

An illustrated history of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki nuclear bombings

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By **Richard Johnson and Bonnie Berkowitz** [Follow @davidnakamura](#)

Aug. 5, 2015

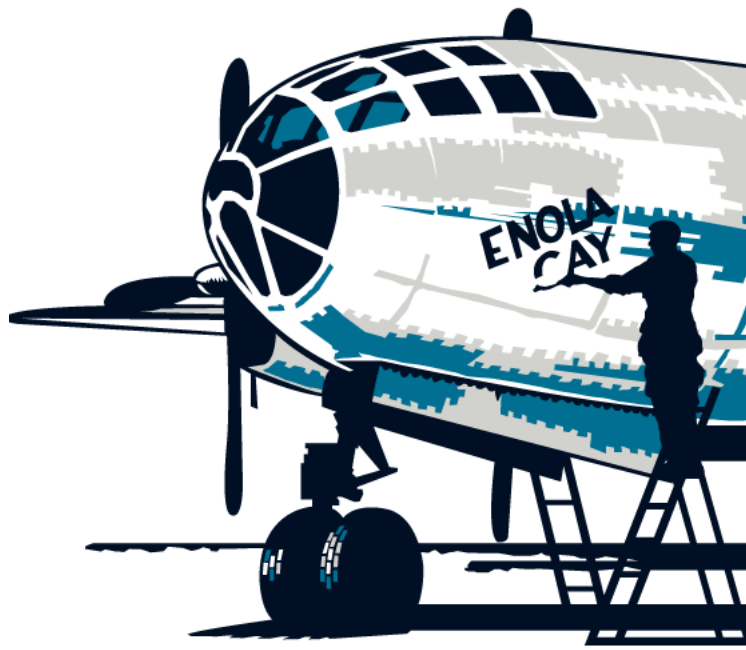


ENOLA GAY, LITTLE BOY AND HIROSHIMA

In the afternoon of Aug. 5, 1945, on the island of Tinian in the Pacific Ocean, “Little Boy,” the first combat atomic bomb, was taken to a loading pit and lifted into the bomb bay of a modified B-29 Superfortress.

The flight’s weaponeer and bomb commander, Navy Capt. William S. “Deak” Parsons, was worried about the possibility of crashing on takeoff from Tinian, a distinct possibility with heavily loaded B-29s. He was particularly concerned that the bomb could detonate in a crash and destroy half the island. The decision was made to allow Parsons to arm the bomb in flight.

Parsons began practicing the task of inserting the propellant (four bags of cordite) into the bomb.



The mission was to be piloted by Col. Paul W. Tibbets Jr., commanding officer of the 509th Composite Group.

TAKING OFF

In the early morning of Aug. 6, the crew boarded the Enola Gay.



The four-engine plane, followed by two observation planes carrying cameras and scientific instruments, took off into the Pacific night. The Enola Gay was one of seven making the trip to Hiroshima, but it was the only plane carrying a bomb.



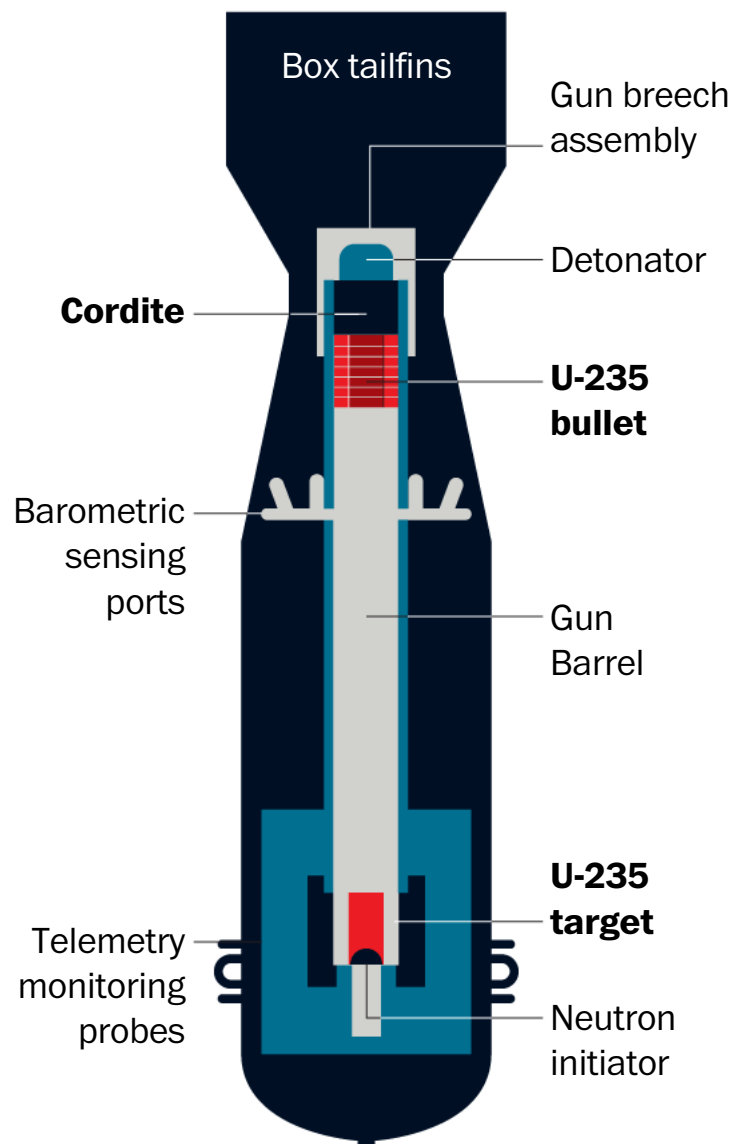
LITTLE BOY

Little Boy was a gun bomb. At one end of a gun's barrel was a Uranium-235 target

shaped like a sphere with a conical wedge removed from it. Another cone-shaped bullet of U-235 was at the other end with its point toward the gap in the target. The bullet was fired by the charge of cordite at a set altitude after dropping. The force of the impact would weld the two pieces of uranium together, creating a critical mass, and the explosion would follow instantly.

Some time after takeoff, Parsons loaded the cordite into the bomb and armed the device.

Enola Gay rendezvoused with the observation planes over Iwo Jima.



APPROACHING JAPAN

As the Enola Gay came within sight of the Japanese mainland, Tibbets began the climb to the drop altitude above 30,000 feet.



At 7:15 a.m., the Japanese early-warning radar net detected the approach of planes

headed for southern Japan. Radio broadcasting stopped in Hiroshima, and air-raid warnings were sounded. The planes approached the coast at a very high altitude.

