

# Iwo Jima: Turning the Tides of War

Ankita Datta

Senior Division Individual Website

Website Word Count: 1198

Website Media Count: 2:15

Process Paper Word Count: 500

Time and time again, the iconic picture of American soldiers gallantly raising their flag has stood for victory and boosting morale, but what actually took place in order for this photograph to be engraved in American fame? This was something that caught my attention when I was searching for topics. Since I was interested in World War II events, I was intrigued by this topic. The Battle of Iwo Jima not only proved to serve as a turning point for World War II in the Pacific, but also a landmark for the U.S. Marine Corps' contributions to this country.

I initially started reading brief secondary sources about the overall battle, like Britannica and a few books. Then, whenever I felt like there was an event or person I should research about, I looked at more websites that went in depth, such as Iwo Jima's terrain, underground bunkers, and capturing the airfields. The most helpful sources were from the Marine Corps, National Parks Service, museums, and other government websites. For Japanese perspective, I watched the Japanese interviews in a few documentaries and also the book *A Tomb Called Iwo Jima* by Dan King, which solely contained Japanese accounts. I also read the memoir *Indestructible* by U.S. Marine Jack Lucas for first-hand experiences. Some of my pictures and maps are from books, and the rest were from online websites.

I wanted to make a website from the start because I had experience with the website maker from last year. A website also allowed me to use ample quotes I had and also incorporate pictures from the time. The color scheme of the website is red, blue, white, and sometimes gray to see the graphics, because both the U.S. and Japan flag have red and white, and the blue is incorporated for the U.S. I also included some stars and lines as my section dividers that are derived from the stars and stripes of the U.S. flag. In the background of the website, I added the U.S. flag because I felt the website had more focus on U.S. perspective.

My historical argument is that even when faced with Japanese defensive strategies that were never used before during the war, the U.S. Marines nimbly adapted to the heavy onslaught and courageously captured the entire island. Without the Marines, Iwo Jima might have stayed under Japanese territory in World War II, making it difficult for the U.S. to advance towards mainland Japan.

The U.S. victory on Iwo Jima allowed the saving of thousands of bomber planes and pilots during the war with available airfields situated between the U.S. and mainland Japan. The timeless picture of the Marines hoisting the U.S. flag on top of Mount Suribachi sparked the biggest profit from war bonds in the U.S., and later provided inspiration for a memorial to commemorate the Marine Corps' service. The Japanese and American memorial on Iwo Jima connects people from both countries to this day, showing the impact the battle had on their current relations.