In this imperial rescript, Emperor Hirohito declares war on the United States and Great Britain. Japan declared war on the U.S. and Great Britain on December 8, 1941, one day after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Keywords
Declaration of War, Japan, Pacific Theater, World War II, United States, Britain, Emperor, Hirohito, Imperial Rescript, Showa

Transcript
Emperor of Japan Hirohito
Declaration of War against the United States and Britain [in Japanese]
Tokyo, Japan, December 8, 1941.
We, by grace of heaven, Emperor of Japan, seated on the Throne of a line unbroken for ages eternal, enjoin upon ye, Our loyal and brave subjects:
We hereby declare war on the United States of America and the British Empire. The men and officers of
Our army and navy shall do their utmost in prosecuting the war, Our public servants of various
departments shall perform faithfully and diligently their appointed tasks, and all other subjects of Ours
shall pursue their respective duties; the entire nation with a united will shall mobilize their total strength
so that nothing will miscarry in the attainment of our war aims.

To insure the stability of East Asia and to contribute to world peace is the far-sighted policy which was
formulated by our Great illustrious Imperial Grandsire and Our Great Imperial sire succeeding Him, and
which We lay constantly to heart. To cultivate friendship among nations and to enjoy prosperity in
common with all nations has always been the guiding principle of Our Empire's foreign policy. It has been
truly unavoidable and far from Our wishes that Our Empire has now been brought to cross swords with
America and Britain. More than four years have passed since China, failing to comprehend the true
intentions of Our Empire, and recklessly courting trouble, disturbed the peace of East Asia and compelled
Our Empire to take up arms. Although there has been re-established the National Government of China,
with which Japan has effected neighborly intercourse and cooperation, the regime which has survived at
Chungking, relying upon American and British protection, still continues its fratricidal opposition. Eager
for the realization of their inordinate ambition to dominate the Orient, both America and Britain, giving
support to the Chungking regime, have aggravated the disturbances in East Asia.

Moreover, these two Powers, inducing other countries to follow suit, increased military preparations on all
sides of Our Empire to challenge us. They have obstructed by every means our peaceful commerce, and
finally resorted to a direct severance of economic relations, menacing gravely the existence of Our
Empire. Patiently have We waited and long have we endured, in the hope that Our Government might
retrieve the situation in peace. But our adversaries, showing not the least spirit of conciliation, have
unduly delayed a settlement; and in the meantime, they have intensified the economic and political
pressure to compel thereby Our Empire to submission. This trend of affairs would, if left unchecked, not
only nullify Our Empire's efforts of many years for the sake of the stabilization of East Asia, but also
endanger the very existence of Our nation. The situation being such as it is, Our Empire for its existence
and self-defense has no other recourse but to appeal to arms and to crush every obstacle in its path.
The hallowed spirits of Our Imperial Ancestors guarding Us from above, We rely upon the loyalty and
courage of Our subjects in Our confident expectation that the task bequeathed by Our forefathers will be
carried forward, and that the sources of evil will be speedily eradicated and an enduring peace immutably
established in East Asia, preserving thereby the glory of Our Empire.