

Teacher Guide

INTRODUCTION

The book “*The Long Journey – Pearl Harbor to Nagasaki*” is designed to help students develop a critical analytical ability, a historical perspective and a true sense of the global, cultural and historical issues involved in World War II between the Allies and the Empire of Japan.

Many politicians as well as much of the general population today prefer to remain ignorant of what led up to, and what happened during World War II when the Imperial Japanese military forces behaved in a manner that seems almost unimaginable today. During the years from 1931 to 1945, the Imperial Army was responsible for some of the most horrible atrocities the world has ever seen. A large number of these were inflicted on the civilian population of the conquered countries, especially China. Few of the younger generation Americans (or Japanese) are able to neither identify the incidents nor those guilty of the decisions that brought death to hundreds of thousands, if not millions, in Asia and on the islands of the Pacific. Neither are they aware of the magnitude of the loss of life that occurred during the fierce battles that took place during the war.

Even in today’s environment over a half century later, the Japanese public is being kept in the dark about their country’s role before and during the war. Young Germans today are aware of the unspeakable behavior of its former Nazi leaders. This is not the case in Japan, where for example, the younger generation has little knowledge of the recent past. As a young Japanese student explained: “*We Japanese tend to forget bad things quickly*”.

We are now three generations removed from the war with each generation having its own perspective of the national problems of the 1940’s and what was the best way to solve them. This situation indeed creates what it takes to be a divided people and is the price we are paying for not knowing our history and what really happened prior to and during World War II and how and why the decisions were made to use the atomic weapons.

With the wide publicity support provided by media organizations for antinuclear activists, the use of the atomic bombs has been isolated from the context of the war. Doubts about the wisdom of using the atomic bombs have grown in subsequent generations fueled by protesters and revisionists attempting to rewrite history. This has resulted in a distorted and sometimes biased treatment of many issues surrounding the causes of the war, what occurred during the war, and the role nuclear weapons played in bringing it to an abrupt conclusion.

This book is a compilation of data that have been collected from various sources, such government documents, as eyewitness accounts, and contemporary news reports written by authoritative and skilled journalists who saw much of the war first hand. The objective is to give the student an overview of the conditions and events that occurred before the war; some of the happenings during the war, and what could have taken place had the atomic bombs not been used. Based on the reliable sources of the data that were used, it is believed that this account will withstand the scrutiny of objective academic historians and the tests of time.

The facts are presented, as far as possible, without any intentional bias, personal opinion and discussion, interpretation or editorial analysis. The intent is to let the facts speak for themselves!

This curriculum unit encourages students to think critically about the events that caused tensions to develop between Japan and the Western World over a period of eighty-eight years. It encourages the students to look at significant events that happened in the South Pacific areas, China and Korea during the period from 1850 to 1941. It also encourages students to look at some events that took place during World War II and put them in context of the times and the cultural differences between the combatants. It further encourages the students to look at the

Japanese treatment of citizens of occupied countries, slave-laborers, prisoners-of-war, etc., and the use of kamikazes and nuclear weapons during the war.

ORGANIZATION

This Teacher's Guide is organized to provide a brief, but substantive, summary of the contents of each chapter followed by timelines of significant events of the period (as appropriate). The author then poses, in this guide, simple but penetrating questions about each chapter as well as probing and thought-provoking questions and topics for further research and discussion. Challenging group and individual projects are strongly suggested to be a part of this curriculum unit.

GOALS:

The primary source for this curriculum unit is a historical essay written in an easy to read summary format without interpretation, analyses or comments. It is intended for United States History Students grades 7-12 and as a refresher for college students.

The main goal is for the students to read the primary source "*The Long Journey – Pearl Harbor to Nagasaki*" and acquire knowledge to analyze, interpret and intelligently debate:

- How and why a new Japan evolved after Commodore Perry's unwelcome visits of 1852-53.
- The causes that led up to World War II between Japan and the United States.
- The character of the war in the Pacific and how cultural difference affected certain actions of the combatants.
- The winners, losers, and casualty figures for significant battles of the war.
- Why the United States used atomic weapons.
- How a North – South division of Japan, such as happened in Korea, was avoided.
- How World War II reshaped the nation of Japan.
- What may have taken place had the atomic bombs not been used to bring the war to a timely conclusion.
- Issues pro and con for using the atomic weapons.

GROUP PROJECTS

The class can be divided into groups to investigate any or all of the following suggested areas. Each group should prepare a report and present the group's results to the entire class at the end of this curriculum unit. Supplemental reading and independent research by the students will be required to collect additional information for an in-depth treatment of the suggested topics.

(1) The Industrial Revolution in the United States

- Factories replace home or "cottage shop" industries
- Labor saving machines for the factories invented
- New sources of power
- Interchangeable parts
- The nation develops better transportation and communication systems
 - Roads and highways
 - Railroads
 - Canals
 - Riverboats

- Steamships
- Effects of new transportation systems internally and internationally
- Search for new sources of raw materials and markets for factory products
- American colonial expansion - the Manifest Destiny concept
- The United States exerts increasing influence in the Far East

(2) Japan, an isolated nation, opens its doors to foreign trade

- Ancient culture of Japan
- Treatment of foreigners and shipwreck victims
 - Japan's refusal to trade with or allow other nations to refuel or re-supply their ships on the shipping lanes from the United States to China
- Commodore Perry's visits and the Treaty of Kanagawa
- Japan enters the empire building race
- United States involvement
- Problems for the "New Japan"
 - Evolution and implementation of "The Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere" concept
- Tensions develop between Japan and the Western World

(3) The American election of 1940 and its worldwide effects

- President Roosevelt's desire to enter World War II in Europe.
- The rising threat from Japan
- The role of the Emperor in the Japanese government
 - Admiral Yamamoto's comments – Was it a threat to the United States or was it an attempt to stifle Tojo's go-to war policies?
- The Tripartite Pact
- Economic warfare against Japan
 - The U.S., Great Britain, and the Netherlands embargo on exports to Japan
 - The effects of the U.S. closing the Panama canal to Japanese shipping and the freezing of Japanese assets in the United States
 - General Tojo appointed to be Prime Minister of Japan.
 - The negotiations of November and December 1941.

(4) World War II in the Pacific

- The Japanese threat materializes with an attack on Pearl Harbor
- Disaster for the Allies in the Pacific for the first six months of the Pacific war.
 - Japan's early gains in the Pacific war.
- Surviving disasters in all the early major battles the Allies begin to take the offensive.
 - The turning point of the war and the U.S. Island hopping campaign.
- The Yalta Conference and problems caused by certain agreements.
- The Postdam Conference and the Postdam Surrender Ultimatum.
- Russia enters the war against Japan by invading Manchuria.
- The atomic bombs are used.
- Disagreements among the Japanese senior official – Surrender or fight the Final Battle.
- Disagreements are resolved by Hirohito and Japan surrenders.

(5) How World War II reshaped the nation of Japan

- The Tokyo war crimes trials
- The Kido files and their effect on the outcome of the trials
- MacArthur's goal was to transform Japan from an aggressive, militaristic despotism into a peaceful republic.
- New constitution for the "new Japan" incorporating sweeping changes
 - Women's suffrage,
 - Human rights guaranteed
 - Representative democracy
 - Political parties established
 - Article 9 or the "No War" clause in the new constitution
- Hirohito did his best to establish himself as a symbol of the new democratic Japan.
- Influence of Drs. Deming and Taguchi on Japanese post war industry, design, and production.
- Japan's meteoric rise as a world leader in the production of consumer products.

(6) The Great Debate

As a class project organize the class into two groups to study and debate the Pros and Cons of the United States using the atomic weapons to end World War II. Discuss and evaluate the tradeoffs that were available at the time. Were the "facts" real or imagined? Was the decision to use the bomb a good one or a bad one? Prepare reasons for each side and numerically justify these reasons.

Doubts about the wisdom of using the atomic bombs have grown in subsequent generations fueled by antinuclear protesters and revisionists attempting to rewrite history.

A small group of pacifists and leaders of certain organizations worldwide point the finger at the United States for having unleashed a cosmic dragon upon the world. They still seek to haunt all Americans with a feeling of guilt over the dead at Hiroshima and Nagasaki with "pity the victims" photographs and stories.

Some have said that the American guilt is compounded by the fact that it was used against the Oriental race implying that it would not have been used against Caucasians.

The opposing groups counter their arguments by noting that they fail to recognize the desire of Japan's military leaders to preserve their honor by fighting literally to the last man, woman, and child had been killed. They fail to look at the planned invasion of the Japanese homeland and the enormous cost in human lives on both sides that would have occurred had the atomic bombs not been used. They fail to include the loss of life of prisoners-of-war and slave laborers had the Japanese fulfilled their promise to kill all of these people when the first Americans set foot on Japanese soil. They fail to mention the probability that there would have been a North and South Japan had the Russian armies invaded the Japanese home islands.

The bomb was conceived in part by refugees from Nazis Germany. The original intent of using it against Hitler's forces. Also the original intention of the 509th Composite Group was for it to be divided into two groups - one to go to Europe and one to the Pacific.

