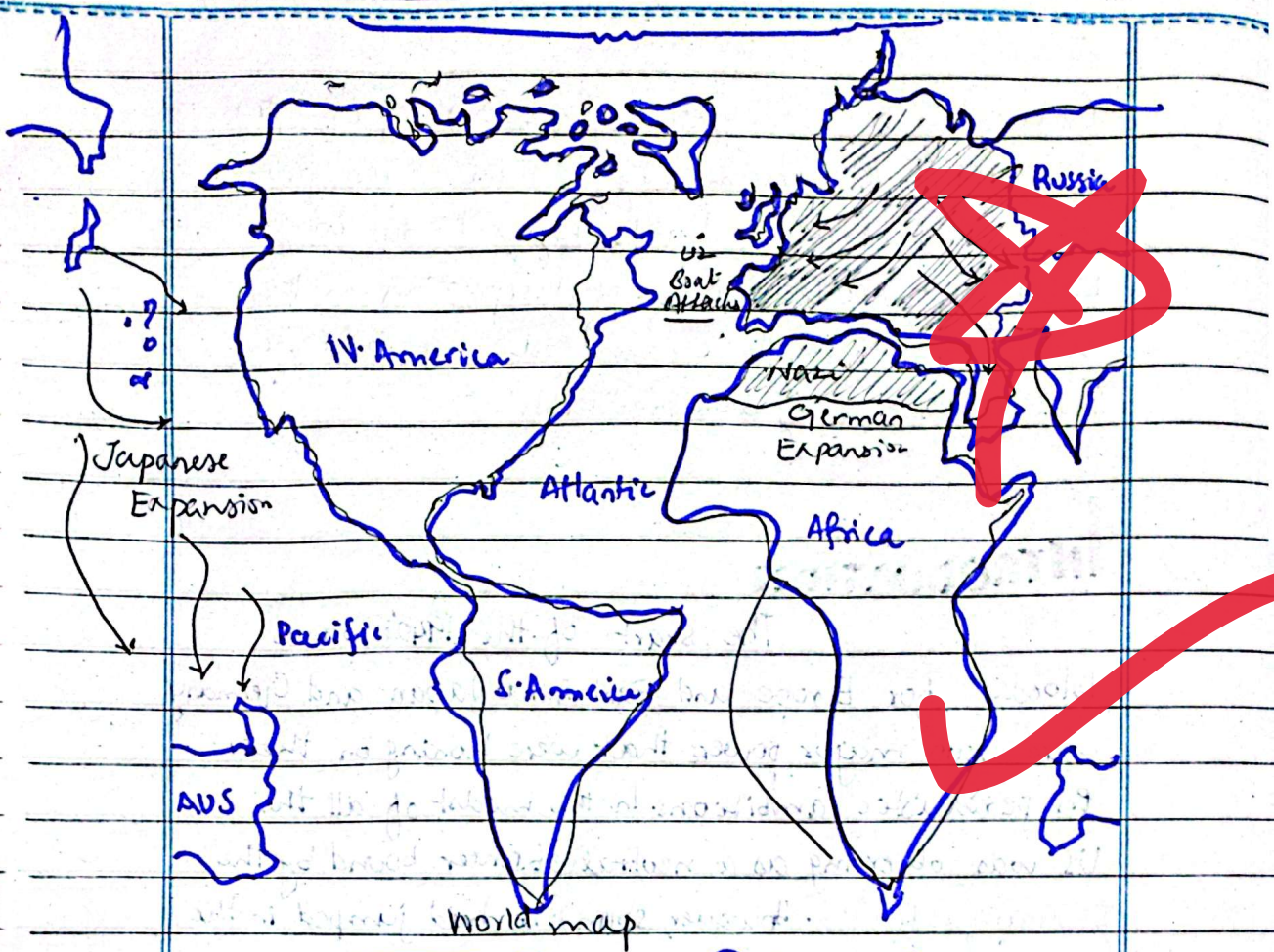
Critically evaluate the major causes of US entry in world war 2 examining how the causes you mentioned developed, and why and how do you believe they led to US participation in the war? Considering these causes, do you believe that the US entry was inevitable?

## INTRODUCTION

The start of the 1940s was a bloody for Europe and East Asia. Japan and Germany were two major powers that were honing on their Imperialistic ambitions. In the midst of all the US was observing as a neutral observer bound by the Neutrality Acts 1939. However, soon it had jumped in the fight too; predominately after the Pearl Harbour Attack in 1940, US declared war on Japan and Germany. declared <sup>war</sup> on the US: Japanese and Nazis. Germany ambitions were focused towards the continent and both ~~knew~~ the US entry into the war was inevitable. Unlike WW1, this time <sup>the US</sup> had full reason to commit itself to the war, and that it did. Pearl Harbour was sooner or later bound to happen and the US was between a rock and a hard place when it chose to go to war. The war may have not started on its term but it ended on the American's terms.



