

An aerial photograph of a city in ruins, likely after a bombing raid. The foreground is filled with a dense field of rubble, including twisted metal and charred remains. In the background, several multi-story buildings remain standing, though many windows are missing. A prominent church with a tall, dark spire is visible on the right side of the image. The overall scene is one of devastation and destruction.

# World War II

A Quick Review

&

A Brief Introduction to  
American Involvement

# Why War in Europe

- Post-WWI Germany a Mess
- Nazis find scapegoats
- Hitler's Racially Hierarchical Worldview
  - *Lebensraum*
  - Rhineland (3/36) → Austria (38) → Sudetenland (38) → Appeasement at Munich (9/38)
  - Poland (9/39) → WAR!!!

# US Response to Europe

- Isolationism → Stay Out!!!
  - Nye Committee
  - Neutrality Acts (1936)
- Support Allies
  - Cash & Carry (1939)
  - The Great Arsenal of Democracy (1940)
  - Lend-Lease (1941)

# Why War in Asia



- Japan seeks an empire to support its military to protect its empire
- The Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere

# US Response to Asia

A map of East and Southeast Asia with various military units and regions labeled. A large red dashed line outlines a perimeter across the Pacific Ocean. A red box in the center-right contains text about the Southern Army. A black box at the top contains the title 'US Response to Asia'. Two bullet points are overlaid on the map: 'Protest' and 'Embargo -> Crisis'. The map shows the USSR to the north, China to the west, and Japan to the east. In Southeast Asia, it labels Burma, Thailand, Malaya, and the Philippines. In the Pacific, it shows the Caroline Islands, Marshall Islands, Gilbert Islands, and Solomon Islands. In the Indian Ocean, it shows the Netherlands Indies (Sumatra, Java) and Australia.

- Protest

- Embargo → Crisis

**SOUTHERN ARMY**  
14th Army - to Philippines  
15th Army - to Thailand  
16th Army - to East Indies  
25th Army - to Malaya