Had the bombs been available and used before the invasions of Okinawa and Iwo Jima and the carpet fire bombing of Japanese cities, additional hundreds of thousands of Japanese and American lives would have been saved.

Chapter 1 Prelude

TRACING THE MAIN IDEAS

Prior to 1853 Japan was an ancient feudal state essentially isolated from Western influences. In 1852-54 Commodore Perry made unwelcome visits of U.S. warships to Tokyo where he forced the Japanese to open its ports to trade with the United States. After strict seclusion for hundreds of years, the influx of trading ships exposed the Japanese people to western ideas, production techniques and military might. For the next eighty years, through military conquests, the Japanese feudal state changed into a military dominated nation with an aggressive long-term goal of uniting all of East Asia under the control of the Japanese Emperor.

Between 1894 and 1910 the Japanese evicted China and Russia from Manchuria and solidified their control of Korea. In the 1920's and 30's, Japan attempted to occupy and control China by a nibbling process using vicious military tactics to the extreme. Protests came from the United States as well as the League of Nations but had little or no effect.

In 1941 Japan had basically two governments. One was a military determined to fight England and the United States; the other was a civilian government that recognized the need for moderation and diplomatic discussions. The military clearly held the upper hand, rendering the civilian leaders impotent through political intimidation and threats of imprisonment or death.

During the summer of 1941 the Japanese and United States diplomatic relations deteriorated rapidly. A critical stage was reached in July 1941 when the United States, supported by Great Britain and the Netherlands, imposed an embargo on exports to Japan of scrap metal and oil in retaliation for the Japanese military operations on the Asian Continent. At the same time the United States froze all Japanese assets in America and closed the Panama Canal to Japanese shipping.

In mid-October of 1941, Prime Minister Konoye was forced to resign. Emperor Hirohito ignored opportunities for peace through negotiations and appointed General Hideki Tojo, a strong proponent of war, to be Prime Minister. On October 18, 1941 a new Cabinet entered office in Japan. These officials represented the most belligerent faction in the Japanese army.

Faced with the embargo, the closure of the Panama Canal, and the unwillingness to abandon her expansion goals, the choices open to the Japanese leaders were minimal. If the embargo continued, and if Japan did not seize a new source of oil, iron and rubber, her ability to function militarily and economically would vanish. The alternative the Japanese leaders faced was to either attack or surrender and pull out of China, Manchuria, and Korea. Faced with these alternatives the only honorable thing for the Japanese to do was to go to war.

OUTSTANDING EVENTS OF THE PERIOD

1. Industrial Revolution – the steam ship – foreign trade
2. Commodore Perry's visits of 1852 – 53 to Japan and the Treaty of Kanagawa - 1854
3. Japanese enters the Empire Building race
 - The Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere
 - The Sino-Japanese War of 1894-95 and the Treaty of Shimonoseki
 - Russo-Japanese War of 1904
 - President Theodore Roosevelt intervenes – Treaty of New Hampshire
4. Japan declares war on the German Empire August 23, 1914.

5. Washington Naval Conference of 1922 - Japan's naval tonnage limited to a 5-5-3 ratio to English, United States and Japan - Japanese ignored this agreement
6. Congress approved a law restricting the Southern and Eastern Europeans immigration as well as prohibiting the immigration of East Asians and Asian Indians – May 26, 1924
7. Japanese Aggression in China 1931 – 1940
 - **1931–1932** - Japan begins military operations in Manchuria, installing a puppet government there; occupies Shanghai; and invades China's Jehol Province.
 - **March 1932** – Japan resigns from League of Nations
 - **February – March 1933** - Japanese occupy China north of the Great Wall.
 - **July 1936** – Japanese troops occupy Beijing.
 - **June 1937** – Marco Polo Bridge incident
 - **August 1937** – Hirohito ordered staff to not use term “prisoner-of-war”
 - **August 1937** – Japanese bomb Shanghai
 - **November – December 1937** - Japanese take Nanjing. Japanese sink the USS *Panay* and two merchant ships near Nanjing and occupy Hangzhou.
 - **December 1937** – United States embassy in China evacuated
 - **December 1937** – Japanese Rape of Nanking
 - **October 1938** – Japanese enter Guangzhou and Hankow.
 - **November 1939** – Japanese isolate China from French Indochina.
 - **1940** - Japanese control northeastern third of China and all major seaports.
 - **1939** - Rainbow-5 War Mobilization Plan generated and approved.
 - **1940** - United States election – Roosevelt wins third term.
 - **Fall 1940** – United States opened the possibility of economic sanctions on Japan
 - **September – 1940** - Japan, Germany and Italy sign Tripartite Pact
 - **1941** – President Roosevelt’s desire for the U.S. to become involved in WWII
 - **July 1941** – Embargo of Japan and closure of Panama Canal to Japanese shipping
 - **October – December 1941** - Japanese – American negotiations break off.
 - **December 1941** – Yamamoto completes plan to attack Pearl Harbor

POINTS TO RESEARCH AND DISCUSS

1. What inventions led to the growth of the Industrial Revolution in the Western World?
2. Describe the contributions of the cotton gin, mechanical weaving machines and the steam engine to the Industrial Revolution.
3. Why was the United States interested in trade with China? Why was President Millard Fillmore interested in opening Japan to trade with the United States?
4. Describe the circumstances that led Millard Fillmore to send Commodore Perry to Japan? Why was opening of Japanese seaports to American traders important?
5. How do you think the Japanese people reacted to Commodore Perry’s visits?
6. Do you think the Treaty of Kanagawa was fair to both sides? Explain your position.
7. In the 1890’s a major crisis developed. Japan, eager to build an empire, entered the race for colonies in China (and South East Asia countries) that were rich in raw materials they needed to support their growing industrial capability. Why were the Americans concerned about Japan’s Imperialism goals and military intrusions into Manchuria, Korea and various parts China?
8. Discuss the part played by President Theodore Roosevelt in the Russo-Japanese war of 1904-05.
9. What were the main issues for the American presidential election of 1940?

10. List the events that occurred during the period of 1931 to 1941 that posed a threat to peace between Japan and the United States.
11. What were the reasons for the Japanese hostilities toward the U.S.? Summarize the events that led to the attack on Pearl Harbor. In your opinion, what were the two most important of these events?
12. Do you think the war with Japan could have been avoided? What evidence can you present to support your position?
13. Do you believe that President Roosevelt tried to bait Hitler to provoke an attack on the United States so he could enter the war in Europe? Explain your position.
14. Do you believe that President Roosevelt, Great Britain and the Netherlands purposely instituted an embargo on exports to Japan and closed the Panama Canal in order to invite an attack on the United States? Explain your position and give examples of events to support your position.
15. On October 2, 1940, an official of the Japanese Press Association said "*must recognize the New Order in the Far East*". What was meant by that statement?
16. How did freezing Japanese assets in the United States affect the Japanese war effort in China?
17. Do you believe that Emperor Hirohito purposely ignored opportunities for peace through negotiations when appointed General Hideki Tojo to be Prime Minister of Japan in October 1941? State your reasons.
18. Do you believe that Hirohito was a peaceful Emperor, whose only power was symbolic, which was abused by his militaristic, war-hungry advisors or do you believe that he favored expansion of the Japanese Imperial Empire by whatever means were necessary? Under the Imperial Japanese constitution "the *Emperor* also had the sole rights to *make war and make peace*". Give your reasons.
19. Define the term "Axis" and how the term was generated. Identify who were the Axis powers?
20. What did Sir Winston Churchill mean by "*The farther backwards you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see.*"
21. Write an essay of Japanese – American relations for the period 1852 to 1941.

INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS

1. On an outline map, identified the American possessions in the Pacific Oceans in 1941. Identify when and how they were acquired. Circle those that still exist today.
2. On an outline map, identify the Japanese home islands and their conquests from 1852 to December 7, 1941 and identify the dates they were acquired. Circle those that still exist today.
3. Identify why each of the American possessions in the Pacific was important to the American security and economy.

Chapter 2 The Grim Days

TRACING THE MAIN IDEAS

On December 7, 1941 the Japanese delivered a surprise and devastating attack on Pearl Harbor destroying and/or seriously damaging most of the first-line battleships in the United States Pacific fleet. Fortunately for the U.S. the strike failed to eliminate the three American aircraft carriers and the nineteen submarines assigned to the Pacific area.

The aircraft carriers regrouped and formed the nucleus of the American Pacific Fleet for the next several months. However these carrier groups with their limited number of escort vessels, were unable to stop the overwhelming military power of ten Japanese infantry divisions who, with irresistible drive swept over Malaya and the Philippines, then Java and finally Burma, conquering Southeast Asia in about half a year. By the end of March 1942, Japan had achieved virtually all of her initial war objectives of self-sufficiency in strategic materials.

In June 1942, the tide of the war turned in favor of the Americans at the battle of Midway. In four days of savage fighting on the sea and in the air, the losses inflicted on the Japanese Navy were so severe that it never recovered and lost forever the ability to wage an offensive war.

The Battle of Midway dramatically changed the strategic situation in the Pacific. Until Midway the Japanese forces, with a marked naval air power superiority, were continuously on the offensive. The United States Navy was restricted to occasional hit-and-run raids, until a month before Midway when U.S. carriers succeeded at the Battle of the Coral Sea, in blocking the Japanese attempt to take Port Moresby in New Guinea by a sea borne invasion.

