

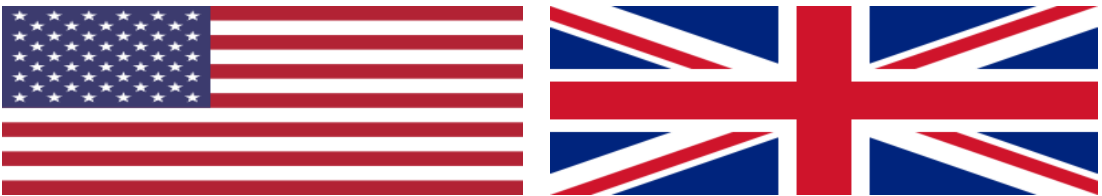
World War I

- Japan became an **ally of the Entente** (France, Britain and Russia), finishing the war on the winning side.
- At the **Paris Peace Conference** following the end of the war, Japan tried to include a clause on **racial equality**
 - However, this was **rebuffed** by the Western Powers.
- Japan was also **forced to give up** the formerly German-controlled Chinese city of **Shandong** which it had conquered during the war.

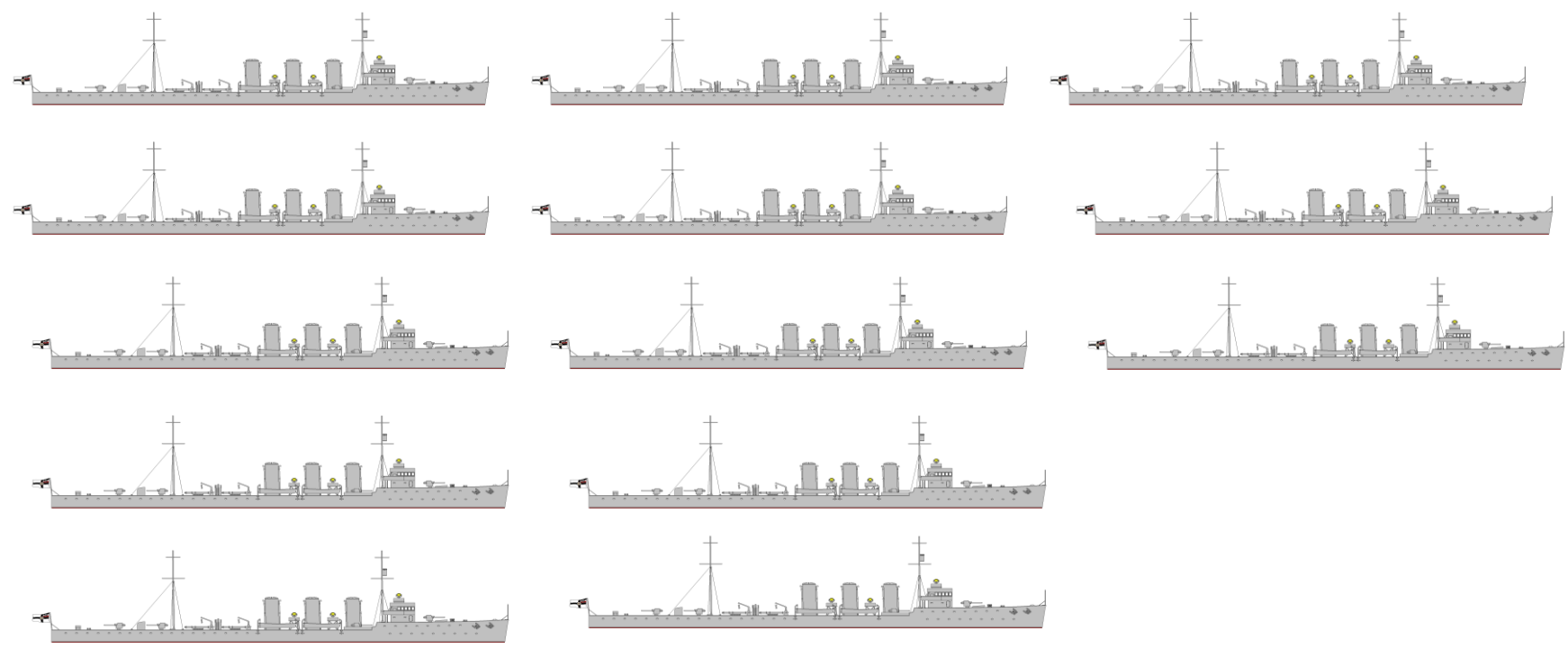
THE WASHINGTON NAVAL TREATY

Tonnage limits imposed by this treaty

	Country	Capital ships	Aircraft carriers
	British Empire	525,000 tons (533,000 tonnes)	135,000 tons (137,000 tonnes)
	United States	525,000 tons (533,000 tonnes)	135,000 tons (137,000 tonnes)
	Empire of Japan	315,000 tons (320,000 tonnes)	81,000 tons (82,000 tonnes)
	France	175,000 tons (178,000 tonnes)	60,000 tons (61,000 tonnes)
	Italy	175,000 tons (178,000 tonnes)	60,000 tons (61,000 tonnes) ²