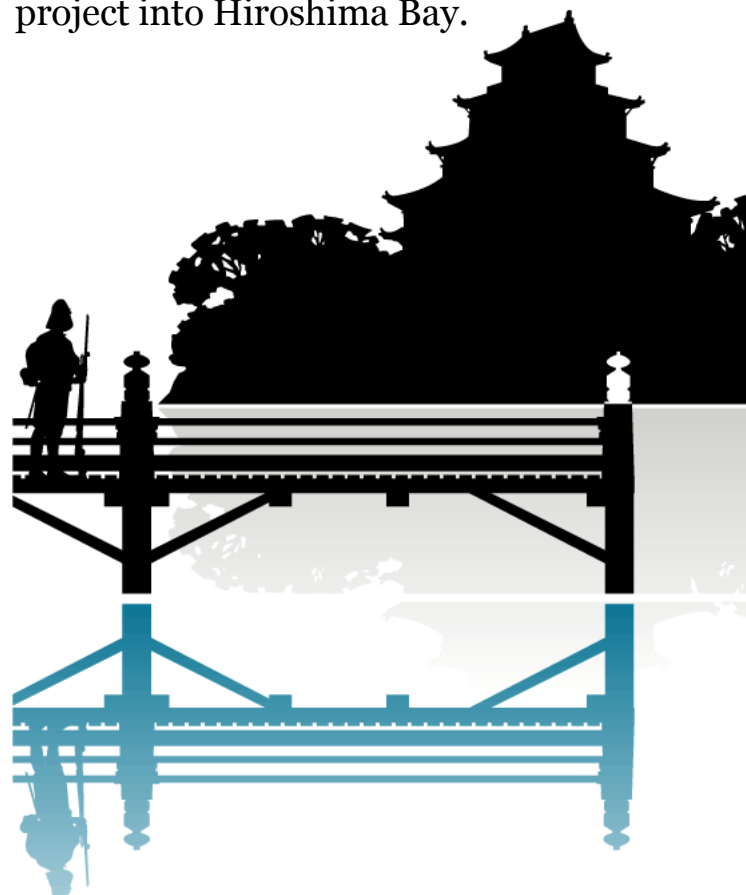
By 8:00 a.m., the air-raid alert was lifted because the radar operator in Hiroshima saw how few planes there were.

Hiroshima finally came into the view of the Enola Gay. The target was the T-shaped Aioi Bridge in the center of the city.

HIROSHIMA

Hiroshima was a city of considerable military importance. It contained the 2nd Army Headquarters, which commanded the defense of southern Japan. The city was a communications center, a storage point and an assembly area for troops.

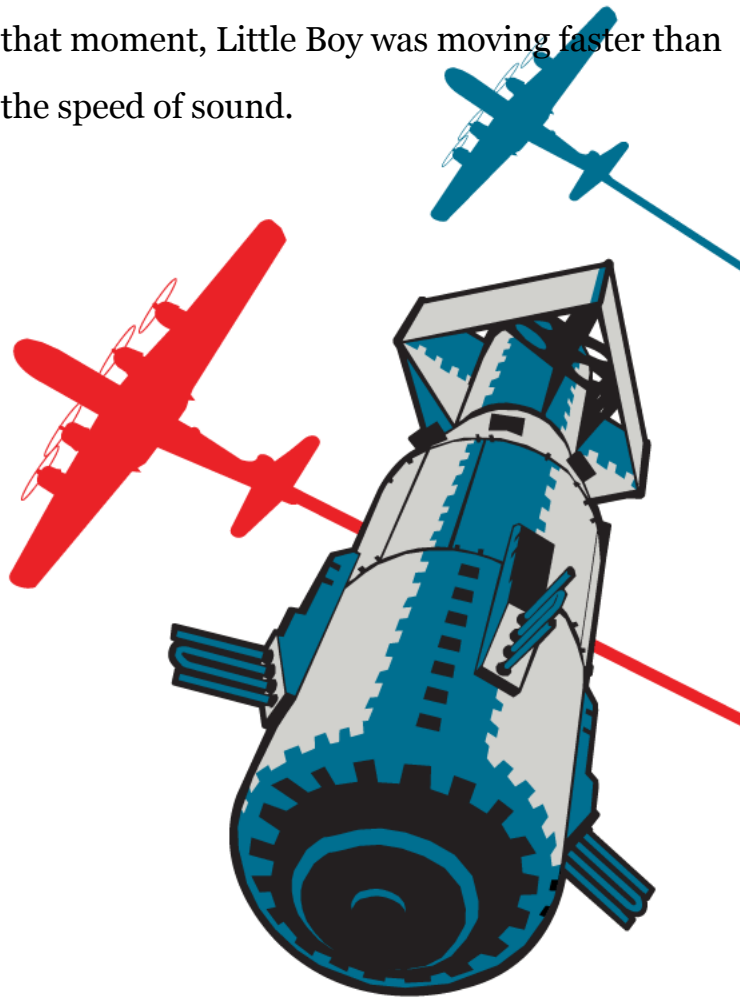
The city was located on a broad, flat delta of the Ota River, which has seven channel outlets dividing the city into six islands that project into Hiroshima Bay.



On the morning of the bombing, an estimated 348,000 people were in Hiroshima, including 285,000 civilians, 12,000 conscripted Japanese workers, 3,000 conscripted Korean workers, 48,000 Japanese soldiers, and a small number of prisoners of war.

THE BLAST

At 8:15 a.m., Little Boy dropped. The fall to the burst altitude of 1,968 feet lasted 43 seconds. At that moment, Little Boy was moving faster than the speed of sound.



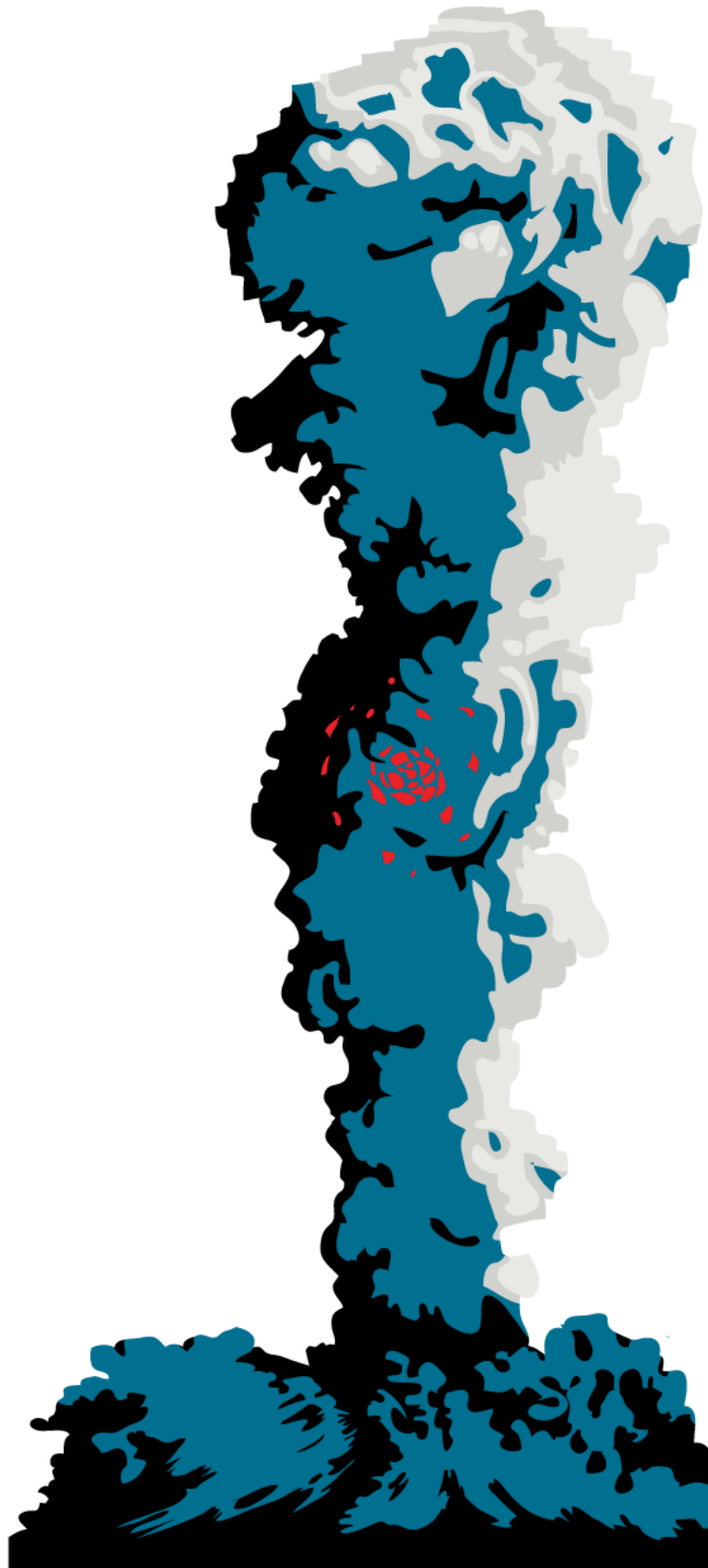
The bomb exploded with a blinding flash above the center of the city.

