

Pearl harbor analysis narrative essay



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Pearl Harbor was certainly one of the most dramatic turning points in United States history, with all the elements that go along with an epic drama: heroes, villains, propaganda and conspiracy theories. It propelled the country from an isolationist continent into the spotlight on the world stage. World War II changed the way the world viewed the United States and how Americans viewed themselves. As a result of Pearl Harbor and the war the United States accepted the predominant world leadership role. The tragedy of Pearl Harbor shocked and united the American people into a singular purpose and goal to a greater extent than any other event before or since.

As Americans awoke on a lazy Sunday morning in paradise, little did they know that within a few short minutes their lives would be changed forever.

Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen watched in horror as the United States fleet including the mighty dreadnoughts burned and sank to the bottom of the shallow blue harbor. The calamity incited mass chaos and confusion.

Numerous false rumors were spread including that Japanese paratroopers were invading Hawaii and that follow-on assaults were imminent. Above all, no one knew how to react since this was the first time since the War of 1812 that Americans were attacked on their own soil.

As the nation was just recovering from the Great Depression, with optimism in the horizon the American people really had no desires to involve themselves in foreign wars. However President Franklin Roosevelt was aware of the actions taking place in Europe and Asia and could foresee the United States inevitable danger to the free world if the United States didn't take a stand in the war. While Americans favored neutrality the United States administration knew that it would only be a matter of time until the United

States would enter the war. The convenient timing of Pearl Harbor allowed Roosevelt's unhindered pursuit of his interventionist agenda. This along with certain details, such as the lack of aircraft carriers at Pearl Harbor, led some to believe Roosevelt had forewarning of the attack and intentionally provoked the Japanese to open the backdoor to war.

Twenty three hours after the initial aggression, Roosevelt declared war and ensured that, " This day will live in infamy" in his address to Congress. In the end Americans pulled through and became their own heroes; Admiral Yamamoto's made a prophetic remark shortly after December 7, " I fear all we have done is to awaken a sleeping giant and fill him with a terrible resolve". Winning WWII Americans a newfound confidence and reinforced the united in United States.

World War II was a period of lost innocence and immense social growth for the United States. The nation was exposed to the horrors of total war and matured as a dominant world power. It's intriguing to imagine what course history may have taken if Japan had made a different choice on December 7, 1941.