Timeline of U.S. - Japan interactions

1854	Commodore Perry arrives in Japan with a U.S. Naval Squadron and, after a show of American naval force, signs a trade treaty with Japan
1898	The U.S. acquired the Philippines as a colony from Spain following the Spanish-American War
1905	Japan defeats Russia in the Russo-Japanese war
1905	Sec. of State William Howard Taft met with Japanese prime minister, Count Taro Katsura to discuss each country's imperial interests. Katsura assured Taft that Japan has no interest in the Philippines, and Taft agreed that Japan should control Korea. They didn't sign a treaty, because Taft knew the U.S. Senate would not ratify it, instead it was a secret agreement, known as the Taft-Katsura Memorandum, which lasted until Dec. 7 1941.
1906	The San Francisco Board of Education decreed children of Japanese descent would be required to attend separate, segregated schools. All 93 children of Japanese descent were sent to the "Oriental Public School" with children of Chinese and Korean descent
1907	The 'Gentleman's Agreement' - an informal agreement between the U.S. and Japan whereby Japan would not allow further emigration to the U.S. and the U.S. would not impose restrictions on Japanese immigrants already present in the country (i.e. children of Japanese descent could go to "white" public schools
1908	The Root-Takahira Agreement. Japan promised to respect U.S. territorial possessions in the Pacific, its Open Door policy in China, and limit immigration to the U.S. The United States recognized Japanese control of Taiwan and the Pescadores, and the Japanese special interest in Manchuria
1909	Homer Lea published *The Valor of Ignorance,* a book detailing Japan's military capabilities and the strategy Japan could use to invade the West Coast and take control of the Pacific. Both the U.S. & Japanese military take the book seriously
1913	On May 3, 1913, California enacted the Alien Land Law, barring Asian immigrants from owning land or renting it for more than three years. Japan is outraged and some political leaders talk of starting a war with California.
1924	Oriental Exclusion Act, part of the 1924 Immigration Act, bans all Chinese, Japanese, and Koreans from immigrating to the U.S.
1925	An English naval intelligence specialist named Hector Bywater publishes *Sea Power in the Pacific*, a highly detailed plan for how Japan could successfully attack the U.S., beginning with a hit on Pearl Harbor. The Japanese use the book as a blueprint 15 years later.
1931	Japanese troops in Manchuria seize control of the region
1937	Japan invades the eastern provinces of mainland China
July 26, 1941	The U.S. seizes all Japanese assets in the United States and puts an embargo on sales of oil and scrap metal to Japan in retaliation for the Japanese occupation of French Indo-China on July 24.
December 7, 1941	Just before 8a.m., Japanese forces launched a surprise attack on the Pearl Harbor Naval base. They managed to destroy or damage nearly 20 American naval vessels, including eight battleships, and over 300 airplanes. More than 2,400 Americans died in the attack, including civilians, and another 1,000 people were wounded.
December 8, 1941	Japan attacks and takes control of the Philippines, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Singapore, Indochina, and Thailand. Sets up "Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere", a *de facto* Japanese empire.