Pearl Harbor: Day of Infamy

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Group Website

History repeats itself and is one of the main reasons it’s important to study our past. America has a rich history of over 200 years, and in this time many events changed history. One such event is the attack on Pearl Harbor. We selected this topic because it was one of America’s most infamous tragedies and is relatable to people today. After the surprise attack on the World Trade Center in New York, many people instantly referred to 9/11 as the “Second Pearl Harbor” because of its resemblance to the Japanese attack on the naval base at Pearl Harbor. The effects of these attacks on the nation were also similar, causing Americans to feel like they were the innocent victims of a merciless attack. Pearl Harbor caused the common feelings of patriotism to unify this diverse nation for the first time in its history. This is why we feel that Pearl Harbor is such an important event for America to remember.

We first researched the attack on Pearl Harbor by visiting the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh to find books about Pearl Harbor and World War II. These books, along with films and videos, helped us learn topic background. Then we did a little more in-depth research. We contacted Dr. Donald Goldstein, author of numerous books on Pearl Harbor. He helped to write *At Dawn We Slept*, one of the most-read books about Pearl Harbor, along with Katherine Dillon and Gordon W. Prange. During a phone interview, Dr. Goldstein said that Pearl Harbor changed America and the public’s attitude toward entering World War II. We also found a list of local Pearl Harbor survivors and were able to interview Steve Jager in person, a verteran who survived the Pearl Harbor attack. Mr. Jager is passionate about sharing his story, especially to the younger generation. All of our sources helped us learn a lot about Pearl Harbor.

We decided a website would be the best way to display our research. It presents information in a way that is neat and easy to read. We are able to display pictures, videos, and multimedia that further explain our topic. We used www.timetoast.com to make the interactive timeline, the computer programs Clone2Go and Windows Movie Maker to edit videos, and mp3cut.net and audio-joiner.com to edit multimedia. The dark color scheme of our website symbolizes the tragic event.

The attack on Pearl Harbor was an important turning point in history. Before the attack, the American public was against becoming involved in World War II after the effects of World War I and the Great Depression. Because of Pearl Harbor, the general opinion changed. Americans banded together and agreed to go to war against Japan. They also entered World War II after Germany and Italy declared war on America. Going to war eventually pulled America out of its depression. Pearl Harbor was a major turning point for America.

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