

We study the rise and struggle to maintain American military power with a focus on wars in the Pacific: including the rise and defeat of the Japanese empire, the Korean War, and Vietnam. Finally, we examine the changing nature of modern war in the 21st century and the military challenges posed by the rise of China.

Course Topics

- 1. The Changing Face of Warfare in the 21st century as a challenge for American Military Power.**
- 2. America becomes a Pacific power: The Mexican War, Opening Japanese Trade, Alaska Purchase, Subjugation of Indigenous Peoples, Imperial Conquests [Hawaii, Philippines].**
- 3. WW I and Impact of Modern Warfare: New Weapons, Industrialization, Disillusionment.**
- 4. World War II in the Pacific – Japanese Military Conquest & Expansion 1937 – 1942**
- 5. World War II in the Pacific – Downfall: Island Campaigns, Bombing Campaigns, Atomic Bomb 1943-1945**
- 6. Cold War Developments 1945 – 1950: American Demobilization, USSR Military Power, Chinese Communist Victory, and Wars/Movements for Colonial Independence.**
- 7. Korean War 1950-1953: General McArthur - from Hero to Military Catastrophe, US and China at War, Stalemate and Armistice.**
- 8. Vietnam War 1954-1975: America's Defeat and Decline of US Military**
- 9. Post-Vietnam American Military Reforms, End of the Draft, Revolution in Military Affairs, and Collapse of the USSR**

- 10. First Gulf War, Precision Weapons, and Revival of American Military Prestige**
- 11. 9/11 and New Shift of American Focus on Irregular Warfare: Afghanistan and Iraq**
- 12. Developments in Modern War in 21st Century: Land, Sea, Air, Space, and Information.**
- 13. Rise of Chinese Military Power, Taiwan, and the Potential Military Conflict with China.**

Related Sources

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- C. Brose, 2020. *The Kill Chain: Defending America in the Future of High-Tech War*. Hachette.**
- R. Connaughton, 2001. *MacArthur and Defeat in the Philippines*. Overlook.**
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