

## Timeline of Major Events of the Asia-Pacific War and the History of Hong Kong

1842 - By the Treaty of Nanking, China first cedes island and Peninsula of Hong Kong.

1843 - By Royal Charter, Hong Kong becomes a separate British colony.

1895 - Shimonoseki Treaty. After its defeat in the Sino-Japanese War, China cedes Taiwan to Japan.

1898 - New Territories leased to Britain for ninety-nine years.

1905 - Japan defeats Russia in the Russo-Japanese War. The Treaty of Portsmouth forces Russia to give up its claim in southern Manchuria to Japan, and recognizes Japan as the dominant Power in Korea.

1910 - Japan “officially” annexes Korea.

1926 - Hirohito, after five years as regent, becomes the 124<sup>th</sup> Emperor of Japan.

1931 - The Japanese army launches an invasion of Manchuria.

1932 - The Japanese army seizes Manchuria and establishes the puppet state of Manchukuo.

1933 - After the League of Nations declares that Manchukuo is not a legitimate state, Japan withdraws from the League. Japan keeps its troops in Manchuria and expands its control in the area by gaining control of much of North China.

1936 - The Japanese Army gains ascendancy in Japanese political life.

1937 - After the “Marco Polo Bridge Incident,” Japan launches an invasion of China. Japan captures Peking (now Beijing) and Shanghai. After the capital of Nanking (now Nanjing) falls, The Japanese military commits the Nanking Massacre.

1939 - World War II begins in Europe with the Nazi blitzkrieg of Poland.

1940 - Japan moves into northern Indo-China (now Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia). Japan joins the Axis Alliance with Germany and Italy.

1941 - Tojo Hideki becomes prime minister of Japan. Canada agrees with the British assessment of Hong Kong's strategic importance and agrees to send 1,975 troops that arrive on November 16. On December 7, Japan raids Pearl Harbor. Simultaneously, Malaya, Philippines, and Hong Kong are attacked. After seventeen days of fighting, Hong Kong is surrendered to Japan. Of the 1,975 Canadian troops, 290 are killed in action while 1,685 are captured and interned in POW camps. Two hundred and sixty-seven die in internment.

1942 - By mid-year, Japan has gained control over much of Southeast Asia including Hong Kong, Philippines, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Burma, Malaya (now Singapore and Malaysia, and Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia).

1945 - The first atomic bomb is dropped on Hiroshima on August 6. The Soviet Union declares war on Japan on August 8 (as agreed to by the Potsdam Treaty that ended the war in Europe). The second atomic bomb is dropped on Nagasaki on August 9. With Japan's surrender on August 15, World War II ends.