America	Britain	Japan
5	5	3



- Size of Japan's navy limited to 60% of the British Royal Navy or US Navy
- Thus, Japan would be disadvantaged in any war against Britain or the US
- Fed up, Japan gave notice that it would withdraw from the treaty in 1934

Japan's road to World War II, 1931-1942

Why was Japan interested in colonising Southeast Asia?

Why did Japan invade Singapore in 1942?

Big Problem #1: Overpopulation in Japan

- Rapid population growth in Japan
 - 1870: 30 million
 - 1937: 70 million
- This created problems for Japan:
 - Food shortage: Need to import food from other countries.
 - Lack of living space: Overseas expansion would provide more land for housing and to grow crops.

Hmm...Where could they expand to?

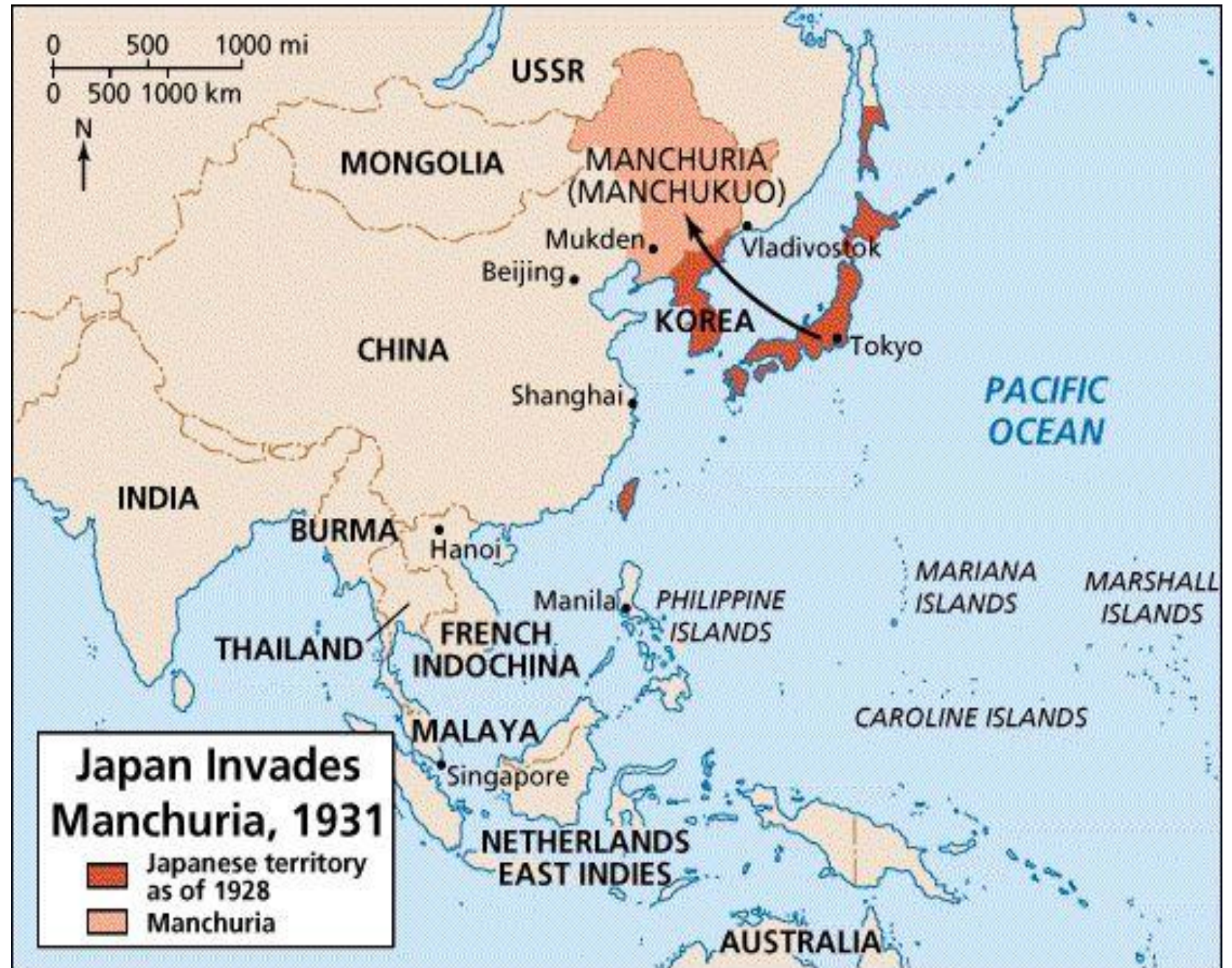
+New & Bigger
Problem #2:
The Great
Depression, 1929