The burst temperature was estimated at more than 1 million degrees Celsius. It ignited the surrounding air, forming a fireball about 900 feet in diameter.

Thirty seconds after the explosion, the Enola Gay circled to get a better look at what was

circled to get a better look at what was happening. The city itself was engulfed in black smoke and, although the bomber was flying at 30,000 feet, the mushroom cloud had already risen above it, eventually reaching almost 56,000 feet.

The bomb, which exploded near its target over the center of the city, leveled two square miles. A firestorm incinerated everything within 6,000 feet of ground zero.



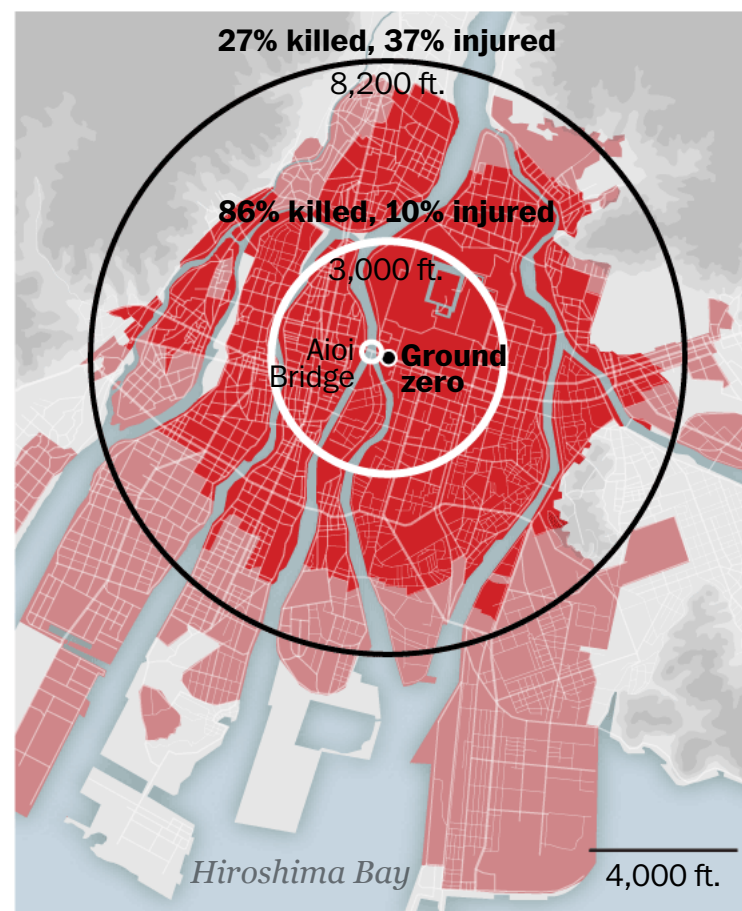
The blast wave shattered windows within 10

miles and was felt as far away as 37 miles.
More than two-thirds of Hiroshima's
buildings were demolished. The heat ignited
fires as far as two miles from ground zero.

The nuclear fireball and the ensuing blast killed
60,000 to 80,000 people in the time it has taken
you to read this paragraph, and mortally
wounded or seriously injured an estimated
50,000 more.

THE DEVASTATION

■ Completely destroyed ■ Partially destroyed



THE SURVIVORS

The single greatest factor influencing
survival was a distance from the center of
the explosion. And the few who did survive
could find care, because 90 percent of all
medical personnel were killed or disabled.
Only three of the 45 civilian hospitals were
usable, and medical supplies quickly ran

out.



THE INJURIES

- Flash burns, caused by the near-instantaneous radiation of heat and light at the moment of the explosion.
- Burns resulting from fires.
- Injuries such as fractures, lacerations, contusions and abrasions from flying debris, crumbling buildings and other indirect blast effects.
- Injuries caused by exposure to radiation, ranging from nausea, bleeding and hair loss to death. Most of those who had been close to the epicenter died within a week.



JAPAN'S UNDERSTANDING

Military headquarters personnel tried to contact the Army Control Station in Hiroshima but were met with silence. Radio stations went off the air, and the main line telegraph stopped working just north of Hiroshima. Reports of a terrible explosion came from some small railway stops within 10 miles of the city and were transmitted to the headquarters of the Japanese General Staff. The Japanese were puzzled. They knew of no large enemy raid over Hiroshima.

Tokyo's first knowledge of what had really caused the disaster came from President Harry S. Truman's announcement in Washington 16 hours after Hiroshima had

been devastated.

“Sixteen hours ago an American airplane dropped one bomb on Hiroshima. It is an atomic bomb. We are now prepared to obliterate more rapidly and completely every productive enterprise the Japanese have above ground in any city. If they do not now accept our terms they may expect a rain of ruin from the air the like of which has never been seen on this earth.”

