

World War II in the Philippines

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Without the help of the United States in the Philippines during World War II, the world as we know it today would have looked very different. One of the main reasons it would be different is because the Japanese would have been in control of the Pacific Theater. They would own the Philippines which would allow control of the Pacific Ocean, therefore they could control World War II supplies, and could prevent the supplies from the war getting imported and exported between Allies. The World War II battle in the Philippines was important because it helped slow down the Japanese invasion in the Pacific Theater.

The Japanese invaded the Philippines on December 8, 1941, which was the day after the Pearl Harbor bombing (Dolan). The Japanese attacked the Philippines both North and South of Manila using aerial assault, then they fought on the ground (Dolan). The Japanese attacked the Philippines to grow more power (Knighton). The Philippines would help the Japanese grow more power by the Japanese controlling the Philippine island, which would let the Japanese control the Pacific Theater (Knighton). For example Andrew Knighton, in his article “The Empire and Japan” states, “For the Japanese, the Philippines were strategically important for several reasons. Taking them would deprive the US of an advance base in the region” (Knighton). If the Japanese could control the Pacific Theater they could stop military war supplies going from country to country by ship.

The United States of America was able to push the Japanese off the island. The Americans were already in the Philippines because of an air base; therefore, the Americans helped defend the Filipinos, since the Philippines was an American territory. After the fighting had begun, General MacArthur, who had left to get his family to safety, returned as promised. He

was in charge of 10,000 American Army troops, 12,000 Filipino soldiers that fought as U.S. Army soldiers, and 100,000 Filipino soldiers to fight off the Japanese (History.com; Knighton). The United States pushed the Japanese to Bataan by first fighting in the air with bombers and other planes, which probably took a day or two, then by fighting on land with rifles.

The aftermath of the battle was significant for all of the three countries that were involved. The United States of America's Naval and Airforce defense forces were damaged by 29 planes getting shot down (History.com) and their ships getting bombed and losing 10,000 men (Dolan); however, it was not even close to the losses of the Pearl Harbor bombing in Hawaii, the United States of America was also able to keep their access to imports and exports of the supplies for World War II. The Japanese were defeated, which caused their plans, which were to take over the Philippines, due to the United States of America fighting in the air and land. The Japanese also lost 780 planes and 2 aircraft carriers (History.com). After the battle in the Philippines, the Filipinos received their country back, but it was extremely damaged from the bombing of almost all of the shore batteries, causing many deaths from AA guns in the process (Knighton). The shore batteries were where firearms and ammunition were stored, which caused more damage and a loss of weapons.

In conclusion, the World War II battle in the Philippines was important because it helped slow down the Japanese invasion in the Pacific Theater. It also helped the United States keep their access to imports and exports of supplies for World War II that the United States and other countries needed to be successful. After the Philippine battle the United States didn't have much damage however, the Japanese had lost many planes, multiple aircraft carriers, and many soldiers, due to the United States of America bombing them in air and on land. The Philippines

also lost many soldiers along with their shore's and shore batteries getting bombed. After the battle was over the Filipinos received their country back.

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