With the destruction of four Japanese carriers and their air groups at Midway, the Pacific War entered a period of balance. For the time being neither side had sufficient strength in aircraft carriers to advance into enemy held areas and maintain air superiority with ship borne aircraft while land operations progressed. The Japanese were never to have such strength again after Midway, and the U.S. did not attain such strength until the arrival in late 1943 of new carriers and their new F6F Hellcat fighter planes. Thus for well over a year, advances into Japanese held territory depended on the support of land-based aircraft to give the necessary cover to any ship movements or ground operations which were undertaken in forward areas. This greatly limited the possibilities for an allied offensive. No major advances in the Central Pacific toward the Japanese home islands were practicable until greater sea borne air power became available. In New Guinea in the Southwestern Pacific, however, there were the airfields for land based aircraft necessary to cover these offensive actions which did take place.

With the capture of islands in the Northern Marianas and the capture of Okinawa in 1944 and 1945, the United States Air Corps launched massive air attacks on the Japanese homeland cities.

By the summer of 1945 it was apparent to almost everyone that Japan was losing the war. Nevertheless these relentless air attacks produced little effect on the Japanese morale and their will to continue fighting even though thousands of civilians were killed. As late as June 1945, the Japanese leadership repeatedly made it abundantly clear of their intentions to continue fighting until the last man, woman, and child were killed. At this point in time it appeared that an invasion of the Japanese homeland would be necessary, and was being planned, to end the war.

OUTSTANDING EVENTS OF THE PERIOD

1941 Grim Days for the Allies

December

- Japanese attack Pearl Harbor.
- United States declares war against the Axis.
- Japanese invade Thailand, the Philippines, Midway and British Malaya and capture Wake, Guam, and Hong Kong. General MacArthur withdraws from Manila to Bataan.
- First Japanese merchant ship sunk by a U.S. submarine.

1942

January – February

- Japanese attack Bataan and capture Manila and U.S. Naval base at Cavite.
- Japanese invade Dutch East Indies, Dutch Borneo and Bougainville.
- British surrender at Singapore.
- Japanese bomb Darwin, Australia.
- President Franklin D. Roosevelt orders Gen. MacArthur out of the Philippines.
- First attack on the U.S. mainland by a Japanese submarine
- USS Langley and Houston are sunk by Japanese bombers.
- **Japanese naval victory in the Battle of the Java Sea**

February – May

- British evacuate Rangoon in Burma
- The Dutch surrender Java.
- Gen. MacArthur appointed commander of the Southwest Pacific Theater
- Admiral Chester Nimitz appointed as Commander in Chief of the U.S. Pacific Theater.
- Japanese attack Bataan.
- First U.S. troops arrive in Australia.
- U.S. forces on Bataan surrender to the Japanese and the Bataan Death March begins.
- U.S. Lt. Col. James Doolittle's B-25 surprise air raid against Tokyo.
- Japanese take central Burma and Tulagi in the Solomon Islands.
- Japanese prepare to invade Midway and the Aleutian Islands.
- Japan suffers its first defeat during the Battle of the Coral Sea
- Japanese complete the capture of Burma and reach India.
- Bataan and Corregidor fall to the Japanese. Gen. Wainwright surrenders all U.S. and Filipino forces in the Philippines.

1942 The Tide of the war turns in favor of the Allies

June

- **Battle of Midway U.S destroys a Japanese cruiser and four carriers including their air groups.**

July – September 1942

- Japanese occupy Attu and Kiska in Aleutians .
- Japanese land troops near Gona on New Guinea.
- U.S. invades Tulagi and Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands.
- A major U.S. naval disaster off Savo Island and Japanese victory as Japanese warships sink three U.S. heavy cruisers, an Australian cruiser, and one U.S. destroyer. Another U.S. cruiser and two destroyers are seriously damaged.
- The Red Cross announces that Japan refuses to allow safe passage of ships containing supplies for U.S. POWs.
- U.S. Troops invade Attu Island in the Aleutian Islands
- A Japanese floatplane flies two missions dropping incendiary bombs on U.S. forests in the state of Oregon - the only symbolic bombing of the continental U.S. during the war.

October – December 1942

- The first U.S. Army troops land on Guadalcanal.
- Vice Admiral William F. Halsey named as the new commander of the South Pacific Area, in charge of the Solomons-New Guinea campaign.
- Battle of Santa Cruz off Guadalcanal between U.S. and Japanese warships results in the loss of the Carrier USS Hornet
- Japanese air raid on Darwin, Australia.
- Enrico Fermi conducts the world's first nuclear chain reaction test
- Japanese air raids on Calcutta, India.
- Emperor Hirohito gives permission to his troops to withdraw from Guadalcanal after five months of bloody fighting.

January – June 1943

- Allies gains in New Guinea
- Japanese begin evacuation of Guadalcanal and resistance ends.
- U.S. victory over Japanese in the Battle of Bismarck Sea.
- U.S. code breakers pinpoint the location of Japanese Admiral Yamamoto flying in a Japanese bomber near Bougainville in the Solomon Islands. Eighteen P-38 fighters locate and shoot down Yamamoto airplane.
- President Roosevelt announces the Japanese have executed several airmen from the Doolittle Raid.
- Japan announces captured Allied pilots will be given "one way tickets to hell."
- U.S. Troops evict Japanese from the Aleutian Islands.
- U.S. escalates submarine warfare against Japanese shipping.
- Allies offensive in the South Pacific, Solomon Islands.

July – December 1943

- Allied B-24s bomb Japanese on Wake Island.
- Allies complete the occupation of New Georgia and recapture Lae-Salamaua, New Guinea.
- Japanese execute approximately 100 American POWs on Wake Island.
- Emperor Hirohito states his country's situation is now "truly grave."
- U.S. Marines invade Bougainville in the Solomon Islands and Makin and Tarawa in the Gilbert Islands.
- Battle of Empress Augusta Bay.
- Japanese end resistance on Makin and Tarawa.
- U.S. Troops land on the Arawe Peninsula of New Britain and invade Cape Gloucester in the Solomon Islands.

January – June 1944

- U.S. Troops invade and Kwajalein in the Marshall Islands.
- U.S. Carrier based planes destroy the Japanese naval base at Truk in the Caroline Islands and the Japanese base at Rabaul.
- U.S. Carrier based planes attack the Mariana Islands.
- Japanese begin their last offensive in China, attacking U.S. air bases in eastern China.
- The first mission by B-29 bombers occurs as they attack Japanese railway facilities at Bangkok, Thailand.

- U.S. Marines invade Saipan in the Mariana Islands.
- The first bombing raid on Japan since the Doolittle raid of April 1942, as B-29s based in Bengal, India, target the steel works at Yawata.
- The "Marianas Turkey Shoot" occurred.
- The Japanese carrier *Hiyo* sunk and carriers *Zuikaku* and *Chiyoda* and battleship *Haruna* damaged.

July – December 1944

- U.S. Marines invade Guam and Tinian in the Marianas.
- General Hideki Tojo resigns from office
- American troops complete the capture of the Mariana Islands.
- U.S. Air raids against Okinawa.
- B-29s based on the Marianas attack the Japanese base at Truk.
- U.S. Sixth Army invades Leyte in the Philippines.
- Battle of Leyte Gulf results in a decisive U.S. Naval victory.
- Japanese super battleship Musashi sunk
- The first suicide air attacks occur against U.S. warships in Leyte Gulf.
- B-29s bomb the Nakajima aircraft factory near Tokyo.
- U.S. Troops invade Mindoro in the Philippines.
- The U.S. Army Air Force begins preparations for dropping the Atomic Bomb by establishing the 509th Composite.

January – March 1945

- Gen. MacArthur is placed in command of all U.S. ground forces and Adm. Nimitz in command of all naval forces in preparation for planned assaults against Iwo Jima, Okinawa and the Japanese home islands.
- U.S. Sixth Army invades Lingayen Gulf on Luzon in the Philippines.
- U.S. Troops recapture Bataan in the Philippines.
- Rape of Manila - at least 50,000 Filipinos died, many in acts of deliberate atrocity by the Japanese.
- U.S. Marines invade Iwo Jima.
- U.S. airborne troops recapture Corregidor.
- U.S. and Filipino troops take Manila.
- Tokyo firebombed by U.S. B-29s. Fifteen square miles of Tokyo on fire.
- British troops liberate Mandalay, Burma.
- B-29s lay mines in Japan's Shimonoseki Strait to interrupt shipping.

April – May 1945

- The final U.S. amphibious landing of the war occurs as the U.S. Tenth Army invades Okinawa.
- B-29s fly their first fighter-escorted mission against Japan with P-51 Mustangs based on Iwo Jima. U.S. carrier based fighters sink the super battleship *Yamato* and several escort vessels off Okinawa.
- President Roosevelt dies and is succeeded by Harry S. Truman.
- Victory in Europe Day.
- Japanese begin withdrawal from China.

