

A Date Which Will Live In Infamy

Yesterday, December 7, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

The United States was at peace with that nation, and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its government and its Emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific... .

As Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense, that always will our whole nation remember the character of the onslaught against us.

No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people, in their righteous might, will win through to absolute victory.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt (December 8, 1941)

1. Define “infamy”—use a dictionary if necessary.
2. Why does President Roosevelt believe that the date, December 7, 1941, “will live in infamy”? Was he correct?
3. What makes Roosevelt believe that the Americans will win absolute victory?