



Lesson 121



Fighting in the Pacific: Japan Advances

Japan Advances

- Japan captured Hong Kong, Singapore, and the Philippines.
- Japan won the Battle of the Java Sea.
- After General MacArthur left, the Philippines fell to the Japanese.
 - He promised that he would return.

Japan Advances

- The Allies were able to stop a Japanese advance toward New Guinea.
- The Japanese wanted to capture Midway.
 - The Americans had cracked the Japanese communications codes.
 - Four Japanese aircraft carriers were sunk.
 - The Allies were victorious.

Japan Advances

- The Allies captured Guadalcanal after months of fierce fighting.
- The Allies continued moving through the Solomon Islands.
 - Admiral Yamamoto was shot down.
- General MacArthur and Admiral Nimitz began a pattern of island hopping to move closer and closer to Japan.

Douglas MacArthur



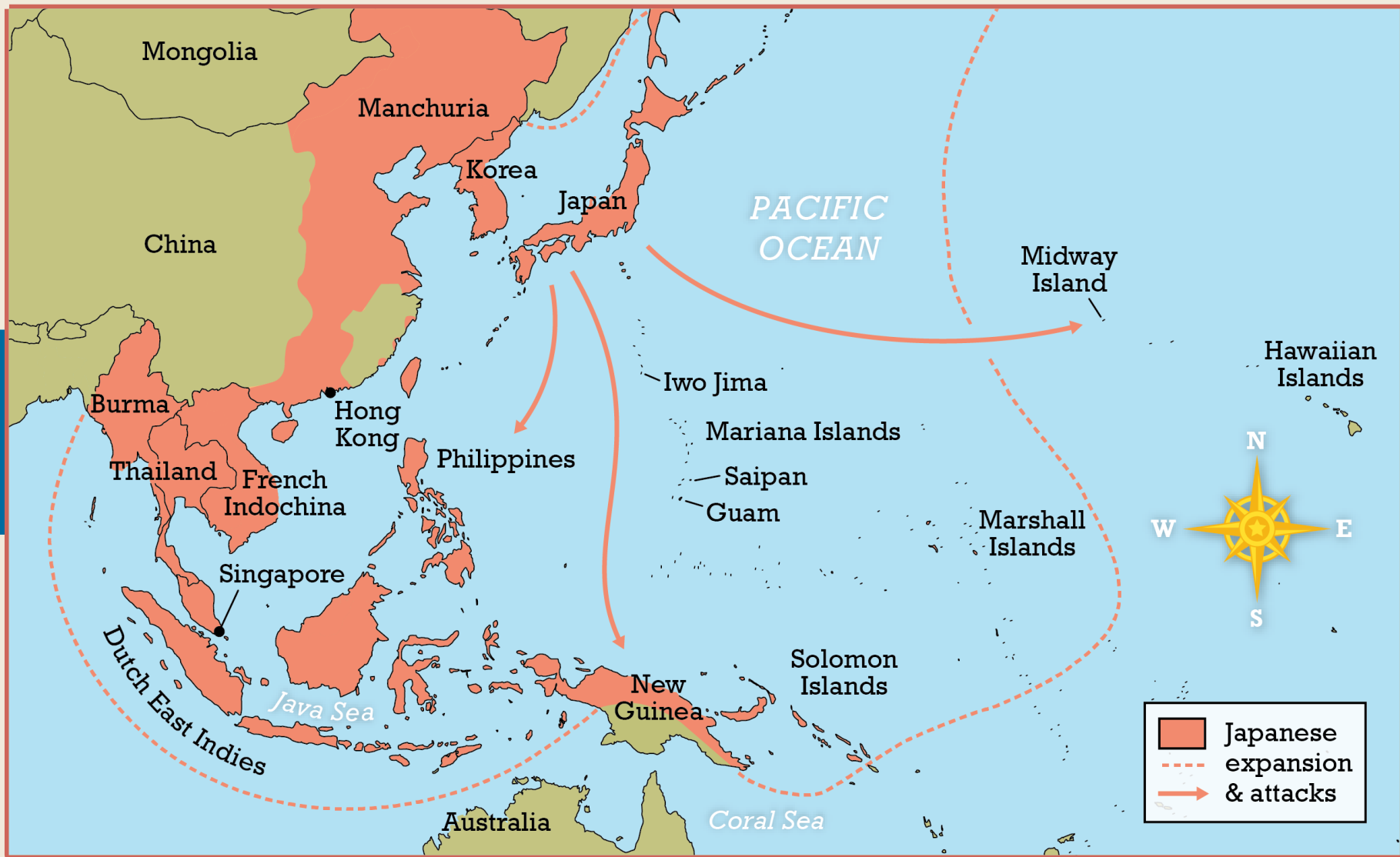
(1880–1964) American general during World War II who led the campaign to free the Philippine Islands from Japan