POINTS TO RESEARCH AND DISCUSS

1. There was only one vote in the U.S. House of Representatives not to declare war on Japan after the Pearl Harbor attack. Who made this vote? Research this representative's reasons given for not declaring war on Japan. Were they valid or emotional?
2. What were Japan's primary goals and reasons for initiating World War II against the United States and Great Britain?
3. What were the roots of the American isolationism after World War I?
4. Why did President Roosevelt find it difficult to remain neutral in World War II?
5. Admiral Kimmell, aware of the possibility of war, ordered many of the ships under his command to safety in the North Pacific without notifying superiors in Washington. President Roosevelt later rescinded this order and ordered the ships to return to Pearl Harbor. Why were the ships ordered to return to Pearl Harbor? Was President Roosevelt baiting a trap for the Japanese?
6. What was Admiral Yamamoto's strategy to attack Pearl Harbor and why did it work?
7. Admiral Yamamoto has been quoted as telling Japan's Prime Minister Tojo and the Supreme War Council that he "could run wild for the first six months but thereafter it would be an uphill fight". Show how his prediction was correct.
8. Did the Japanese have an exit strategy for ending the war when and if it became evident that they were losing the war? Cite the major mistake made by the Japanese when it initiated the war in the Pacific.
9. What were the major weaknesses of President Roosevelt's administration "Rainbow-5" War Mobilization Plan?
10. Did Admiral Yamamoto's predictions about the outcome of the war come true?
11. The Americans had been decoding Japanese diplomatic correspondence for a year or more before the Pearl Harbor attack. Correspondence in late November and early December 1941 had clear indications that the Japanese were preparing for a major attack on American interest in the Pacific. How were the contents of these intercepted messages distributed to the commanders in the field and why was Pearl Harbor not notified?
12. How did the battle of Midway change the balance of power in the Pacific?
13. The United States submarine fleet in the Pacific was not damaged during the Pearl Harbor attack. Six hours after the attack, the U.S. Navy gave orders for its submarine fleet to initiate "unrestricted submarine warfare" against Japanese shipping. Why was this order given in spite of *The London Submarine Agreement of April 22, 1930* prohibiting unrestricted submarine warfare?
14. Initially the U.S. submarine warfare against Japanese ships was ineffective against the Japanese shipping. Give three reasons why.
15. What led the Allies to survive the military disasters of 1941 and 1942?
16. Discuss your feelings about the Bataan Death March and "Hell Ships"? Were these events related to the Japanese culture? Explain.
17. What were the results of the Lt. Col. James Doolittle's symbolic air raid on the Japanese Homeland?
18. What were the results of the Japanese symbolic submarine, seaplane and balloon attacks on the U.S. mainland?
19. How did the U.S. intercepts of Japanese messages affect the battle for Midway and the outcome of the war?
20. Why did the U.S. Navy suffer a disastrous defeat at the battle of Savo Island?

21. Discuss Operation Vengeance to shoot down Admiral Yamamoto's airplane? Was this an act of war or a political assassination? Give your reasons.
22. Discuss briefly the Allies "Island Hopping" strategy in the Pacific.
23. Why was capturing Okinawa and Iwo Jima important stops on the Allied road to victory? Discuss the military significance of these islands.
24. What was the significance of the re-conquest of the Philippines and the symbolic photo of General MacArthur wading ashore?
25. Discuss the victories that led to the final destruction of the Japanese air and sea power.

INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS

Using the maps on page 37, 53, and 64 answer the following:

- (a) Which countries/islands had been captured by the Japanese by June 1942?
- (b) Approximately how far did the Japanese have to travel to attack Pearl Harbor?
- (c) When the Japanese attack Pearl Harbor, how far were they from the continental U.S.?
- (d) Explain the objectives of the Allied land attacks.
- (e) How was Allied Navy strategy coordinated with Allied land attacks.
- (f) In November 1942 what countries/islands were under Japanese control.
- (g) By the end of 1944 which countries/islands were under Allied control.

Chapter 3 The Last Days

TRACING THE MAIN IDEAS

As the war in Europe was winding down the "Big Three" – Franklin D. Roosevelt, Winston S. Churchill and Joseph Stalin met at Yalta the week of February 4 to 11, 1945 to discuss post war activities. One result of this conference was an "Agreement Regarding Japan." This agreement spelled out the disposition of the territories captured by the Japanese from the Russians in the Russo-Japanese war and the conditions under which the Russians would enter the war with Japan on the side of the Allies. Unfortunately, this agreement led to future trouble.

It was apparent that the air raids on the Japanese cities had produced little effect even though thousands of Japanese civilians had been burned to death. Of course it destroyed their cities; their industrial capacity; and their transportation systems but not their morale and will to continue fighting to the very end. The Japanese leadership repeatedly made it abundantly clear of their intentions to continue fighting until the last man, woman, and child had been killed.

As late as June 9, 1945 following the horrible fire bombing of Tokyo the Japanese Cabinet issued this statement:

"With faith born of eternal loyalty as our inspiration, we shall--thanks to the advantages or our terrain and the unity of our nation--prosecute the war to the bitter end in order to uphold our national essence, protect the imperial land, and achieve our goals of conquest."

The unconditional surrender of Germany on May 7, 1945 set the precedent for dealing with Japan. The American and Japanese casualties resulting from the battles for Okinawa and Iwo Jima were fresh on the minds of almost every American. The American people were in no mood to accept anything less than unconditional surrender.

The Americans had been intercepting and decoding Japanese secret military and diplomatic communications since 1940. In the summer of 1945 it was clear from intercepted diplomatic messages that some Japanese politicians were predicting severe food shortages and internal strife if the war continued and there should be an attempt to negotiate an end to it, but with terms acceptable to the military leaders. However for a negotiated peace agreement to be acceptable to the military leaders, it must meet the following requirements all of which were unacceptable to the American people:

- There would be no foreign occupation of Japanese home territory.
- The Emperor and the military would remain in place.
- Surrender would not alter the authority of the Emperor to rule the state.
- The post-war Japanese government would deal with all issues relating to war criminals.

The Japanese leaders acknowledged in secret diplomatic correspondence that they were playing for time. They expected that by inflicting massive American casualties during the invasion of their homeland scheduled for November 1, 1945 they would gain peace terms far more favorable than an unconditional surrender.

In June 1945, with the hard fought battle for Okinawa winding down, President Truman and his military advisers were considering the requirements for the invasion of Japan and the casualty implications of the operations if it took place. Approximately one third of the war casualties in the Pacific occurred during the period of March through August 1945 with the majority occurring on President Truman's watch

The only facts that are relevant to a discussion of Truman's decision are those facts and numbers he had in front of him in July 1945. The casualties at Iwo Jima and Okinawa were not projections. They were real as memorialized by rows of grave markers and in hospital wards filled with wounded men. In each case, the Japanese military had fought to the death, as they had done everywhere else in the island hoping campaign.

In August 1942 the United States had established the Manhattan Project to study the feasibility of producing an atomic weapon. The first atomic bomb was successfully tested in New Mexico on July 16, 1945. Now, President Truman had weapons in his inventory to enforce his demands for unconditional surrender.

Faced with the casualty estimates and the knowledge that the atomic bomb would be available in early August, President Truman was confronted with a death or more death situation. He had a tough decision to make – use the atomic bomb or invade. As Commander-in-Chief, he recognized the reality that the war in the Pacific was an endless series of dreadful choices. Now he must decide whether to use the atomic bomb or incur the casualties of an invasion.

OUTSTANDING EVENTS OF THE PERIOD

June 6, 1945 – The Japanese Supreme War Guidance Council plus five other senior Japanese officials met to discuss what steps should be taken relative to the prosecution of this war. The decision was that something must be done to continue this war.

June 8, 1945 - Another meeting of the Supreme War Guidance Council was held, this time in the presence of the Emperor. There was no discussion at this meeting but merely a report, and an approval by Hirohito, of what had taken place at the meeting on the 6th.

June 9, 1945 - Japanese Premier Suzuki announces: *With faith born of eternal loyalty as our inspiration, we shall--thanks to the advantages of our terrain and the unity of our nation--prosecute the war to the bitter end in order to uphold our national essence, protect the imperial land, and achieve our goals of conquest.*

June 14, 1945 -Japan ex-premier Hirota, in a conversation with Russian Ambassador Malik, said Japan like Russia wishes to revert to peace quickly. Malik replied "*Mr. Hirota must be aware that peace there does not depend on Russia.*"

June 18, 1945 - Japanese resistance ends on Mindanao in the Philippines.

June 22, 1945 - Japanese resistance ends on Okinawa.

June 26, 1945 - Emperor called a special meeting of the Supreme War Guidance Council with him present. During this meeting the Emperor stated that while it was necessary to keep on pushing the war, it was also necessary to consider the possibility of bringing the war to a conclusion.

June 28, 1945 - MacArthur's headquarters announces the end of all Japanese resistance in the Philippines.

July 5, 1945 - Liberation of Philippines declared.

July 10, 1945 - Large-scale B-29 bomber raids against Japan begin.

