

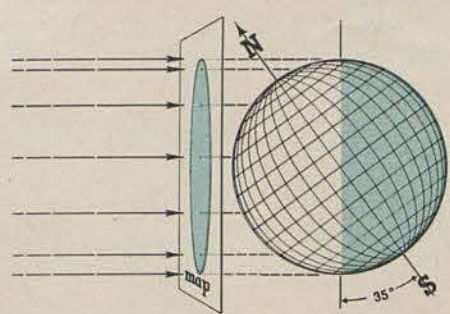
PACIFIC ARENA

A FORTUNE MAP ORTHOGRAPHIC SERIES II

Centered at 35°N 170°W
drawn by RICHARD EDES HARRISON
Assisted by Mariette K. Ulrich
Supplement to FORTUNE September, 1942
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SCALE

The limitation of this projection is that no accurate universal scale can be applied, so important distances have been noted on it. However, the scale on the circumference or any concentric circle is 1:25,000,000 or 395 statute miles per inch. Furthermore, since the projection is azimuthal, all radii from the center of projection are great circles, and distances on them can be measured with the scale shown along the margin.



Of all great arenas of this, the first true world war, the Pacific is the most difficult to conceive and visualize as a whole. That is because it is the vastest single strategic unit in which men have ever struggled for mastery or survival. From the Isthmus of Panama to Singapore on the Strait of Malacca — the west-east limits of this war arena — is almost precisely halfway around the world. The north-south limits extend to the shadows of the two poles.

Yet as this orthographic, or global, map shows so clearly, the decisive lines of action lie entirely in the North. The prime fact to be remembered about the Pacific is that the shortest, most direct route between Tokyo and Seattle is the great circle that passes through Dutch Harbor in the Aleutian Islands. No man who had grasped the full significance of the geographical position of Dutch Harbor and Alaska would ever be guilty of describing enemy action in the Aleutians as "unimportant."

This Tokyo-Dutch Harbor-Seattle line is the anchor line of Pacific strategy, whether viewed from the U.S. or from Japan. From this perspective, Pearl Harbor can be seen for what it really is, a vital flank position, not the frontal bastion of popular description. The great Japanese naval and air base of Truk in the Caroline Islands occupies an analogous, if more easily defensible, position. The Panama Canal is so distant from the principal theatre that it is beyond the limits of this map. Australia, too, is on the far perimeter of strategic interest from all points of view except, of course, the Australian. No one seriously believes that Japan will be crushed by any offensive launched northward from Australian bases. Distances alone in the South Pacific are enough to make a crushing Australian offensive a logistical dream.

JAPANESE STRATEGY

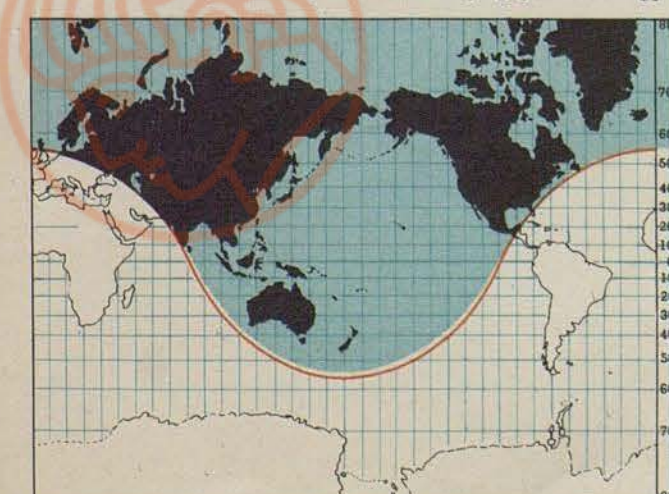
The Japanese have been proceeding with great geopolitical logic. As a result of their victories in the first six months of the war, Japan herself is now protected by a tremendous semi-circular screen of conquered territory to the west, south, and southeast. With the fall of Burma there were three remaining avenues by which Japan herself could be attacked: from China, from Siberia, and from the Aleutians. She has already blunted the Aleutian sword pointed so accurately at the industrial heart of the Empire. She is steadily preparing to act against the Siberian threat. And she is trying desperately to neutralize China as a potential offensive base. If these three objectives are fully achieved, Japan will not necessarily be invulnerable, but she certainly will be an exceedingly tough nut to crack, regardless of what happens to Germany. Indeed, from the Tokyo vantage, the war in the West must appear somewhat as it does on this projection, a remote action working to its own conclusion beyond the crest of the earth.

AMERICAN OPPORTUNITY

A winning American strategy must be related directly to these three objectives that Japan is now trying to gain, namely China, Siberia, and Alaska and the Aleutians. With these in the hands of the United Nations the Japanese nut can be cracked — and fast, once forces are freed from the West. Hence the immediate problem is not to attack Japan (Japan is doing the attacking) but to defend. Here enters the all-important problem of supply and communications. Again, this map shows that short and direct supply routes are northern and Arctic. The difficulties of supply by the traditional means for both China and Russia are already so great that our aid is hardly a dribble compared to real needs. Supply, which is the heart of our strategy, must take partly to air. When it does, it will also take to the North, for there lies the key to Japanese defeat.

MERCATOR IS NO MAP FOR GLOBAL WAR

Together this map and the small inset map (lower right) show the entire world in two halves. The dividing line between the two hemispheres is plotted below with a red line on a Mercator map, illustrating how unrealistically the far northern latitudes are represented on a rectangular map. The entire polar regions cannot be shown, since on Mercator the poles are at infinity. Also note the relation of Asia to North America on each projection. Although essential in navigation and an ideal projection for the equatorial regions, Mercator is a dangerous map to use in studying global strategy.



LEGEND

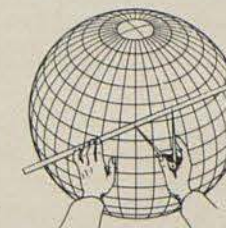
THE LINE-UP AUG. 1, 1942	
Allies	Axis
Occupied by Allies	Occupied by Axis
Pro-Ally	Pro-Axis
Neutrals	

These classifications are in some cases necessarily arbitrary.
Great Circle Routes — Sea — Air
with distances in statute miles.
For nautical miles multiply by .87

CITIES
■ 1,000,000 inhabitants or over
● 100,000 - 1,000,000
○ under 100,000

NOTE ON THE PROJECTION

The orthographic projection was selected for FORTUNE's new series of maps covering our global war because it is the most nearly pictorial of all formal projections. It is the link between those perpetual irreconcilables — the three-dimensional globe and the two-dimensional map. Constructed from plan and side view as an architect does the facade of a round building, it might be called the architectural projection. It differs from a perspective in that its infinite viewpoint makes it possible to show a full hemisphere (see diagram below). It has long been a favorite in the field of design for trademarks, seals, title pages of atlases, etc., but has been neglected as a serious map because of its extreme variations in scale (a disadvantage that it shares with Mercator) and because only half the world can be shown at one time (a disadvantage that it shares with the globe). However, these faults (and the nature of maps requires them all to have faults) can be forgiven because of its graphic delineation of the sphere. R.E.H.



How to use the radial scale at right

