## chapter 33

SS7H3c. Explain the role of the United States in the rebuilding of Japan after WWII

## Rebuilding Japan

After Japanese fighter planes bombed the American military base in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in 1941, the United States declared war on Japan and entered World War II. After years of fighting and tremendous loss of life, the United States dropped two atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. Japan is the only nation in the world that has been attacked by nuclear weapons. After the bombing, Japan's economy and government were devastated.



three nations (Great Britain, the United States, and the Soviet Union) who opposed Germany, Italy, and Japan in WWII

In an effort to restore Japan to a thriving country, the United States occupied the territory from 1945-1952. General Douglas MacArthur was sent as the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces (SCAP) to oversee the rebuilding of Japan. Japan's military was disbanded and weapons factories were closed. Government and military leaders involved with bombings were brought to trial and punished. General MacArthur helped Japan establish a constitutional monarchy and write a constitution that is considered one of the most democratic documents in the world. The



one of the most democratic documents in the world. The world the Japanese citizens many of the same rights granted to Americans.

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Tokyo skyline with Mount Fuji

America's efforts to rebuild Japan after WWII have had a lasting effect. Japan now has one of the strongest economies in the world and a stable democratic government. Today, the United States and Japan have the United States-Japanese Mutual Security Pact that prohibits the use of nuclear weapons and military attacks against the Japanese without the knowledge of the Japanese government.



Look-It-Upl

What was the date in 1941 when Japan attackéd the military base at Pearl Harbor?

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## "Rebuilding Japan" Think About It Comprehension Questions

Answer in AT LEAST 2 complete sentences. On #3, just list the "steps".

1) How did the United States react to the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor?

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2) Why did the United States occupy Japan from 1945-1952?

What were three steps General MacArthur took to help rebuild Japan?
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4) What type of government was established in Japan after WWII?

5) What is the United States Japanese Mutual Security Pact?