July 10, 1945 - Emperor called his Foreign Minister and stated, "*As it is now early July, should not our special ambassador be dispatched to Moscow without delay?*" The answer was that the Russian Ambassador in Tokyo was ill and the Foreign Office was having difficulty in maintaining diplomatic contact with the Russian embassy. At this point it was decided to send instructions to Ambassador Sato in Moscow to submit directly to the Russian Government the proposal to send a special ambassador there.

July 11, 1945 - Japanese Foreign Minister Togo sent an extremely urgent message to Ambassador Sato stating "*We are secretly giving consideration to the termination of the war. You should sound him out as to what extent it is possible to make use of Russia in ending the war. We would like to know the Russian views on this subject with all haste.*"

July 12, 1945 - Foreign Minister Togo sent a message to Ambassador Sato. "*His Majesty the Emperor desires that the war be terminated. But so long as England and the United States insists on unconditional surrender the Japanese Empire has no alternative but to fight with all its strength for the honor and existence of the Motherland.*"

July 13, 1945 - Ambassador Sato approached the Vice-Commissar of Foreign Affairs in Moscow. When asked, "*For what purpose are you sending the Ambassador--to ask us to intervene with a view to bringing about peace?*" The reply was that Stalin and Molotov were both about to depart for Potsdam, an official answer would be forthcoming upon their return

July 14, 1945 - The first U.S. Naval bombardment of Japanese home islands.

July 16, 1945 - First Atomic Bomb is successfully tested in the U.S.

July 17, 1945 - Japanese Foreign Minister Togo sent message to Ambassador Sato. "*If England and the United States insist unrelentingly upon unconditional surrender, the Japanese are unanimous in their resolve to wage a war.*"

July 17 to August 2, 1945 the Potsdam conference was held

July 25, 1945 - President Truman approved Operation Olympic.

July 26, 1945 - President Truman issues Postdam Ultimatum for the Japanese to surrender.

July 26, 1945 - Components of the first Atomic Bomb "Little Boy" are unloaded at Tinian Island in the South Pacific.

July 29, 1945 - A Japanese submarine sinks the Cruiser Indianapolis

POINTS TO RESEARCH AND DISCUSS

1. Summarize in your own words the agreements reached at the Yalta Conference.
2. Who were the big three in February 1945 that signed the Agreement Regarding Japan?
3. Explain how the Yalta Conference led to future trouble.

4. Why did the United States have to resort to “carpet” fire bombing of Japanese cities?
5. Who in Japan controlled the direction of the war? What was the Emperor’s role?
6. Two years earlier in mid-1943 Emperor Hirohito stated that his country’s situation “*is now truly grave.*” That being the case and if he was truly in charge, why did he not initiate efforts to bring the war to a close at that time? What does this indicate to you? Discuss your opinion by providing evidence to support your position.
7. What were the reasons given for the proposed peace initiatives by some members of the Japanese ruling body?
8. What were Operation Downfall, Operation Olympic, Operation Coronet and Operation Ketsu-Go?
9. Who were the big three in August 1945? Explain.
10. Summarize the Potsdam Declaration. Which countries signed and or agreed to the document?
11. Under what conditions would the Japanese military clique accept a compromised peace treaty with the United States?
12. Which Japanese officials were members of the Imperial Japanese Supreme War Guidance Council?
13. What was the Japanese response to President Truman’s ultimatum?
14. When was Admiral Nimitz formally directed to develop plans and begin preparations for an invasion of the Japanese home islands? When and where was the invasion planned to take place? When did President Truman approve Operation Olympic?
15. How many American military casualties were predicted? How many Japanese military and civilian casualties were predicted?
16. Describe the elaborate defense plan that the Japanese had developed to defend against the invasion.
17. Were the Japanese warned in advance that the Americans were determined to destroy all military installations, factories or workshops producing military goods? Did the Japanese heed the warnings?

Chapter 4 The Knockout Punch

TRACING THE MAIN IDEAS

On July 17–August 2, 1945 the Potsdam conference was held. President Truman represented the United States and Premier Joseph Stalin represented the USSR. The United Kingdom was represented at first by Prime Minister Winston Churchill and later by the new Prime Minister, Clement Richard Atlee.

By the end of the Potsdam conference, the Allies had agreed on the terms for a Japanese surrender and issued an ultimatum to Japan. This Declaration was issued on July 26, 1945 in the name of the governments of the United States, the Republic of China, and the United Kingdom. Russia was not at war with Japan and was informed of the Proclamation at the same time as the rest of the world. Chiang Kai-shek of China was not present at the conference, but cabled his endorsement to Truman at Potsdam.

About the same time the Declaration was issued, President Truman sent an ultimatum to Japan. Unless Japan unconditionally surrendered immediately, she would face "*prompt and utter destruction.*"

The atomic bomb development and test had been a well-kept secret from the Japanese. There was no suspicion by the Japanese that the President Truman's ultimatum constituted a warning that the most devastating weapon of war ever devised would be forthcoming.

On July 28, 1945 Japanese Prime Minister Suzuki held a press conference. During this conference in response to a reporter's question he was reported to have said:

"I believe the Joint Proclamation by the three countries is nothing but a rehash of the Cairo Declaration. As for the Government, it does not find any important value in it and there is no other recourse but to ignore it entirely and resolutely fight for the successful conclusion of the war."

This response was interpreted that the Japanese government intended to ignore the Postdam Declaration and continue with the war as outlined in its June 8th "Basic Policy for the Future Conduct of the War."

With the Japanese refusal, the die was cast and plans for the atomic bombing were set into motion. If the bombs failed the invasion of the Japanese home islands would take place as planned.

On August 6 a single B-29 piloted by Colonel Paul W. Tibbets, Jr. and proudly displaying the name *Enola Gay* on its nose made good on Truman's ultimatum and dropped the first atomic bomb on the Japanese City of Hiroshima. The explosive power of this bomb was greater than that of 2,000 B-29s flying with their maximum bomb loads. In an instant Hiroshima, the eighth largest city in Japan with a population of over 340,000 people, was obliterated.

No event has so stirred the human mind nor aroused such a diversity of opinion as this one single event in human history. To even the most casual observer, the death and destruction at Hiroshima had to be enormous and beyond comparison to any other single aircraft assault in the whole of World War II.

OUTSTANDING EVENTS OF THE PERIOD

August 6, 1945 - First Atomic Bomb dropped on Hiroshima

August 8, 1945 - USSR declares war on Japan then invades Manchuria.

August 9, 1945 - Second Atomic Bomb is dropped on Nagasaki -- Emperor Hirohito decides to seek an immediate peace with the Allies.

August 13, 1945 - Japanese not yet accepted surrender and Gen. LeMay orders largest air raid of the war on Japan.

August 18, 1945 - A third bomb was ready for delivery to the war zone but President Truman ordered it to remain in the United States unless he specifically ordered it to be delivered to the war zone.

POINTS TO RESEARCH AND DISCUSS

1. If you were living in 1945, would you have favored or opposed the use of the atomic bombs against Japan?
2. Who authorized the use of the atomic bombs on Japan?
3. How did the atomic bombs and the early end to the war prevent a division of the Japanese home islands into a "North Japan and a South Japan" as happened to Korea and Germany?
4. Approximately how many casualties resulted from the used of the bomb at Hiroshima? Nagasaki?

5. The Japanese government includes in casualties figures anyone who died from what they consider “a bomb related disease”. This includes deaths and illnesses from diseases such as cancer and leukemia. Can these numbers be defended statistically? If not, why not?

6. Summarize the main reasons for the Allied victory over Japan.

7. Col. Tibbets and the other crew members of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki strike forces claim they were just airman, wearing the uniform of the U.S. Air Corps and were only following orders of their Commander-in-Chief. Over the years since, they have been called national heroes, hired killers, and even war criminals. Which do you think is most appropriate? Had Japan won the war, do you think that they would have been treated as war criminals? How about President Truman, would he have been called a war criminal? Justify your opinions.

Chapter 5 Japan Surrenders

TRACING THE MAIN IDEAS

Three days after the destruction of Hiroshima nothing definitive was heard from the Japanese, so proceeding according to the plan approved by President Truman, a second and more powerful bomb was dropped on Nagasaki on August 9.

The Japanese government put the toll at 60,000 dead in Hiroshima, 10,000 in Nagasaki with 120,000 wounded.

After the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings debate still raged within the Japanese government over whether to accept the American terms or fight on. The fighting in the fields continued as well as the kamikaze raids. The Americans became impatient and President Truman ordered firebombing raids to resume.

After the late night meeting of August 10th, the Japanese readiness to accept the Potsdam Declaration was transmitted to the Allies through the neutral Governments of Switzerland and Sweden. However the acceptance was qualified "*with the understanding that the said declaration does not comprise any demand which prejudices the prerogatives of His Majesty as a Sovereign Ruler.*"

The United States correctly interpreted this precondition for the surrender as a demand that the United States grant the Emperor veto power over occupation reforms. Furthermore they realized the purpose of the proposed language was an attempt to not only preserve the Imperial system but also the old order in Japan that had launched the war of aggression and insisted that it not be accepted as written.

