

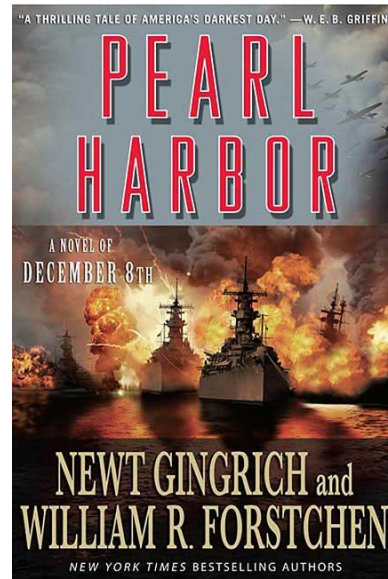
READING GROUP GUIDE

Pearl Harbor

By Newt Gingrich and William R. Forstchen

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About this Guide

The following author biography and list of questions about *Pearl Harbor* are intended as resources to aid individual readers and book groups who would like to learn more about the author and this book. We hope that this guide will provide you a starting place for discussion, and suggest a variety of perspectives from which you might approach *Pearl Harbor*.

About the Book

Fresh from their series on the American Civil War, bestselling authors Newt Gingrich and William R. Forstchen now launch a new epic adventure by applying their imaginations and knowledge to the “Date of Infamy”---the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Pearl Harbor covers the full spectrum of character and events of that historic moment, from national leaders and admirals to the views of ordinary citizens caught in the chaos of war. From the chambers of the Emperor of Japan to the American White House, from the decks of aircraft carriers to the playing fields of the Japanese Naval Academy, this powerful story stretches from the nightmare slaughter of China in the 1930s to the lonely office of Commander James Watson, an American cryptographer, who suspects the impending catastrophic attack. It is a story of intrigue, double-dealing, the horrific brutality of war, and the desperate efforts by men of reason on both sides to prevent a titanic struggle that becomes inevitable.

A compelling, meticulously researched saga, *Pearl Harbor* is also a novel of valor about those who took part in this cataclysmic moment in world history. It inaugurates a dramatic new Pacific War series that begins with the terrifying account of the day that started it all.



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About the Author

Newt Gingrich, front-running Republican primary candidate for the 2012 Presidential Election, former Speaker of the House, bestselling author of *Gettysburg* and *Pearl Harbor*, the longest serving teacher of the Joint War Fighting Course for Major Generals at Air University, and an honorary Distinguished Visiting Scholar and Professor at the National Defense University. He resides in Virginia with his wife, Callista, with whom he hosts and produces documentaries, including their latest, "A City Upon A Hill".

Discussion Questions

1. If any in your group remember December 7, 1941, would you care to share your memories?
2. Can 12/7/1941 be compared to our own generation's 9/11? If not, what makes 9/11 different?
3. The authors wrote their book as an "active history." Much of the book is "real history" but they finally depart from the actual real history of that day, and examine a great "what if," and how it might have changed all that happened afterwards. What do you think can be learned from this approach to studying history?
4. Do you think the authors were trying to impart any lessons or "view points" historical, social, or political?
5. Prior to this book, have you ever examined the events leading up to the attack on Pearl Harbor from the Japanese point of view? If so, are there other books that stand out for you? How did this book contribute to your understanding of the Japanese perspective?
6. Was there a particular Japanese character that you identified with? In what ways did you identify with him?
7. Who was your favorite character overall, and why?
8. Were you aware of the Japanese atrocities committed in China, particularly in the incident at Nanking (Nanjing)? Were the authors too graphic or "over the top," in describing that incident?
9. Was the war in the Pacific inevitable?
10. Was there some aspect of "real history" that you learned from this book and you wish to pursue further?



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11. Why do you think the authors wrote this particular book? What might they have been trying to convey that a history book couldn't?
12. Is there another period in history that you would like to see them explore?

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