

I look at the map of the Pacific.  
The American navy calls the Pacific the American Lake.  
They have ships in Samoa  
Hawai ' i, Taiwan, the Philippines,  
Belau, Kwajalein, Truk  
the Marianas, the Carolines.  
In Micronesia, there are 90,000 people,  
who gives a damn?  
The dead are louder in protest than the living.  
The living are silent.  
Silent.  
Silent  
Silent  
Silent  
Silent.

-- John Pule, *The Shark that Ate the Sun* (Auckland, NZ: Penguin, 1992).

*Honolulu Advertiser*, September 26, 2009: U.S. Pacific Fleet gets new commander

U.S. Navy Adm. Patrick M. Walsh became the new commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet yesterday at a change-of-command ceremony at Pearl Harbor's Kilo Pier. The former vice chief of naval operations succeeds Adm. Robert F. Willard in commanding the Navy's largest area of responsibility. Willard will soon become commander of the U.S. Pacific Command.

The Pacific Fleet's responsibility extends over half the Earth's surface, covering more than 100 million square miles. Each day, Pacific Fleet ships are at sea in the Pacific, Indian and Arctic oceans, from the West Coast to the Arabian Gulf. The Pacific Fleet includes 180 ships and submarines, 1,500 aircraft and 125,000 sailors, Marines and civilians.

---

San Franers, falling down.  
Canneries closing.  
Sardines splitting  
For Mexico.  
Me too.

-- from Bob Kaufman, "West Coast Sounds—1956" (poem)