

## "We Are Now in This War"

Immediately after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt spoke to the nation on a special radio address. This powerful speech rallied Americans, shocked and outraged by the Pearl Harbor attack, to the war effort. Here are parts of Roosevelt's speech.

### U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt, December 9, 1941

The sudden criminal attacks perpetrated by the Japanese in the Pacific provide the climax of a decade of international immorality. Powerful and resourceful gangsters have banded together to make war upon the whole human race. Their challenge has now been flung at the United States of America. The Japanese have treacherously violated the long-standing peace between us.

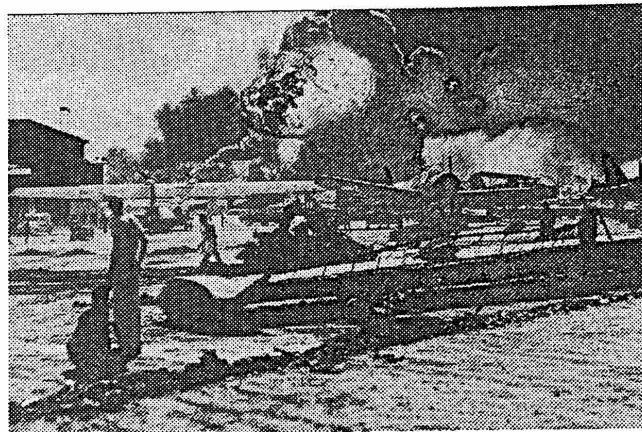
We are now in this war. We are all in it—all the way. . . . We must be set to face a long war against crafty and powerful bandits. The attack at Pearl Harbor can be repeated at any one of many points in both oceans and along both our coastlines and against all the rest of the hemisphere.

It will not only be a long war, it will be a hard war. . . .

We have learned a terrible lesson. . . . And what we have learned is this: There is no such thing as security for any nation—or any individual—in a world ruled by the principles of gangsterism. There is no such thing as impregnable defense against powerful aggressors who sneak up in the dark and strike without warning. We have learned that our ocean-girt hemisphere is not immune from severe attack—that we cannot measure our safety in terms of miles on any map. . . .

We don't like it—we didn't want to get in it—but we are in it and we're going to fight it with everything we've got. . . . We are going to win the war, and we are going to win the peace that follows.

And in the dark hours of this day—and through dark days that may be yet to come—we will know that the vast majority of the members of the human race are on our side. Many of them are fighting with us. All of them are praying for us. For, in representing our cause, we represent theirs as well—our hope and their hope for liberty under God.



Pearl Harbor during Japanese aerial attack, December 7, 1941

**Directions:** Imagine you are an American listening to this radio broadcast on December 9, 1941. Describe your reaction to the speech.