Founded in 2000, the Center for Historical Research sponsors a variety of history related events such as Utica College’s Brown Bag Talks lecture series, History Month events, commemorative “@” series, and other history-related events. It is responsible for Utica College’s online archive, *The Digital History Project*, and supports the publication of our annual student research journal, *The History Project.*

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Utica College  
Utica, New York
Few events are so ingrained into the American psyche and popular culture as the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Despite its centrality in America’s “road to war” narrative, most Americans know little about the events that led up to the actual event.

Our abridged understanding goes something like this: “On December, 7, 1941, the Empire of Japan launched a sneak attack against the United States without provocation. Japan’s ambassadors had been engaged in discussions with American diplomats as a smokescreen, masking the true intention of the ‘evil empire’: world domination.”

This retelling of the events is inaccurate and does a disservice to history. As the 75th anniversary of the attack approaches, we are sure to see numerous commemorative activities and news stories. Our hope is that this @Series symposium will restart the dialogue on the road to war, provide greater understanding of the events that led to the Pearl Harbor attack, and provided a corrective to the popular historical narrative.