— President Harry S. Truman

Footage from the Enola Gay and Hiroshima

▶ Play Video 4:45

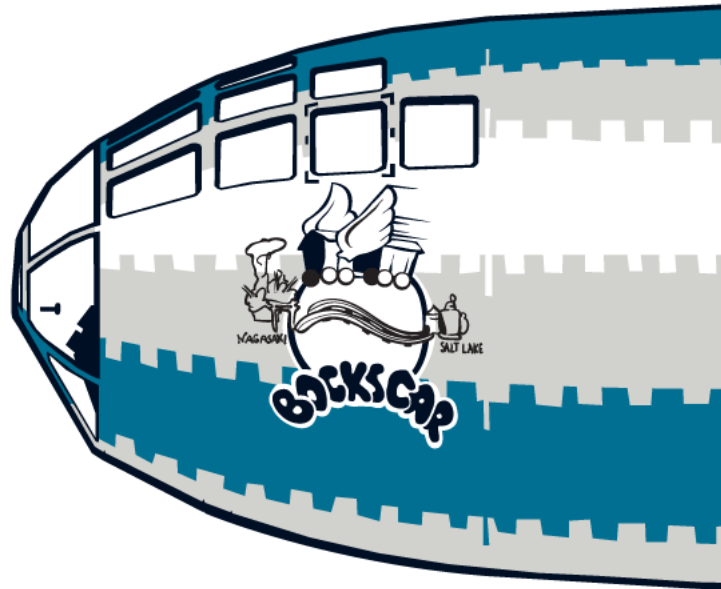


BOCKSCAR, FAT MAN AND NAGASAKI

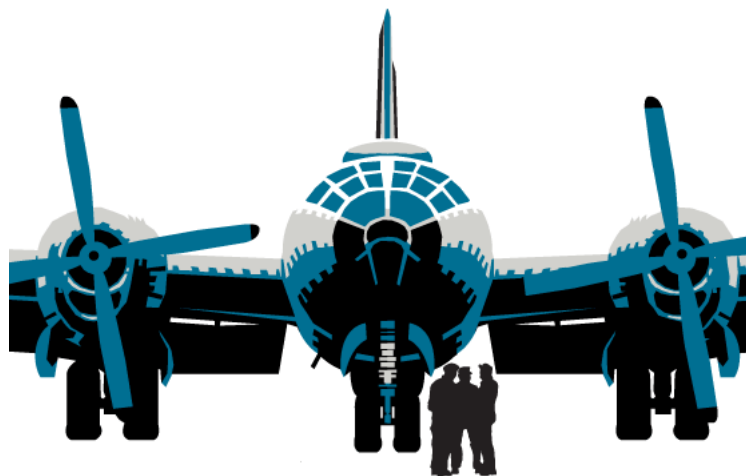
On Aug. 7, 1945, the day after a bomb called Little Boy obliterated much of Hiroshima, U.S. officials meeting in Guam decided to bomb until Japan surrendered.

The modified B-29 Superfortress “Bockscar” was named after its usual commander, Capt.

Frederick Bock. But Bock wouldn't fly it this time. The next mission had been assigned to Maj. Charles Sweeney and his crew, who had accompanied the Enola Gay to Hiroshima.



Bockscar would carry the "Fat Man" bomb. In the early hours of Aug. 9, a broken fuel transfer pump was discovered aboard. The bad fuel pump wasn't a deal-breaker, but it meant Bockscar wouldn't be able to access more than 600 gallons of fuel stored in its tail.



At 3:49 a.m. Bockscar and five other B-29s left the island of Tinian, south of Japan, aiming for the industrial city of Kokura, home to Japan's largest munitions plants.

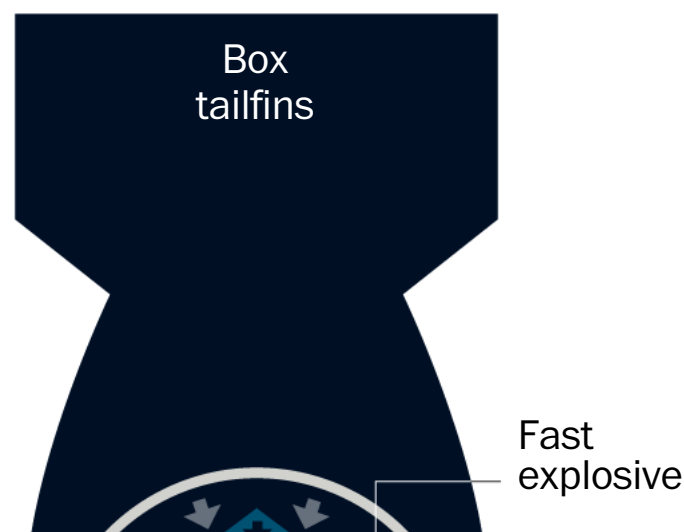
FAT MAN

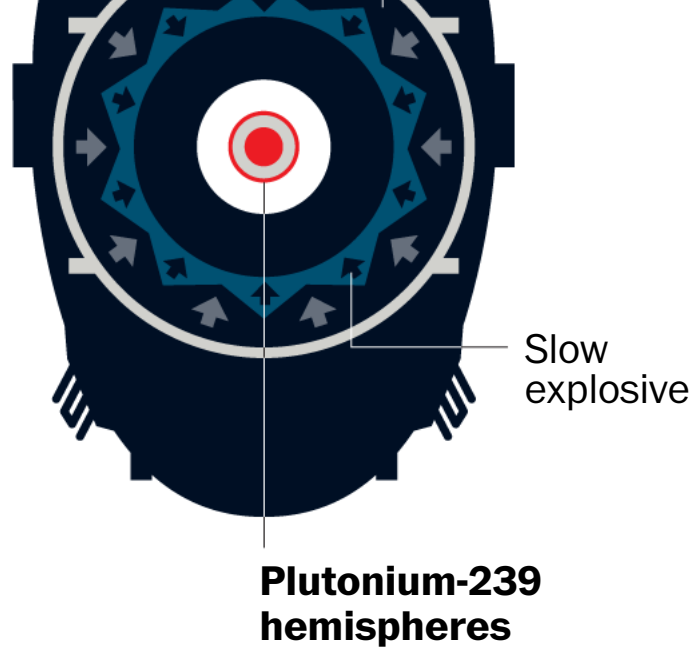
The second nuclear bomb that would be dropped on Japan was nicknamed Fat Man for British Prime Minister Winston Churchill.

Unlike Little Boy, Fat Man's explosive power came from plutonium, not uranium.

Scientists had originally planned to use a bomb that contained the same gun-type detonation method as Little Boy. But testing went poorly, and the plutonium reaction proved hard to control. So Fat Man was pressed into action with an innovative design.

An outer ring of explosive charges compressed the plutonium core with enough pressure to produce a nuclear explosion.





On Bockscar's first pass over Kokura, clouds and smoke from recent bombings impaired visibility. Sweeney made two more passes but found no window through which his bomber could see the city. He diverted toward a secondary target, about 100 miles away: downtown Nagasaki.



On the return trip, Sweeney knew Bockscar

was dangerously low on fuel. He prepared to make an emergency landing at Okinawa, the closest U.S. base, but couldn't contact the busy airstrip's tower. The crew fired all available flares to signal their arrival. As its fuel-starved engines began to fail, the plane cut into active runway traffic and bounced to a stop behind a B-24 that was taking off.