a Pacific island on which the Allies won an important
battle against Japan

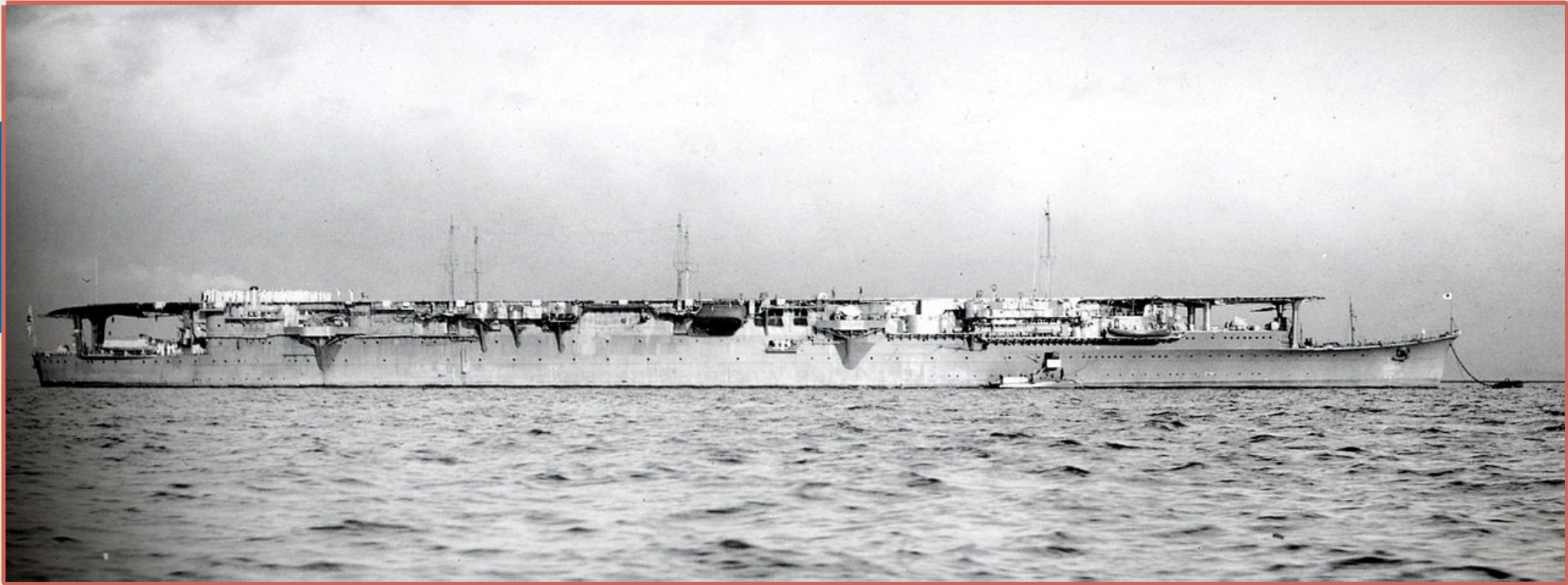


a ring-shaped coral island or a string of coral islands



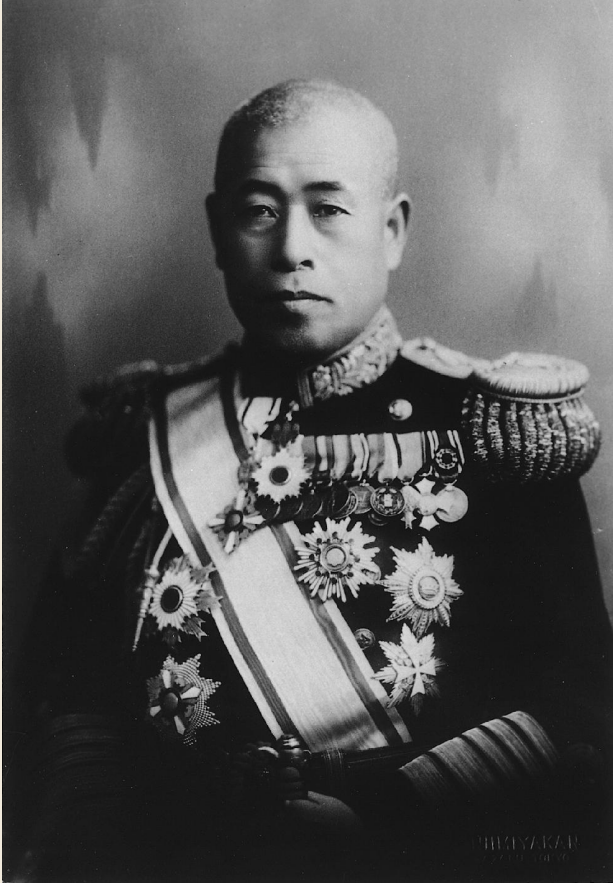
Map Resources

Japanese Advances



Japanese aircraft carrier

Isoroku Yamamoto



(1884–1943) the admiral who
led the Japanese fleet at the
Battle of Midway during World
War II

