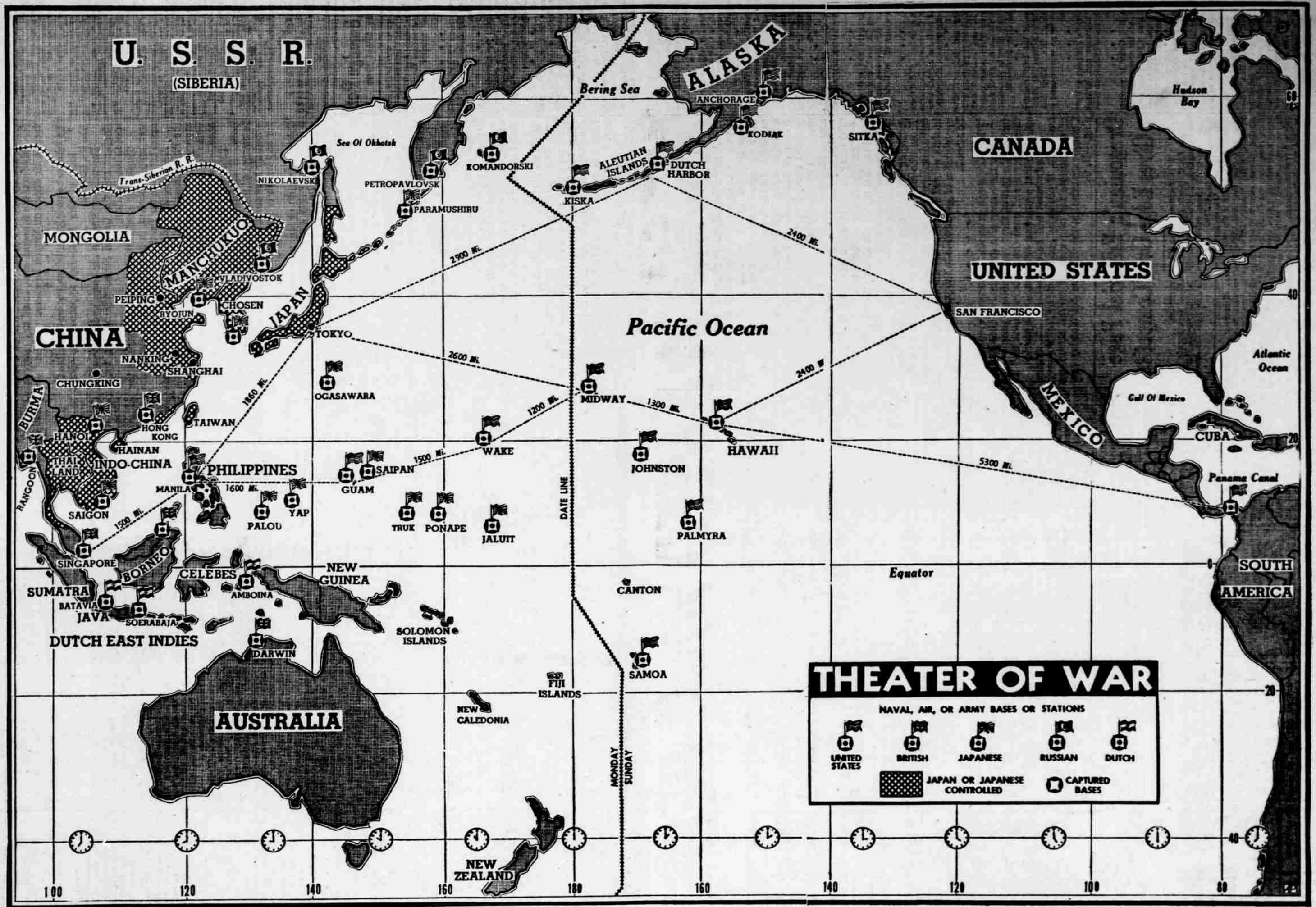




We suggest you save this map and tack it up on a wall so that you can follow readily further war moves in the Pacific Ocean Area

THE 64,000,000 square miles of the Pacific ocean now constitute the biggest war front in the world conflict.

The largest expanses of open water in the world lie in the Pacific. Tiny dots of coral reef and sand assure strategic import out of all proportion to size and ocean vastness where solid ground is at a premium.

This is true because even the mightiest navy is dependent on shore establishments for refueling, supplies and refitting. Naval action in the Japanese-American war will be largely governed by the fortified stepping stones across the Pacific, the bases controlled by the opposing powers.

Every admiral knows that a capital ship sunk cannot be replaced for three or four years. A capital ship damaged in action, which makes

haven at its base, can be ready for sea duty again in three or four months.

This impels fleet commanders to maneuver for decisive action as close as possible to home bases.

The Japanese have no bases in the eastern Pacific. The U. S. has its major bases on the continental coast plus Hawaii and the new Alaskan bases. It is unlikely the Japanese fleet commander would accept a full fleet action 3,000 miles off base and close to American bases.

The Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor was in no sense a fleet action, but a daring thrust by carriers and light craft in a hit-and-run raid.

Japan's major bases are in the western Pacific. They give her naval

dominance in the Sea of Japan, the Yellow Sea and the north portion of the China sea. She has an important string of advance bases in the mandated islands.

Somewhere between the areas of dominance created by the bases will be the site of any sea battle between the massed fleets.

Japan enjoys no monopoly of major bases in the western Pacific, as does the U. S. in the eastern half of the ocean. Singapore and Manila are vital bulwarks of the Allied fleets. It is significant that Japan directed opening attacks against these two naval strongholds.

Vladivostok is also of potential importance. Russia has not yet signified her part in the Pacific struggle. Vladivostok is a key point, almost in the center of a ring drawn around the Japanese empire. It could be a potent factor in the war.

The Pacific war, judged by standards set up in the world's library of naval strategy, will probably resolve into major fleet maneuvers in the western theater, between fleets based on Singapore and Manila and the Japanese fleet based on its home ports.

In addition, the huge area involved makes a repetition of surprise raids by both sides likely. With luck, light craft can approach an objective for hit-and-run action without detection, from vast areas hard to patrol adequately.

There's one factor, though, that runs against Japan. Even the defeat of the U. S. fleet would not guarantee a defeat of the U. S. as a nation.

Defeat of the Japanese fleet, however, carries the fate of the country with it. Japan is an island empire, utterly dependent on the sea routes for sustenance. JOHN GROVER.