NAGASAKI

Nagasaki was spread across 35 square miles, but most of the population was concentrated in less than four square miles in the Urakami Valley basin, one of two main valleys separated by a mountain spur.

The city was home to a natural harbor and several Mitsubishi industrial plants that made ordnance and other military materials. Almost 90 percent of the labor force of 280,000 worked in the Mitsubishi complex.





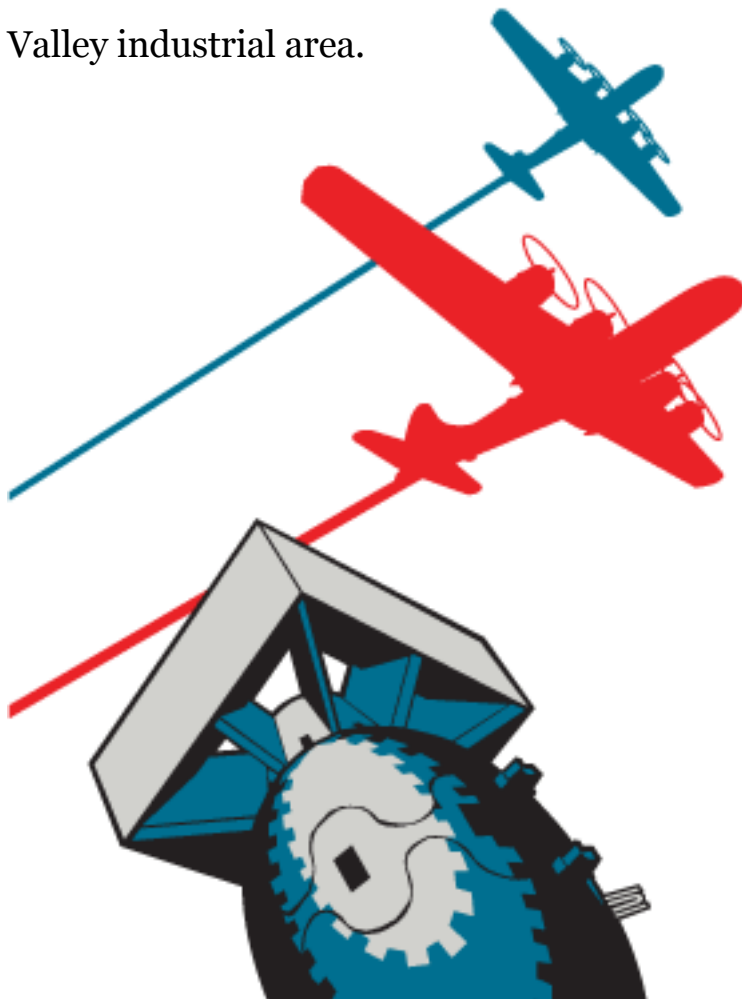
The people of Nagasaki had begun to hear about Hiroshima, but they had troubles of their own. Residents had seen what a series of smaller bombing raids had done to their mostly wood-and-tile buildings, and thousands chose to evacuate. That left an estimated 240,000 residents in the city on

Aug. 9, plus 9,000 Japanese soldiers and 400 prisoners of war.

THE BLAST

At 7:50 a.m., air-raid sirens sounded, but stopped 40 minutes later.

At 10:58, the city center was shrouded in clouds, obscuring the view from Bockscar. Then an opening appeared over the Urakami Valley industrial area.





The air raid sirens didn't sound again until 11:09 a.m., seven minutes after Fat Man exploded over Nagasaki with the force of more than 21,000 tons of TNT.



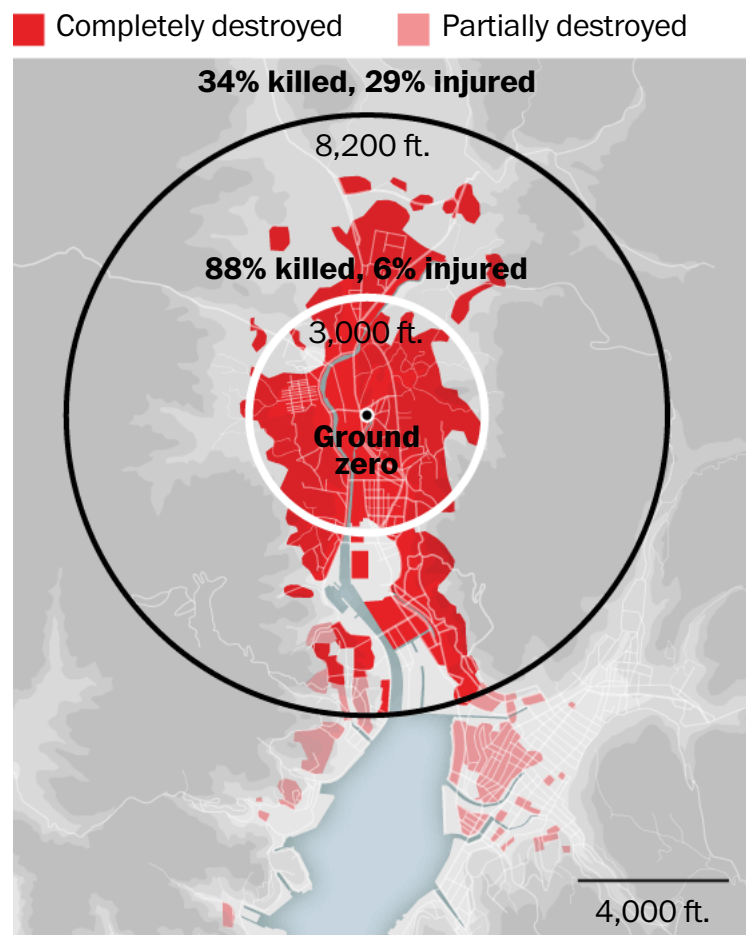
Nearly every structure within a mile of ground zero was destroyed. But the walls of the valley largely contained the bomb's force to less than two square miles and shielded outside areas. More than half the city's homes were not damaged. A 1946 U.S. government report said that without

the topographical protection, the area of damage probably would've been five times larger.

Only 400 people had been in the city's air-raid shelter tunnels, which could have held a third of the population. Those 400 would survive, uninjured, except for a few who had been near shaft entrances.

THE DEVASTATION

No exact death toll can be known; estimates range as high as 100,000, but many scholars put the number between 40,000 and 70,000, with a similar number injured.



THE SURVIVORS

A medical school and more than 80 percent

of the city's medical facilities were within 3,000 feet of the explosion's center and were destroyed. Inside one was Tatsuichiro Akizuki, a doctor, who survived and treated other survivors.



“I saw figures running. Then, looking to the southwest, I was stunned. The sky was as dark as pitch, covered with dense clouds of smoke; under that blackness, over the earth, hung a yellow-brown fog. Gradually the veiled ground became visible, and the view beyond rooted me to the spot with horror. All the buildings I could see were on fire. ... Electricity poles were wrapped in flame like so many pieces of kindling. Trees on the nearby hills were smoking, as were the leaves of sweet potatoes in the fields. To say that everything burned is not enough. It seemed as if the earth itself emitted fire and smoke, flames that writhed up and erupted from underground. The sky was dark, the ground was scarlet, and in between hung clouds of yellowish smoke. Three kinds of color — black, yellow and scarlet — loomed ominously over the people, who ran about like ants on a bonfire.”

like so many ants seeking to escape.

