The naval war doctrine of the Imperial Japanese Navy, which has been the subject of much speculation, was in fact based on a very simple and straightforward philosophy.

The core of the philosophy was that Japan, as an island nation, had to maintain a strong navy to defend its interests in the Pacific and to project its influence beyond its borders. This was not just a matter of military strength, but also of economic and strategic necessity. Japan's economy was heavily dependent on access to raw materials from Asia and the Pacific, and its navy was seen as a crucial tool for securing these resources.

The IJN's doctrine emphasized the importance of surprise attacks, using its powerful carrier aircraft to strike at the enemy's naval forces before they could react. This was famously demonstrated in the attack on Pearl Harbor, which showed the world the power of the Japanese navy.

Overall, the IJN's philosophy was a pragmatic one, rooted in the Realpolitik approach that informed Japanese foreign policy. It was driven by the need to protect Japan's interests in the Pacific and to compete with the United States and other Western powers. The results of the war demonstrated the effectiveness of this approach, even if it ultimately led to Japan's defeat.
A party celebrating Hitler's birthday on April 20, 1938, at Berchtesgaden. In the front row to the right of Hitler and Eva Braun are Herr and Frau Martin Bormann. Third from the left in the second row of the picture is Albert Speer, later to become Minister for Armaments and War Production. (Rudolf Hess, nominally Bormann's chief at the time the picture was taken, is not even in the group, an indication of his declining fortunes even in 1938.)

Eva Braun when she was secretary to Heinrich Hoffmann, Hitler's personal photographer.
Fritz Thyssen, the Ruhr industrialist and early financial supporter of Hitler. The picture was taken in Germany by Thyssen’s young grandson, Federico, prior to the flight of the Thyssens to Switzerland in 1933. The grandson is now Count Federico Zichy-Thyssen of Buenos Aires, who controls the Thyssen Steel Group of Düsseldorf from the Argentinian capital.