Chester Nimitz



(1885–1966) the commander of the American forces at the battle of Midway during World War II; leader of island hopping campaign in the Pacific

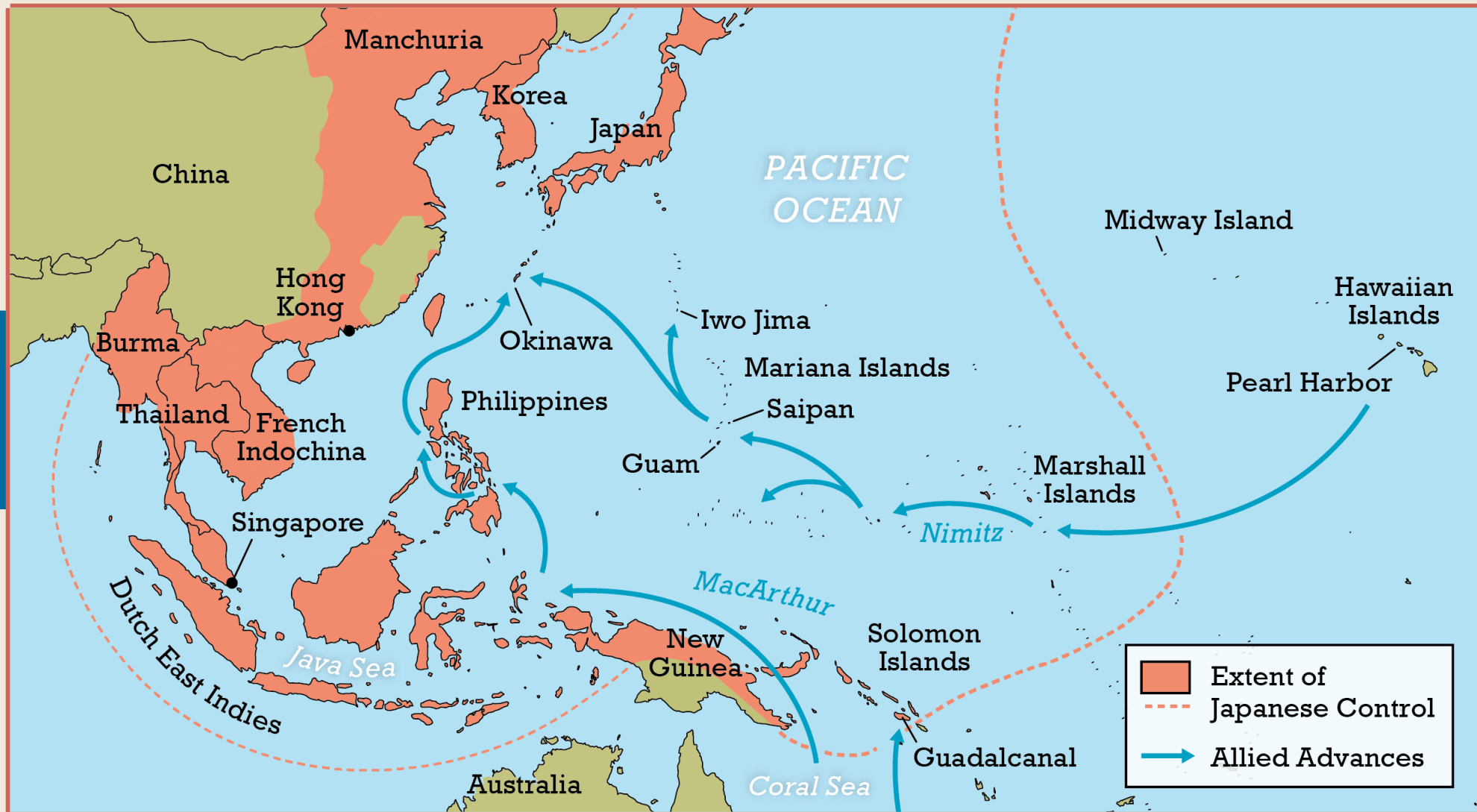


Only one American carrier, the *Yorktown*, was sunk.



island hopping

a military strategy used in World War II in which the Allies gradually established bases on undefended islands in the Pacific in an effort to move closer to Japan's main islands



Map Resources

Allied Advances



Review

How did the United States defeat the Japanese at Midway?

The United States had broken the main Japanese navy code, and the US Navy knew when and where the Japanese fleet would be. American aircraft did their job, sinking four Japanese aircraft carriers and forcing the Japanese fleet to head back.