Mobilizing for War

The Nye Committee:

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<th>Fight For Freedom</th>
<th>America First</th>
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Edging Toward War

1. Destroyer for Bases:

2. Lend Lease Act:

3. Hemispheric Defense Zone:

4. The Atlantic Charter:

5. America Embargoes Japan:
Pearl Harbor Attack:

President Roosevelt’s Declaration of War:

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 the American island of Oahu, the Japanese ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to our 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.

It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time the Japanese government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace. The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. I regret to tell you that 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 as attack against Malaya.
Last night Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong.
Last night Japanese forces attacked Guam.
Last night Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Islands.
Last night Japanese forces attacked Wake Island.
And this morning the Japanese attacked Midway Island.

Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday and today 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. As commander in chief of the Army and Navy I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense. But always will our whole nation remember the character of the onslaught against us. . .

Doolittle Raids:
Just War Theory

*In the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, Professor Brian Orend states that jus ad bellum sets forth the following six requirements, all of which must be met for a war to be considered just:*

1. **Just cause.** To be justified in waging war, a nation must do so in the cause of justice. Just cause is first and foremost the self-defense of a nation that is physically and aggressively attacked by another nation. (For other reasons for waging war, see the complete on-line essay cited below.)

2. **Right intention.** The nation that wages war must do so for the right motives, that is, only to ensure that the just cause is attained by war’s end. There can be no ulterior motives, such as racial or ethnic hatred, or provoking war for a land grab.

3. **Proper authority and public declaration.** The decision to wage war must be made only by the proper authorities of a state, following the process set forth by that nation’s laws. The declaration must be made public to its citizens and to the nation against whom the war is waged. Failing this, the nation lacks the legitimacy to go to war.

4. **Last Resort.** A nation may resort to war only if it has exhausted all diplomatic means of resolving the conflict peacefully. The state must be able to demonstrate that there is no other reasonable or practicable means of righting the wrong, short of war.

5. **Probability of Success.** Because of the harm and destruction engendered by warfare, it should only be initiated if it is deemed likely to be successful. (Note that while the probability of success is accepted as a precondition by many just war theorists, it is not included in international law, which seeks to protect the rights of smaller and weaker states.)

6. **Proportionality.** Before deciding to wage war, a state must evaluate the universal good that is likely to result and weigh it against the universal evil (death and destruction) that will be incurred on all sides. In a just war, the benefits of winning the war (securing the just cause) must outweigh its cost in human life.

Just War Theory (Homework)

Your mission, should you choose to accept it (which you have to, because it’s your homework), is to determine whether the United States’ involvement in WWII was “just.” Use the conditions on the previous page to make your determination.

I believe the U.S. involvement in World War II was ____________________________, because...

1. Just cause. ____________________________________________________________

2. Right intention. _______________________________________________________

3. Proper authority and public declaration. _________________________________

4. Last Resort. __________________________________________________________

5. Probability of Success. ________________________________________________

6. Proportionality. ________________________________________________________