

TEACHING THE NEW YORK STATE HISTORY STANDARDS

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY and MUSEUM

Franklin D Roosevelt
Standard Two: World History

DRAFT No. 1

December 7, 1941.

PROPOSED MESSAGE TO THE CONGRESS

Yesterday, December 7, 1941, a date which will live in ~~world history~~ ^{infamy}
the United States of America was ~~unprovokedly~~ ^{suddenly} and deliberately attacked
by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan. ~~that was~~

The United States was at the moment at peace with that nation and was
~~conducting~~ ^{still in} the conversations 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 ~~Hawaii~~ ^{Oahu} and the Philippines,

the Japanese Ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered
to the Secretary of State a formal reply to a ~~former~~ ^{recent American} message, ~~from the~~

~~Secretary.~~ ^{While} This reply ~~contained a statement~~ ^{stated} that diplomatic negotiations
~~must be considered at an end,~~ ^{it} contained no threat ~~and~~ ^{or} hint of ~~an~~ ^{war or}
armed attack.

It will be recorded that the distance ~~of Hawaii,~~ ^{from Manila,} and especially of
Hawaii, from Japan make ^{it} obvious that the ~~attack~~ ^{was} deliberately
planned many ~~days~~ ^{or 7000 weeks} ago. During the intervening time the Japanese Govern-
ment has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false
statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

at the solicitation of Japan

TEACHING THE NEW YORK STATE HISTORY STANDARDS

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY and MUSEUM

DRAFT NO. 1

-2-

The attacks ^{the Hawaiian Islands} yesterday on ~~Manila and on the Island of Oahu~~ ^{has}

caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. Very many American lives have been lost. In addition American ~~ships~~ ships have been 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 Bataan.
Japan has, therefore, undertaken a "surprise offensive" ^{the Philippine} extending

throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday speak for

themselves. The people of the United States have already formed

their opinions and well understand the implications ~~these attacks~~

^{to very} ~~on~~ the safety of our nation.

As Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy I have, ~~of course,~~

directed that all measures be taken for our defense.

Long will we remember the character of the onslaught against

us.

(A) No matter how long it may take us to overcome this peremptory invasion the American people will in their righteous might win through to absolute victory.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY and MUSEUM

DRAFT NO. 1

-3-

I speak the will of the Congress and of the people ~~of this~~
~~country~~ when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to
the uttermost but will see to it that this form of treachery shall
never endanger us again. Hostilities exist. There is no mincing
the fact that our people, our territory and our interests are in
grave danger.

I, therefore, ask that the Congress declare that since the
unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December
seventh, a state of war ^{has} ^{ex}isted between the United States and the
Japanese Empire.

~~Our people in
full confidence in our might~~