On August 12th President Truman, not wanting to use a third atomic bomb solely for the purpose of deposing Hirohito, announced that the United States would accept the Japanese surrender offer. In the acceptance message the United States made it clear that the Emperor could remain, but in a purely *ceremonial* capacity only. The United States acceptance response also cited the Potsdam Declaration's promise that the Japanese would be allowed to choose their form of government.

The Japanese received the official reply from Washington on the 13th. On that day the Supreme Council reconvened and continued the meeting until late at night, debating the American reply.

On the question of the Emperor's position, the American reply made no direct statement but did state that the powers of the Emperor would be ceremonial and the Japanese Government would be subject to the authority of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers. Since it was the conviction of the Japanese people that the Emperor was a living god above whom there could

be no earthly being, it was feared that the Japanese people would not readily accept the wording of the reply that placed the Emperor in a subordinate position. In practice, it was readily understandable that such would have to be the situation because, being the defeated power, the Emperor should have to be placed in a position subordinate to that of the representative of the victorious powers. However the language as it was worded would be found difficult to accept.

Since no decision was reached on the 13th, another meeting was held on the 14th in the presence of the Emperor. At this point the Emperor stepped forward from his normally ceremonial role and personally advocated surrender to the Allies under the terms of the Potsdam ultimatum. However, the Japanese Minister of War and the heads of both the Army and the Navy held to their position that Japan should wait and see if arbitration via the Soviet Union might still produce something less than a surrender. They also hoped that if they could hold out until the ground invasion of Japan began, they would be able to inflict so many casualties on the Allies that Japan still might win some sort of negotiated settlement.

At this point Emperor Hirohito, who many believe had only been a helpless bystander in the war effort, decided to display his humanity by going over the heads of his Generals and Cabinet Ministers and announce that all was lost and the war should be brought to an end.

The Imperial decision to bring the war to a close was made by the Emperor himself without suggestions from any other quarters even though there had been a final uprising by a military faction that unsuccessfully attempted a coup d'état.

OUTSTANDING EVENTS OF THE PERIOD

August 14, 1945 - Japanese accept unconditional surrender; Gen. MacArthur is appointed to head the occupation forces in Japan.

August 16, 1945 - Gen. Wainwright, a POW since May 6, 1942, is released from a POW camp in Manchuria.

August 27, 1945 - B-29s drop supplies to Allied POWs in China.

August 29, 1945 - The Soviets shoot down a B-29 dropping supplies to POWs in Korea; U.S. Troops land near Tokyo to begin the occupation of Japan.

August 30, 1945 - The British reoccupy Hong Kong.

September 2, 1945 - Formal Japanese surrender ceremony on board the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay. President Truman declares VJ Day.

September 3, 1945 - Gen. Yamashita surrenders to Gen. Wainwright in the Philippines, .

September 4, 1945 - Japanese troops on Wake Island surrender.

September 8, 1945 - MacArthur enters Tokyo.

September 11, 1945 General MacArthur ordered the arrest of thirty-nine war criminal suspects

October 6, 1945 MacArthur received a directive granting him the authority to proceed with the criminal trials and giving him basic guidelines for their conduct.

December 8, 1945 MacArthur had set up an international war criminal prosecution team.

POINTS TO RESEARCH AND DISCUSS

1. Even after the Nagasaki was bombed, the Japanese leadership was still sharply divided on whether to surrender or continue the war and fight the "Final Battle." What were the main obstacles to accepting the Potsdam surrender ultimatum? Where did they expect the "Final Battle" to take place?

2. The Japanese had no plans for a war exit strategy except for a win on their terms. This posed problems for the government to condition the people to accept surrender. When and how did the

- Japanese first learn of the surrender negotiations? How did the Emperor propose to inform his people that Japan had lost the war and condition them to accept surrender and quit fighting?
3. After the Emperor had made the decision to accept the Potsdam terms, he made a recording for broadcast to the Japanese people the next day. A group of army officers tried at night to find the recording and destroy it. What was one of the reasons they were unsuccessful?
4. Why did President Truman agree to allow the Emperor to remain a part of the Government in a ceremonial capacity only? Why did General MacArthur not want Hirohito to be tried as a war criminal?
5. When did the largest single air raid of the war on Japan take place? Why?
6. When and where did the Japanese sign the surrender documents?

Chapter 6 In Retrospect 60 Years Later

TRACING THE MAIN IDEAS

Since 1945, many people worldwide have questioned the use of the atomic weapons to shock the Japanese into ending the war. Even today, more than sixty years later, books and articles on the atomic bombs (and there are many) still provoke storms of debate among readers and the use of atomic weapons remains a sharply debated subject.

Fortunately for Japan and the world, the bombs were successful, brought the war to a close, and the invasion of Japan never became a reality. If the invasion had occurred it would have come after two more months of the continual fire and atomic bombings, as weather permitted, on all of the remaining Japanese cities and population centers.

The Japanese population, inflamed by a national slogan, "*One Hundred Million will die for the Emperor and Nation,*" was prepared to fight the American invaders to the death. The cost in human life that resulted from the two atomic bombs was small in comparison to the total number of Japanese and American lives that would have been lost by this continued devastation from the air and an invasion from the sea.

At best, the invasion would have resulted in a long and bloody siege with every square foot of Japanese soil being paid for by both Japanese and American lives. At worst, it could have been a battle of extermination eliminating Japan as a nation and as a culture.

Those who argue in favor of the decision to drop the bombs generally assert that they caused the Japanese to surrender, preventing massive casualties on both sides that would have occurred in the planned invasion of the Japanese home islands.

Those who argue against the decision characterize them as inherently immoral, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and/or state terrorism. They may also argue that they were militarily unnecessary and the Japanese were willing to surrender and no saving of American soldiers' lives was necessary.

While it was possible to construct scenarios in which the use of the atomic bomb might have been avoided, but the grim facts and logic yields no easy alternatives. No one will ever know whether the war would have ended quickly without the atomic bombs or whether its use really saved more lives than it destroyed. But one thing is an undisputed fact – it saved thousands of American lives and that was most important to the American people! What is certain is that using it seemed the natural thing to do and that President Truman's overriding motive was to end the war as quickly as possible with a minimum number of casualties on both sides.

On September 11, just over a week after the surrender, General MacArthur ordered the arrest of thirty-nine war criminal suspects – most of them members of Tojo's war cabinet.

On January 19, 1946, General MacArthur announced the establishment of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East (IMFTE).

The IMTTF was convened on May 3, 1946 to try the leaders of the Empire of Japan. Twenty-eight Japanese military and political leaders were indicted on 55 counts of Class A crimes (Crimes Against Peace). More than 5,700 Japanese nationals were charged with Class B (Murder) and C class crimes (Conventional War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity), mostly entailing prisoner abuse.

The Japanese militarists had taken advantage of the time immediately after the surrender to destroy criminality evidence by the warehouse full.

Because the most of the military records had been destroyed, it was exceedingly difficult for allied investigators to find evidence of criminal orders.

However, the Japanese did not have time to destroy all incriminating documents and some fell into the hands of the IMFTE. Key among these were the detailed records of Marquis Koichi Kido, Chief Secretary to the Lord Keeper of the privy seal, covering the period of January 1, 1930 to December 15, 1945.

Using these documents, applying “best evidence rules,” and the testimony from the last Emperor of China, all of the political and military leaders of Imperial Japan were tried and convicted.

On December 23, 1948, Tojo and six others were hung at Sugamo prison.

At the conclusion of the war, Japan’s economy was in shambles. Almost all of her large cities had been devastated. Most of her industry and her transportation infrastructure was severely damaged. She had lost all of her territory acquired after 1894. The black market provided most of the consumer goods. Food was in short supply with the United States being the main supplier. The remains of Japan’s war machine were destroyed. Some of the once proud ships of the Imperial Japanese Navy were moved to Bikini in the South Pacific where they were used test targets for Operations Crossroads – American postwar testing of atomic and hydrogen bombs.

Prior to World War II, Japanese exported products were burdened with the reputation of low cost and inferior quality copies of items produced elsewhere. Immediately after the war items marked “made in occupied Japan” bore the same stigma until the American governance, the new Japanese Government, and the industrial leaders faced the reality that exporting manufactured products was their only means for economic recovery and survival. They recognized that high quality, as perceived by world markets, was absolutely essential for success. How to implement this quality transformation was not readily apparent.

Dr. W. Edwards Deming, an American statistician, went to Japan and strongly influenced Japanese industry post World War II design and production techniques with statistical process control and total quality management methodologies.

One of the early companies in Japan to subscribe to these methodologies was Toyota and its subsidiaries. Over the years the reputation of Toyota automobiles for quality, reliability and low cost have steadily increased. This probably accounts from Toyota’s meteoric rise from just another “Jap car” in 1957 to one of the best on the market today. The same goes for Japanese cameras, electronic equipment, and other household products that are currently in high demand worldwide.

Today the luxury provided by their new constitution with its attendant limitation of spending for armament has provided a base for industrial expansion. The adoption of the burden for Japan’s defense by the United State has provided the capital needed for unprecedented industrial expansion. Now that Japan and China have engage in joint efforts utilizing the resources of China and the industrial strength of Japan, the two nations can dominate many of the markets of the world. Japan, this second time around has achieved all its pre-war goals without shedding one-drop of blood.