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## MAJOR CAUSES OF US ENTRY IN WWII

↓ Strategic Causes ↓  
Pacific Front      Western Europe Front

On 6 August, 1940, bombers and fighters of the Imperial Japanese

Since the start of the war, German U-boats were attacking



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Airforce took off and attacked the naval base at Pearl Harbour, Hawaii.

The Pearl Harbour attack gave the US probable/solid cause to jump in the war.

Liberty cargo ships of the US headed towards Britain and the Western European nations.

## Interests as Protection of Economic Causes for Participation

The US intervention/participation in Western Europe has an economic agenda behind it too. Europe was a major hub for American goods and the Nazi German expansion risked those vitals markets and resources getting out of the American hands. Further in the Pacific, Japan was <sup>China a</sup> major source for American products. Economic containment was no option for the US and protection of its economic interests. ~~is the~~ cause for participation in the Second World War.

## DEVELOPEMENT OF STRATEGIC AND ECONOMIC CAUSES

Development of Economic Assets in Europe and Asia



Europe?

Ever since 1776, US businesses have developed a harmonious relationship with the Europeans. Reforms in immigration have brought in thousands of immigrants who searched for the American dream. American banks lent to European countries after the war. Heavy and massive capital was borrowed by the Europeans to pay off the loans in turn perpetuating debt cycle and leading to the Great Depression. Moreover, America traded heavily with British and Spanish colonies in the Caribbean. Economic assets were ever-present in the Euro-American Economy.

Asia?

America entered the Asian market under the Open Doors Treaty and went on to expand its economic influence in the region. Labour import was a big market; Chinese immigrants flooded the labour market of West America during the Railroad expansion and Gold Rush. Similarly, American businesses found a strong consumer base in the Asian continent and naturally, they managed to create and protect their economic interests.

Development of Strategic Causes in Europe and AsiaEurope?

Nazi Germany by the year 1942 had occupied



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nearly all of western Europe with England remaining.  
On the Eastern front, it had launched Operation

Barbarossa and the Soviets were near to capitulation.

The Germans along with the Italians, advanced in North Africa and planned to make their way into the oil rich deserts of Arabia. In this quest of expansion and creation of Lebensraum, America could only wait till the Germans turned their sights upon them. The next target after Europe was America as it was a power that undermined the Nazi empire.

### Asia:

The Japanese started their campaign by kicking the Americans out of the Philippines and other Pacific. General Douglas MacArthur remarked after the defeat on the Philippines.

'I will return' - (Douglas MacArthur)

The Japanese expansion stretched from Guam to the island chains of Indonesia. The Japanese covered larger swathes of land in South East Asia, China and other parts. The imperial vision of Japan saw America as a threat and Pearl Harbour as an easy way to undermine American naval power in the Pacific.



# Why These Causes Led America To Participate In WWI

## Economic

The protection of American Economic Interests at home and abroad led to various tariffs and doctrines being implemented. America, being a superpower, could not afford to watch and lose its vital markets to foreign aggressor. Moreover, strong arm diplomacy would not have worked, as the aggressors would have always had an upper hand at the negotiating table.

## Strategic

Big Stick Diplomacy proposed Theodore Roosevelt portrayed America as the global policeman. It was only a matter of time when America was to be dragged against its own and lose its spot as the hegemon in the region. It was a ~~Thucydides~~ trap, in which America solidified its position and became a global hegemon for <sup>the next</sup> 50-60 years.



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## Was America's Entry Into The War Inevitable?

It is pertinent to understand that America's entry into the war was not on its terms. If it was, then similarly like the situation in WWI, it would have not have participated rather the Neutrality acts, 1939, provide the clear and concise answer that America's entry was nowhere to be seen in the initial phases of the war.

### America's Entry was inevitable

The expanding armies of the Germans and Japanese had their sights set on America. Even if it managed to achieve a truce with the Germans/Japanese like that of the Soviets, it was only a matter of time when the guns were pointed at the American and it would have faced the onslaught of foreign forces at home. America entered the war on Japan's and Germany's term, but ended it on its term with the surrender of the Germans and annihilation of the Japanese.

## CONCLUSION



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Under the Monroe Doctrine, America envisioned the continent of America (North and South) not be used as a place for foreign power occupation. They vehemently opposed any ingress of any colonial power. During wars, the Americans did not much of a decision as after Pearl Harbour, they were pushed and driven into war: for both economic and strategic reasons, American involvement was unquestionable.

Concise conclusion

Add references from books

Overall you are doing good

You have got potential

Good luck!