— Tatsuichiro Akizuki,

A Nagasaki doctor who had been less than
a mile from the blast and survived



THE END FOR JAPAN

After the bombing of Hiroshima on Aug. 6, Japan remained defiant. But two days later, the Soviet Union declared war on Japan, and a day after that, Fat Man exploded over Nagasaki. Early on Aug. 10, Japan relayed its desire for peace to the United States, and at noon on Aug. 15, Emperor Hirohito announced the surrender to the Japanese people, saying, “We have resolved to pave the way for a grand peace for all the generations to come by enduring the unendurable and suffering what is insufferable.” The formal surrender occurred Sept. 2 aboard the USS Missouri.

Footage of Nagasaki after the atomic bomb



► **Play Video** 2:26

Sources: The Avalon Project of Yale Law School; U.S. Strategic Bombing Survey; Harry S. Truman Library and Museum; Atomic Heritage Foundation; AtomicArchive.com; U.S. Department of Energy; "World History in Documents: A Comparative Reader," second edition, edited by Peter N. Stearns; nuclearweaponsarchive.org; johnstonsarchive.net; robinsonlibrary.com.



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Menshikov

4/11/2016 9:23 PM PDT [Edited]

Hirosima and Nagasaki are the simbol of american barbarism. It became clear that this nation is not stopping to any crime to reach dominancy

Like Reply Share

jd5024

4/12/2016 6:38 AM PDT

You are, of course, the "simbol" of fools everywhere.

1 • Like Reply

The Watch Dog

4/11/2016 8:30 PM PDT [Edited]

Amazing that the few survivors could find care as the author states that 90 percent of all medical personnel were killed or disabled, only three of the 45 civilian hospitals were usable, and medical supplies quickly ran out, or is this yet another example of sloppy writing by WaPo?

1 • Like Reply Share

RSweeney1

4/11/2016 7:06 PM PDT

My dad was on a ship heading to Japan when the war ended. Who knows if he was among the millions

My dad was on a ship heading to Japan when the war ended. Who knows if he was among the millions of Americans, Japanese, and Soviets saved.

Like Reply Share

BearFlagBoy

4/12/2016 6:23 AM PDT

Little remembered except by those who lived it, in 1945 all US high schools graduated their students in April so that all eligible males could be drafted into the military. The plan was for these draftees to complete boot camp in time for a planned invasion, later revealed to be October 1945. I have two close relatives who graduated in April 1945 and may not have lived the long lives they did had an invasion taken place.

Like Reply

eclecticreader

4/11/2016 11:45 AM PDT

Then, at the time when the decision was made, the Japanese had repeatedly resisted heroically, including using kamikaze tactics at Okinawa and Iwo Jima and elsewhere. Over and over the Japanese Army fought to the last man and they planned to fight even more fiercely for the Home Islands. Captured records and post-war interviews of their military personnel prove they were ready to fight our invasion and they were not ready to surrender. All those who say they were about to surrender ignore what the Japanese sources say. The Japanese Army was firmly in control of Japan, convinced that they could still win because that they were ready to accept millions of casualties, but they believed the US would give up when confronted with half a million or more dead and wounded in the first 30 days after the invasion, with many hundreds of thousands more to come. When the decision to drop the Bomb was made firm plans were already being implemented to invade Japan. Blockade had been considered and decided against. The alternative to invasion, following the existing plans for Operation Downfall, was the bomb. Looking back it is clear that besides hundreds of thousands of US casualties, the invasion of Japan would have killed tens of millions of Japanese caught in the fighting with millions of drafted civilians used as suicide shock troops and mass starvation due to total disruption of food shipments. Blockade likewise would have killed millions by mass starvation. It is crystal clear in hindsight that dropping the Bomb saved millions of Japanese lives. There is no other reasonable conclusion based on the historical facts.

10 · Like Reply Share

sdnye

4/11/2016 12:56 PM PDT [Edited]

Agreed. The Japanese had some reason to believe the US would stop short of unconditional surrender. They monitored US information/media and knew the homefront was growing restless with the high casualties from the latter battles in the Pacific, particularly Saipan and Iwo Jima. The US was aware of this and it was a deliberate strategy to keep the homefront

Iwo Jima. The US commanders projections of the time it would take to secure Iwo and Okinawa were WAY underestimated. US forces did not have to fight rear-guard actions against bypassed troops or civilians like they would have if we had invaded Japan and as you point out.

3 · Like Reply

BearFlagBoy

4/12/2016 6:12 AM PDT

There is a greatly under-appreciated book that definitively lays out the Japanese strategy to defend the home islands called "Hell To Pay: Operation Downfall 1945-1947."

<http://www.amazon.com/Hell-Pay-Operation-Downfall-...> (<http://www.amazon.com/Hell-Pay-Operation-Downfall-1945-1947/dp/1591143160>) The book's detailed research of Japanese

and Allied military records confirms the scenario eclecticreader and sdnye describe. What many fail to understand is the Japanese Army was largely intact in occupied China and the Japanese Navy still had control of the Sea of Japan, with plans to ferry millions of troops back to Japan. In addition, massive food shortages had led Japanese military leaders to decide to kill all remaining POWs on Aug. 22, 1945 as a means to eliminate their "burden" on the food supply and transportation system, and free up troops guarding prisoners. In addition, the Japanese military leaders were prepared to see millions of Japanese civilians die of starvation to assure Japanese soldiers received most of the dwindling food supplies. Dropping the atomic bombs was the least, worst option.

Like Reply

dwightmlee

4/11/2016 10:37 AM PDT

they were pre-nuclear atom bombs

Like Reply Share

Nicholas Meinzer

4/11/2016 12:22 PM PDT

They were nuclear bombs. Fission bombs specifically, a chain reaction started by firing a neutron at a critical mass of uranium 235 where it collides with an atomic NUCLEUS. The NUCLEUS becomes the unstable uranium 236 isotope and divides releasing energy and more neutrons which collide with neighboring nuclei and so on. Fussion bombs came in the 50's, also nuclear weapons.

3 · Like Reply

sdnye

sunye
4/11/2016 9:15 AM PDT

For a good perspective on our war with Japan without the dropping of the Atomic bombs, I recommend "Hell to Pay: Operation DOWNFALL and the Invasion of Japan, 1945-1947" a book by D. M. Giangreco. One fact from the book, the US Navy took a beating from Kamikaze attacks during the battle for Okinawa. The flight time for Kamikaze pilots would have been drastically reduced along with intercept time had there been an invasion of Japan. A very interesting and eye-opening read.