- **Fall in demand** for Japanese products such as silk
- **Value** of Japanese exports **fell** 50% from 1929 to 1931
- Japan's **economy** is **badly hurt** by the Depression (US protectionist policies, trade declined)
- Further **discredited** the Japanese government after the humiliation of the Washington Naval Conference

Problem worsened. Solution needed urgently!⁵

Japan's Solution: Japanese invasion of Manchuria, 1931



The Manchurian Incident, 1931

- The Imperial Japanese Army invades Manchuria in response to “Chinese sabotage”
- Within 5 months, Japan conquered all of Manchuria
- The League of Nations demanded that Japan withdraw
- The US Government protests against Japan’s conquest of Manchuria

THE SECOND SINO-JAPANESE WAR, 1937 - 1945





- In July 1937, full-scale invasion
- Initial rapid advance southward
- Heavy Japanese casualties at Shanghai and Nanking
- The Chinese Kuomintang(国民党) Government retreats west to carry on fighting, despite heavy losses and Japanese battlefield victories
- Sheer size of China makes it difficult for Japan to force a surrender

The Nanking Massacre 1937

- Frustration at inability to subdue China
→ Greater resistance of the Chinese;
Sympathy of the West for China;
Condemnation of Japan



The Second
Sino-
Japanese
War, 1937-
1945 – The
Western
Response

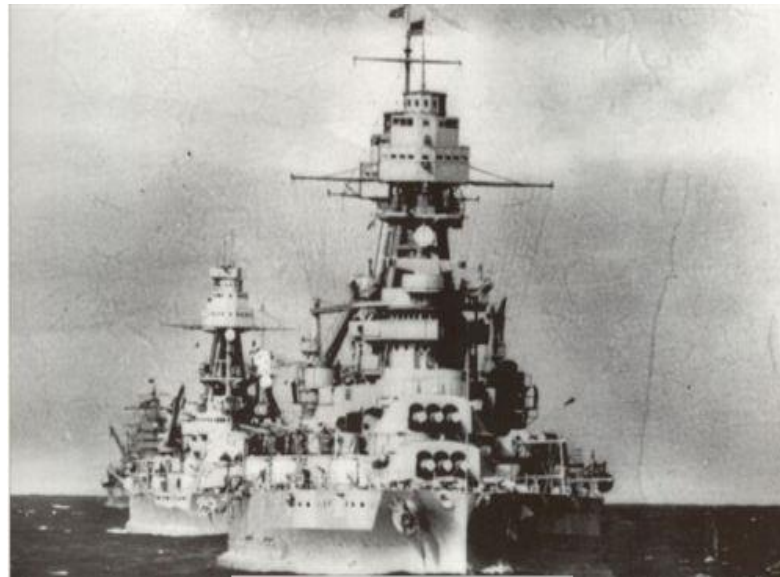
- US Neutrality Act, forbidding US arms sales to warring parties
- Despite this, President Roosevelt allows for arms to be sold to China, but not Japan
- US imposes “moral embargo” on aircraft sales to Japan in 1938

The Second Sino-Japanese War, 1937-1945 – The Western Response

- 1940, France falls to Germany. Japan moves its army into French Indochina (now Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos)
- In response, the US bans the export of machine tools, aviation fuel and scrap metal to Japan
- July 1941, the US freezes all Japanese assets
- August 1941, US bans all oil exports to Japan
- These bans will be lifted only if Japan **completely withdraws** from China

The Second Sino-Japanese War, 1937-1945 – The Western Response

- 1941, US moves its Pacific Fleet westward from its base in San Diego to Pearl Harbor in Hawaii
- 35 B-17 heavy bombers are transferred to the Philippines to deter Japan



What is the problem that is faced by the Japan now? Imagine if you were the Japanese leadership, what would be the best solution to this problem?