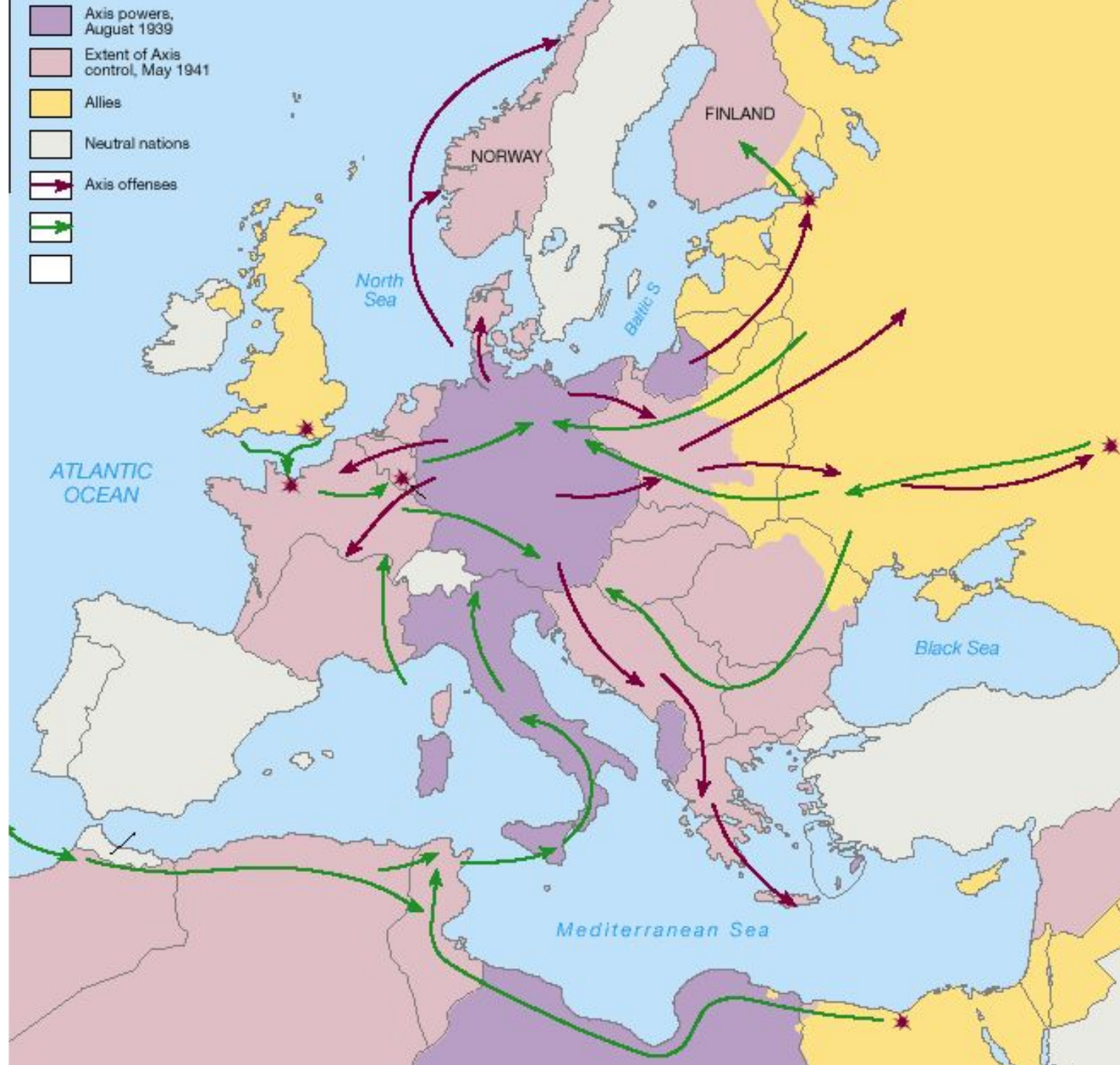
# United States Enters

- A Knockout Punch?
- Stupid Hitler
- America's Strategic Problem

# WWII Strategy Problem

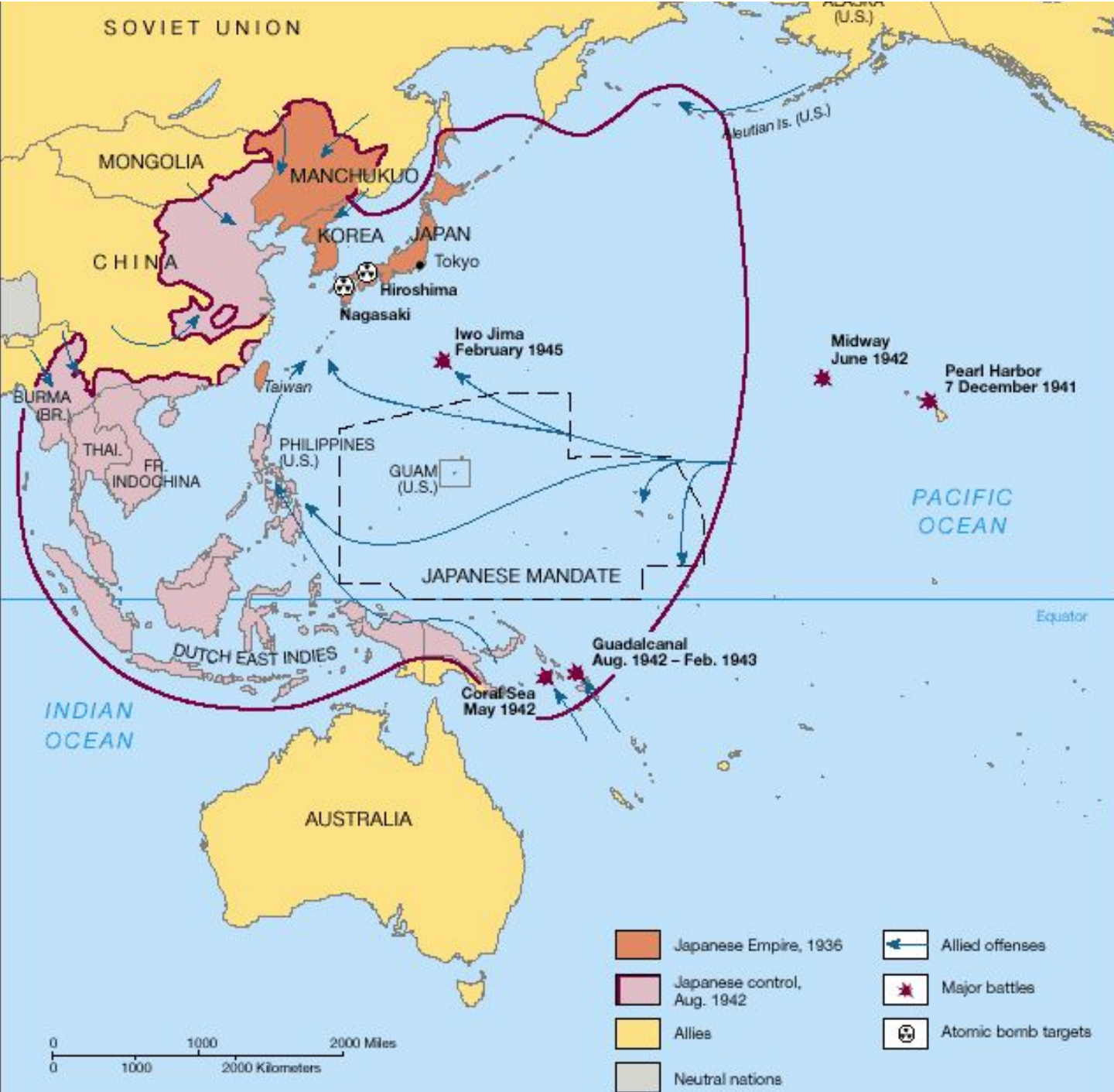
- It's 1941
- The US is simultaneously at war with both Japan & Germany on opposite sides of the world
- We must win both wars
- Experts indicate that we do not have enough resources to fight & win both wars simultaneously
- How do we win both?

# Extent of Axis Control May 1941





# Extent of Japanese Control Aug 1942



# WWII Strategy Solution

**Key:** Help from Allies  
(UK, USSR)

**Allies' Priorities:**  
Defend Homeland  
(Europe)



## EUROPE FIRST POLICY

1. Help Allies win in Europe; Hold in the Pacific
2. After War in Europe won → Get help from Allies against the Japanese in the Pacific