OUTSTANDING EVENTS OF THE PERIOD

1. **September 11, 1945** - General MacArthur ordered the arrest of thirty-nine war criminal suspects
2. **January 1, 1946** - Emperor Hirohito declares his divinity is myth.
3. **April 10, 1946** - Japanese vote for liberalization policy – Women in diet.
4. **May 3, 1946** - Tokyo War Crimes trials start and last two and a half years.
5. **November 3, 1946** - Japanese constitution signed.
5. **November 4, 1948** - Tokyo War Crimes Tribunal announced that all of the defendants had been found guilty
6. **November 12, 1948** - Tojo and seven others sentenced to death for war crimes. Sixteen others were given life in prison.
7. **December 23, 1948** - Tojo and six others were hung at Sugamo prison.
8. **June–August 1950** - Dr. Deming trained hundreds of Japanese engineers, managers, and scholars in statistical process control and concepts of quality and provided a basis for Japanese industrial expansion.
9. **September 8, 1951** - Treaty of Japan signed by the U.S. and forty-nine other nations officially ending World War II. Soviet Union did not sign.
10. **April 28, 1950-** Occupation of Japanese home islands ended. However, the occupation of Okinawa ended October 6, 1998 and Iwo Jima continued until 1972.

POINTS TO RESEARCH AND DISCUSS

1. In 1945 the Japanese would have been agreeable to a negotiated peace if it met the following criteria:
 - There would be no foreign occupation of Japanese home territory.
 - The Emperor and the military would remain in place.
 - Surrender would not alter the authority of the Emperor to rule the state.
 - The post-war Japanese government would deal with all issues relating to war criminals.Had you been living in 1945, would you have considered these terms acceptable from an American point of view? Should the Allies have negotiated starting with these terms? Discuss your reasons.
2. Recognizing the anticipated American and Japanese casualty estimates that would have been incurred if an invasion had taken place, would you have authorized the Air Corps to use the atomic weapons? Give your reasons.
3. A comment often made is the use of atomic weapons gave the Japanese leaders an honorable way out of the war and at the same time minimized Russian intervention. Had the war lasted much longer, Russia would have been in a much better position to claim Japanese home island territory and a post war “north – south” division similar to what happened in Korea and Germany would have taken place. In your opinion, are these valid comments? Using divided Korea as an example, how do you think a similar division would have affected Japan today?
4. What are some of the factors that account for the Japanese meteoric rise as an industrial nation?
5. Do you accept Tojo's argument that Japan was forced to act defensively against racist, expansionist policies from other powers?
6. The Japanese knew that war criminal trials would take place after they surrendered. Consequently they destroyed as many of their official war records for the period of 1930 to

1945 as possible during the time between the surrender and the arrival of American troops on the islands. In your opinion, was this an attempt to erase as much evidence of the past as possible? Do you think the records should have been preserved for historical reasons even though their contents may have incriminated more people?

7. Marquis Koichi Kido, Chief Secretary to the Lord Keeper of the privy seal and the closest advisor to the Emperor, kept personal files covering the period of January 1, 1930 to December 15, 1945. These files were not destroyed and were provided to the International Military Tribunal for the Far East even though Kido knew he might be personally indicted as a war criminal. These files became one of the best sources of information for the prosecutors. What was Kido's purpose for not destroying his files?
8. Who was Joseph Keenan?
9. What was Japan attempting to do during the war and in what geographic areas?
10. By signing the Tripartite Pact, Japan, Germany and Italy had plans to dominate the whole world. Would you consider this a conspiracy and also a war crime?
11. Some Japanese historian and legal experts have stated that these Tokyo war trials were more about Westerners passing negative judgment on the Japanese "alien race" and it was more culture than it was about bringing justice against individual criminals. What is meant by the term "alien race?" What events took place that may have been the source of this belief? Discuss the pros and cons for these statements.
12. Many of the Japanese military leaders on trial did not personally murder torture and plunder. These atrocities were committed by soldiers under their command. Should a superior officer be held accountable, as a war criminal, for failing to know about or control the actions of his foot soldiers?
13. Should a civilian leader such as a Prime Minister or other advisors to the Emperor be held accountable for brutality committed by soldiers? If not, explain your reasons. If so, under what conditions?
14. For additional details of the War Crimes Trials see the book "*The Other Nuremberg – The Untold Story of the Tokyo War Crimes Trials*" by Arnold C. Brackman.
15. For an eyewitness account of Japanese treatment of prisoners-of-war see the book "*The Emperor's Angry Guest – A World War II Prisoner-of-the Japanese Speaks Out*" by Ralph M. Knox.

Chapter 7 The Great Debate

TRACING THE MAIN IDEAS

Over 60 years later in today's culture, certain groups of people dispute the need for the use of these weapons of mass destruction saying the Japanese were defeated before Hiroshima and were willing to surrender. Almost everyone agrees that the Japanese were militarily defeated but they were unwilling to surrender. The records clearly show that they were digging in for the anticipated "Final Battle" when the invasion of their homeland occurred.

Discussions about the end of World War II and its aftermath presented by the media and in many contemporary books and papers emphasize the attempt by Japan to get Russia to mediate a peace agreement starting with conditions and terms totally unacceptable to the American people. Some politically motivated writers highlight the use of the atomic bombs by presenting only "pity the victims" stories and photographs. Nothing is said about the causes of the war or the atrocities that took place during the war. Some neglect to mention Japan's invasion of

Manchuria, the Marco Polo Bridge incident, the bloody bombing of Shanghai or the Rape of Nanking as if these incidents never happened. Some say that President Roosevelt invited the attack on Pearl Harbor or the Bataan Death March is a myth. There are even those that declare the Holocaust never happened.

Some writers fail to recognize that Japan had two governments in 1945. One was under the control of powerful military leaders who were determined to fight to the bitter end. Civilians who recognized the need to end the war controlled the other. The military clearly held the upper hand, rendering the civilian leaders impotent through political intimidation and threats of imprisonment or death.

Many writers fail to recognize the desire of Japan's military leaders to preserve their honor by fighting literally to the last man, woman, and child had been killed. They fail to look at the planned invasion of the Japanese homeland and the enormous cost in human lives on both sides that would have occurred had the atomic bombs not been used. They fail to include the loss of life of prisoners-of-war and slave laborers had the Japanese fulfilled their promise to kill all of these people when the first Americans set foot on Japanese soil. They fail to mention the probability that there would have been a North and South Japan had the Russian armies invaded the Japanese home islands.

All of the above and many other considerations must be part of the equation.

Historical writers as well as some historians are divided over whether it was necessary to drop the atomic bombs on Japan or other alternatives would have been better options to end the war. We now have three different generations each with its own perspectives of the national problem of 1945 and how was the best way to solve it. This situation indeed creates what it takes to be a divided people and is the price we are paying for not informing the younger generations of what really happened and why the decisions were made.

The major questions about the decisions made by both the American and the Japanese leaders in the summer of 1945 cannot be answered empirically. Who can disprove a belief that any other resolution of the war with Japan would have been preferable to the atomic bombs? Who can prove that the Nagasaki bomb was necessary, or that it was necessary to drop it just three days after the first? Who will ever know for certain that Japan would have been forced to surrender by hunger, fuel shortages, and internal strife before the invasion of the home islands occurred? Who will ever know whether or not the Russians could have negotiated a peace treaty acceptable both to the Japanese and to the American people? Who will ever know whether an invasion of the Japanese homeland would have taken place? In order for the reader to form his own opinion as to answers to these questions the facts, including actual photo copies from President Truman's personal diary, intercepted Japanese diplomatic documents, and copies of important military orders are presented for the reader to evaluate.

POINTS TO RESEARCH AND DISCUSS

A small group of pacifists and leaders of left-wing organizations worldwide point the finger at the United States for having unleashed a cosmic dragon upon the world. They still seek to haunt all Americans with a feeling of guilt over the dead at Hiroshima and Nagasaki with pity the victims photographs and stories.

Some have said that the American guilt is compounded by the fact that it was used against the Oriental race implying that it would not have been used against Caucasians.

The opposing groups counter their arguments by noting that they fail to recognize the desire of Japan's military leaders to preserve their honor by fighting literally to the last man, woman, and child had been killed. They fail to look at the planned invasion of the Japanese homeland and

the enormous cost in human lives on both sides that would have occurred had the atomic bombs not been used. They fail to include the loss of life of prisoners-of-war and slave laborers had the Japanese fulfilled their promise to kill all of these people when the first Americans set foot on Japanese soil. They fail to mention the probability that there would have been a North and South Japan had the Russian armies invaded the Japanese home islands.

The bomb was conceived in part by refugees from Nazi Germany. The original intent of using it against Hitler's forces. Also the original intention of the 509th Composite Group was for it to be divided into two groups - one to go to Europe and one to the Pacific.

Had the bombs been available and used before the invasions of Okinawa and Iwo Jima and the carpet fire bombing of Japanese cities, additional hundreds of thousands of Japanese and American lives would have been saved.

How do you feel about the use of the bombs to end the war? Discuss and evaluate the tradeoffs that were available at the time. Was the decision to use the bomb a good one or a bad one? Give your reasons for your opinions and justify with numbers. Debate these issues with your colleagues in the class.