7 · Like Reply Share

AK Bear

4/11/2016 7:58 AM PDT

The USSR not only declared war on Japan, they invaded Manchuria with a pincer movement in a theater of operation larger than the European western front and pulverized the local Japanese army. The plan by Aleksandr Vasilevsky was brilliant and that was the thing that shocked Hirohito and made him go for surrender, because until then Tokyo had tried to work with the Russians to get the US into a more agreeable (for Japan) peace deal (correspondence between Tokyo and the Japanese embassy in Moscow has survived the war and proves this.) But Stalin had already promised Truman to enter the war in the Pacific. So when the Soviets literally steamrolled everything in their path, even warmongering Hirohito realized that it was over (elements of the army still wanted to fight and after Hiroshima still claimed to have over 5,000 planes ready for "special attack" sorties, aka kamikaze.)

Despite common myth it was not the nukes that made him consider. They added, certainly, but the air raid on Tokyo in early 1945 was a lot more devastating and is the most costly air raid in history in terms of lives lost. After Tokyo Hirohito was worried about the sacred imperial treasures and a communist uprising. He could have ended it then. Okinawa could have been spared, tens of thousands of people could have survived. By this time the war was lost, but he chose not to, he kept dreaming of the "Endsieg" until the very last moment.

What the nukes allowed him to do, however, is to save face.

7 · Like Reply Share

AK Bear

4/11/2016 7:59 AM PDT

Read the surrender speech. In it he blames the nukes for the defeat, which is utterly ludicrous. He didn't address all the battles that were lost (people in Japan didn't learn of these losses until the Americans arrived), all the soldiers who had perished in dumb attacks on remote islands, all the air raids, and even the Soviet invasion of Manchuria. No, he simply blamed it all on the nukes. Perfect way to save face for him and wash his hands in innocence. Of course its factual value is on the same level of nonsense as the German

"Dolchstosslegende", according to which Germany in WW1 wasn't defeated on the battlefield, but by communists and Jews in Germany.

The surrender speech had to be smuggled out of the imperial palace. The men who did so risked their lives, thanks to many fire eaters still wanting to fight to the bitter end.

A curious detail: many survivors blame Hirohito for the bombs and not the Americans. They argue that it was his war, he could have ended it long before these two attacks. He didn't. And I agree with them. This is on him.

After the war Hirohito somewhat redeemed himself, but the fault for the war, all the carnage, that lies with him. He was the supreme commander, it was his responsibility as supreme commander. And the US spared him. Not only him, but also Prince Asaka, whose orders triggered the Rape of Nanking.

And the US let them both go.

4 • Like Reply

edster612

4/11/2016 10:00 AM PDT

Wasn't it really more of Tojo's war? As Tojo's sphere of influence and military power would have really prevented Hirohito from saving face at all, and possibly risked a military coup due to the loyalty of Tojo's officers?

I'm just wondering because I've always heard it called "Tojo's War" and it seems more apropos to me.

Like Share

BlackArrow

4/11/2016 12:45 PM PDT

See my postings below. What the Bombs did was invalidate the militarists' plans for a war of attrition you described them planning.

And the Bushido militarists were far more than just Tojo, e612. After recording his surrender speech some fanatical young officers tried to find the recording and stop it.

Hirohito could not have stopped the war before he had the Bombs to use as justification. The militarists would have put him in "protective custody" at the very

least.

And after the Japanese people had been put in a "fight to the death" mental state, he needed something extraordinary to justify the about-face. The Bombs were that.

Of course, they were actually just a huge bluff. Japan was going underground for the invasion anyway, and we had only *1* more bomb for some time ... and invasion/landing weather was running out fast. Like Wellington said of Waterloo, it was a very near-run thing.

Lou Coatney

2 · Like Share

rosedaleresident

4/11/2016 11:07 AM PDT

you are fundamentally incorrect on several points you make. there is little to no evidence that shows the russian threat as the leading reason the empire surrendered. it may have been considered, sure, but the prospect of single bombs continuously dropped on major cities wreaking that sort of destruction was without a doubt the driving force behind surrender.

Like Reply

arosser

4/11/2016 1:46 PM PDT [Edited]

Bear, you are correct that the Japanese were trying to use the USSR as a mediator, or at least a go-between, with the other Allies. However, their ambassador in Moscow, N. Sato, told them that their terms were unrealistic. Further, the Japanese misread the situation. They assumed that because the USSR did not participate in the demand that they surrender, that the USSR was not going to go to war. They also believed that they had time to continue to prepare for a final bloody battle on their beaches, which, they believed, would force the Allies to settle short of unconditional surrender. But within a few weeks of Potsdam the Americans had upended the Japanese military's plan.

The dropping of the bomb meant that the Americans could stand off, risk few casualties, and destroy Japan. And this completely destroyed the Japanese military's calculus.

But it also changed Stalin's plans. His invasion was planned to begin on the 15th of August, but because of the first bomb, he ordered the attack to begin a week early.

Thus, Stalin's actions give the lie to the subsequent attempts to diminish the importance of the atomic bomb. Stalin knew that the bomb would upend the Japanese plans, and that in order for him to reclaim lands lost in 1905, he would have to move quickly.

The Japanese military then assumed that the US probably had only one or maybe two bombs,

and so the risk was minimal. They were right, but the weather changed this. Because it was deteriorating over the home islands, the US moved up the second bomb. This bomb, close upon the first, convinced the Japanese that the US had many bombs, which pushed the Emperor into forcing the military to back down.

So Bear, I think you have it backward. Stalin's acceleration of the invasion is the tell. The Soviet invasion upset the Japanese certainly, but it was the bomb, a deus ex machina, which

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bsmiles

4/11/2016 7:25 AM PDT

For a context of the politics of the time that influenced the decision to drop the bomb – see this article by Rufus E. Miles, Jr. "Hiroshima: The Strange Myth of Half a Million American Lives Saved" (International Security, Fall, 1985):

<http://www.fpp.co.uk/History/General/atombomb/stra...>

(http://www.fpp.co.uk/History/General/atombomb/strange_myth/article.html)

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BlackArrow

4/11/2016 12:48 PM PDT

That is Hiroshima revisionist tripe. See my calculations below. Then too there is the book by Briton Stephen Harper titled Miracle of Deliverance.

And you have ignored that the Japanese were planning on executing all Allied prisoners of war, the moment we invaded the Home Islands.

[Like](#) [Reply](#)

BearFlagBoy

4/12/2016 6:38 AM PDT

BlackArrow is right, the fabulist treatise from Miles was resoundingly refuted by the well-researched, heavily documented book "Hell to Pay: Operation Downfall 1945-1947"

<http://www.amazon.com/Hell-Pay-Operation-Downfall-...> (<http://www.amazon.com/Hell-Pay-Operation-Downfall-1945-1947/dp/1591143160>) One document in the book shows the Japanese Army had planned to kill all Allied POWs on Aug 22 1945 to eliminate their draw on

Japanese Army had planned to kill all Allied POWs on Aug 22, 1945, to eliminate their draw on food supplies and transportation, and free up troops guarding POWs.

