

Yesterday, December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the empire of Japan. The United States was at peace with that nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its government and its Emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in Oahu, the Japanese Ambassador to the United States . . . delivered to the Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message. While this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or armed attack. . . .

The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. Very many American lives have been lost. In addition American ships have been reported torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.

Yesterday the Japanese Government also launched an attack against Malaya.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Guam.

Last night the Japanese attacked Wake Island.

This morning the Japanese attacked Midway Island. . . .

The facts of yesterday speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications to the very life and safety of our nation.

—President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in *Words That Make America Great*, Jerome Agel, ed. (1997)

1. What conclusion about Japanese-American diplomatic relations can you draw from the first paragraph of this speech?

- A The Japanese government was not being completely honest in its communications.
- B The Japanese had been planning an attack, even while holding peace talks.
- C Japan did not give America any formal warning of its plan to attack.
- D All of the above

2. Based on Japanese actions on December 7 and 8, what can you validly conclude about their intentions?

- A The Japanese had planned a coordinated attack throughout the Pacific.
- B The Japanese efforts were not clearly focused.
- C Japan planned to attack the mainland United States after attacking Pearl Harbor.
- D The Japanese hoped to force

3. President Roosevelt delivered this speech on

- A December 6, 1941.
- B December 7, 1941.
- C December 8, 1941.
- D December 9, 1941.

4. What is the most likely conclusion to this speech?

- A President Roosevelt will call for a moment of silence to remember the dead at Pearl Harbor.
- B President Roosevelt will call for stronger economic sanctions against Japan.
- C President Roosevelt will ask for a nationwide poll to determine public reaction to the bombing.
- D President Roosevelt will ask Congress to declare war against Japan.

What do you believe is the best reason FDR gave for the U.S. Congress to declare war on Japan?