Like Reply

Hibob418

4/11/2016 7:19 AM PDT

After helping to liberate several dozen towns in Holland and Luxembourg, my father and his unit were suiting up to go to the Pacific to be part of the invasion of Japan. Ask just about anyone still alive who lived through the war if we should have dropped the bomb(s) and spared the estimated 250,000 to 500,000 American casualties a Japanese mainland invasion would have cost. They'll tell you they were glad to have their sons and husbands home.

Even after the Emperor recorded the surrender message, a force of die-hards stormed the palace to

destroy the acetate discs before they could be broadcast over the radio, in an effort to continue the war. The Japanese were prepared to commit national suicide. Lots of Monday morning quarterbacking going on here 70 years later...

8 • Like Reply Share

MNUSA

4/11/2016 7:26 AM PDT

Interesting background story. My father would have been part of the land invasion of Japan. Dropping the bombs saved lives.

6 • Like Reply

Mike Smith

4/11/2016 7:15 AM PDT

Americans ARE the worst people on Earth!

Like Reply Share

squidoo

4/11/2016 7:27 AM PDT

Except for all the others.

8 • Like Reply

MNUSA

4/11/2016 7:28 AM PDT

You need to read a little bit of history. 6 million Jews. Pearl Harbor. Americans also built up Europe and Japan after the war ended. and now Japan is one of our closest allies. I'd take

Americans over ISIS any day of the week.

10 · Like Reply

Hibob418

4/11/2016 7:52 AM PDT

Oh you're so right. You know, nobody's perfect, but it was Americans who gave up their lives to keep a good chunk of this planet free from fascism and Japanese aggression.

Not sure where you live, but if it's western Europe, our nuclear deterrent kept you from having to learn Russian as a first language, and if it's the far east, you're free from being apart of the 'Greater East-Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere.'

You're welcome. Please go back to your local middle school and demand to be better educated.

12 · Like Reply

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Lord-Xaffax

4/11/2016 4:32 AM PDT

"The Japanese had, in fact, already sued for peace before the atomic age was announced to the world with the destruction of Hiroshima and before the Russian entry into the war."

Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet stated in a public address given at the Washington Monument on October 5, 1945

[Nimitz also stated: "The atomic bomb played no decisive part, from a purely military standpoint, in the defeat of Japan. . . ."]

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BlackArrow

4/11/2016 1:20 PM PDT

The peace the Japanese had sued for was not unconditional, and it had to be an *unconditional* surrender.

As I described above, the military value of the Bombs was indeed questionable, since the Japanese were already going underground to fight our invasion. But the Bombs *were* politically/*strategically* *decisive* in getting Japan's unconditional surrender.

And I refute Nimitz and other prominent skeptical American military officers in my refutation of the Hiroshima revisionists on H Asia on 20 Oct 2016 at <http://h-net.msu.edu/cgi-bin/hmail>

the Hiroshima revisionists on H-Asia on 30 Oct 96 at <http://h-net.msu.edu/cgi-bin/logbrowse.pl?trx=vx&a...> (<http://h-net.msu.edu/cgi-bin/logbrowse.pl?trx=vx&list=h-asia&month=9610&week=e&msg=25bmuRT0snSXAYDHdNMfJw&user=&pw=>)

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TheyCallMeBruce

4/11/2016 6:22 PM PDT

Nimitz was correct, from a purely military standpoint. Japan had lost the war at least a year before the atomic bombs were dropped, from a purely military standpoint - there was absolutely no hope of victory through military means after the Marianas campaign and certainly after the invasion of the Philippines. Japan's naval and air forces were decimated, the last major geographical barriers between the home islands and the full fury of the US air

and naval forces had been breached, and her war economy was on the verge of collapsing due to the increasing effectiveness of the US submarine campaign and the severing of the link between Japan and the vital natural resources of SE Asia, the prize for which the Japanese had gone to war to begin with.

The mistake is in viewing war from a purely military standpoint. War is more than the technical application of military force, it is, as Clausewitz pointed out, also a cultural and political phenomenon. And it is in that context that the atomic bombs were so important. The war was lost months before, but it wasn't over until the Japanese *admitted* it was lost, and the bombs were instrumental in producing that admission.

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WilliamDog61

4/11/2016 8:26 PM PDT

No he's wrong. It saved my dad, my father in law and many others.

Like Reply

Lord-Xaffax

4/11/2016 4:26 AM PDT

"MacArthur once spoke to me very eloquently about it, pacing the floor of his apartment in the Waldorf. He thought it a tragedy that the Bomb was ever exploded. MacArthur believed that the same restrictions ought to apply to atomic weapons as to conventional weapons, that the military objective should always be limited damage to noncombatants. . . . MacArthur, you see, was a soldier. He believed in using force only against military targets, and that is why the nuclear thing turned him off. . . ."

vicyun

4/11/2016 6:13 AM PDT

Same guy, MacArthur, who sent 16 thousand American boys to their death for his ego.

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svengally1

4/11/2016 8:18 AM PDT

Wrong. MacArthur want to drop the A bomb on Commie China. He was in favor on blasting China to the moon. Read your history.

3 · Like Reply

TheyCallMeBruce

4/11/2016 6:27 PM PDT

MacArthur wanted to use nuclear weapons tactically, not against population centers. The goal would have been to cut off the Chinese soldiers in North Korea from supply and reinforcement from China. He had been trying the same thing with conventional weapons but was unsuccessful in doing so, in part because of the restrictions Truman imposed on bombing in China itself. MacArthur was guilty of insubordination and of failing to grasp the political and global consequences of his proposed actions, but not of wanting to mass murder Chinese civilians.

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BlackArrow

4/11/2016 1:22 PM PDT

Is this Lord-Xaffax, Lord Haw Haw, or Tokyo Rose?

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Lord-Xaffax

4/11/2016 4:23 AM PDT

"I told MacArthur of my memorandum of mid-May 1945 to Truman, that peace could be had with Japan by which our major objectives would be accomplished. MacArthur said that was correct and that we

would have avoided all of the losses, the Atomic bomb, and the entry of Russia into Manchuria."

President Herbert Hoover (In his Diary)

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Lord-Xaffax

4/11/2016 4:18 AM PDT

"During his recitation of the relevant facts, I had been conscious of a feeling of depression and so I voiced to him my grave misgivings, first on the basis of my belief that Japan was already defeated and that dropping the bomb was completely unnecessary, and secondly because I thought that our country should avoid shocking world opinion by the use of a weapon whose employment was, I thought, no longer mandatory as a measure to save American lives. . . ."

President Dwight D. Eisenhower

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Lord-Xaffax

4/11/2016 4:16 AM PDT

The use of this barbarous weapon at Hiroshima and Nagasaki was of no material assistance in our war against Japan. The Japanese were already defeated and ready to surrender. . . .

Admiral William D. Leahy, the President's Chief of Staff--and the top official who presided over meetings of both the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Combined U.S.-U.K. Chiefs of Staff

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TheyCallMeBruce

4/11/2016 6:29 PM PDT

"War is too important to be left to the generals."

- Georges Clemenceau

(and presumably the admirals as well)

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