Chapter 8 Epilogue

TRACING THE MAIN IDEAS

The invasion of Kyushu, Operation Olympic was scheduled for November 1, 1945. The invasion fleet would consist of thousands of ships ranging in size from battleships to small amphibious landing craft sailing from Okinawa, the Philippines and the Marianas. They would put fourteen divisions, over a half million soldiers and marines, on the southern, eastern and western shores of Kyushu. Army, Navy and Marine aircraft from the island of Okinawa would provide close air support.

In October, Buckner Bay on the East Coast of Okinawa, was still jammed with vessels of all kinds, from victory ships to landing craft. On the island itself, 100,000 or more soldiers and marines were housed in "Tent Cities." All over the island, thousands of tons of food, equipment, and supplies were stacked in huge piles and lay out in the open.

On October 4th, a typhoon was spotted developing in the Caroline Islands and tracked as it moved to the northwest. The storm had been expected to pass into the East China Sea, north of Formosa but unexpectedly, on the evening of October 8, the storm changed direction and abruptly veered to the east. That evening the storm slowed down and, just as it approached Okinawa, began to greatly increase in intensity. When it did, there was insufficient warning to allow ships in the harbor to get under way in order to escape to the open sea from the typhoon's terrible violence.

The storm raged over the island for hours then slowly headed out to sea. Then it doubled back and two days later hit the island again.

The toll on ships was staggering. Almost 270 ships were sunk, grounded or damaged beyond repair. Fifty-three ships were badly damaged and were decommissioned, stripped and abandoned. Out of 90 ships that needed major repair, the Navy decided only 10 were even worthy of complete salvage, and so the remaining 80 were scrapped. Countless aircraft had been destroyed, all power was gone, and communications and supplies were nonexistent. Almost all the food, medical supplies, and other stores were destroyed. Over 80% of all housing and buildings knocked down, and all the military installations on the island were temporarily out of action.

If the war had not ended on September 2nd, this damage would have seriously crippled the invasion plans and would have required major revision while the resources were replenished. However, World War II is now history and few people concerned themselves with the invasion plans for Japan. Surprisingly few people have made the connection that an American invasion fleet of thousands of ships, planes and landing craft and a half million men might well have been in that exact place at that exact time.

POINTS TO RESEARCH AND DISCUSS

1. Prior to World War II, Japan had never been successfully invaded. An invasion was planned for November 1, 1945. On two previous occasions invasion attempts were repelled by interference from nature. What was this interference?
2. Had the war not ended in September 1945, Typhoon Louise would have seriously interfered with the American invasion. Do you think the Americans would have cancelled the invasion or simply postponed it?

Note 1 The Scientists Enter the War

TRACING THE MAIN IDEAS

Albert Einstein, winner of the 1921 Nobel prize for Physics, urged by Dr. Leo Szilard, penned a letter to President Franklin Roosevelt in which he expressed the concerns of himself and other scientists and mathematicians of the efforts in Nazi Germany to purify uranium and develop an atomic bomb. In his letter of August 2, 1939 Einstein said: "A single bomb of this type, carried by boat and exploded in a port, might very well destroy the whole port, together with some of the surrounding territory." This letter was delivered to President Roosevelt in October.

In October 1941, President Roosevelt was briefed on the alarming state of atomic bomb research in Germany. This news encouraged President Roosevelt to approved intensified research into the feasibility of an atomic bomb.

On December 2, 1942, Enrico Fermi achieved a controlled sustained chain reaction in an atomic pile at Chicago. These laboratory experiments had confirmed that it was possible to split the U-235 atom and release tremendous amounts of energy. Based on these experiments it was suggested to President Roosevelt that America should prove whether or not it was possible to build an atomic bomb. If successful this new weapon could end the war immediately.

On August 13, 1942 the Manhattan Project was established. In order to disguise this ultra-secret project, the Army Corps of Engineers District created a Manhattan Engineering District with headquarters initially based in New York City. Three months later, Col. (later Major Gen.) Leslie Groves was appointed to head the "Manhattan Project." In December President Roosevelt approved detailed plans for building production facilities and producing atomic weapons.

When it became reasonably certain that the Manhattan Project would be successful before the end of the war, the Army Air Corps proceeded full speed ahead to develop the means to deliver a bomb and to train flight crews in the tactics which would be required. This task was assigned to Colonel Paul W. Tibbets, Jr.

The Potsdam declaration to the Japanese to surrender or face prompt and utter destruction was rejected. The untested "Little Boy" U-235 bomb leveled Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. Three days later a duplicate of the Trinity Plutonium bomb was exploded over Nagasaki. A third

bomb, a second Plutonium device, had been shipped from Los Alamos in early August and was awaiting shipment to the war zone but it was never needed. Japan surrendered on August 14th.

OUTSTANDING EVENTS OF THE PERIOD

1932 The atom is split proving Einstein's Theory of Relativity.

1933 Dr. Leo Szilard realizes the possibility of the nuclear chain reaction.

1934 First nuclear fission is achieved by Dr. Enrico Fermi.

January 26, 1939 Dr. Niels Bohr announces the discovery of fission.

January 29, 1939 Dr. Robert Oppenheimer realizes the military possibilities of nuclear fission.

August 2, 1939 Dr. Albert Einstein writes President Franklin D. Roosevelt, alerting him to the possibility that research might lead to developing powerful bombs.

October 19, 1939 Roosevelt informs Einstein that he has set up a committee to study uranium.

Spring-Summer 1940 uranium-235 isotope separation methods are investigated.

February 23, 1941 Plutonium is discovered

July 2, 1941 A British report concludes that an atomic bomb is feasible.

October 9, 1941 President Roosevelt gives the go-ahead for the development of an atomic weapon.

December 6, 1941 President Roosevelt authorizes the Manhattan Engineering District for the purpose of creating an atomic bomb.

August 13, 1942 The Manhattan Engineer District is established in New York City.

September 17, 1942 Colonel Leslie R. Groves is appointed head of the Manhattan Engineer District. He is promoted to Brigadier General six days later.

September 19, 1942 Groves selects the Oak Ridge, Tennessee site for the pilot plant.

September 23, 1942 Colonel Leslie Groves is placed in charge of the Manhattan Project. Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer becomes the Project's Scientific Director.

October 3, 1942 E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company agrees to build the chemical separation plant at Oak Ridge.

October 19, 1942 Groves decides to establish a separate scientific laboratory to design an atomic bomb.

November 25, 1942 Groves selects Los Alamos, New Mexico as the bomb laboratory. Dr. Oppenheimer is chosen laboratory director.

December 2, 1942 Scientists led by Dr. Enrico Fermi achieve the first self-sustained nuclear chain reaction in Chicago.

December 28, 1942 President Roosevelt approves detailed plans for building production facilities and producing atomic weapons.

January 16, 1943 Gen. Groves selects Hanford, Washington as the site for the plutonium production facilities.

May 5, 1943 Japan becomes the primary target for any future atomic bomb according to the Military Policy Committee of the Manhattan Project.

June 17 1943 President Roosevelt approves the construction of a pilot plant stage and instructs that plant construction be the responsibility of the Army. The Office of Scientific Research and Development continues to direct nuclear research, while the Army delegates the task of plant construction to the Corps of Engineers.

Summer 1943 The Manhattan Engineer District moves its headquarters to Oak Ridge.

March 1944 Bomb models are tested at Los Alamos.

August 7, 1944 General George C. Marshall informed that small implosion bombs might be ready by mid-1945 and that a uranium bomb will almost certainly be ready by August 1, 1945.

September 1944 Colonel Paul Tibbets' begins test drops with dummy bombs called Pumpkins.

April 12, 1945 President Roosevelt dies.

April 25, 1945 President Truman briefed on the Manhattan Project.

April 27, 1945 The Target Committee selects four cities, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Kokura, and Niigata as possible targets for the atomic bomb.

May 8, 1945 War ends in Europe.

May 25, 1945 Dr. Leo Szilard attempts to warn President Truman in person concerning the dangers of atomic weapons.

June 14, 1945 Gen. Groves submits the target selection group's recommendation to General Marshall.

July 1, 1945 Dr. Leo Szilard begins a petition to get President Truman to call off using the atomic bomb in Japan.

July 16, 1945 The world's first atomic detonation takes place in the Trinity Test at Alamogordo, New Mexico.

July 21, 1945 President Truman orders atomic bombs to be used.

July 26, 1945 Truman, Chiang Kai-Shek, and Atlee issue the Potsdam Proclamation, calling for Japan to surrender unconditionally.

July 29, 1945 The Japanese reject the Potsdam Proclamation.

August 6, 1945 Little Boy, a uranium bomb, is detonated over Hiroshima, Japan.

August 9, 1945 The second atomic bomb to hit Japan, Fat Man, was scheduled to be dropped at Kokura. However, because of poor weather, the secondary target Nagasaki was bombed.

August 9, 1945 President Truman addresses the nation.

September 2, 1945 Japan announces its formal surrender.

August 15, 1947 The Manhattan Engineer District is abolished.

POINTS TO RESEARCH AND DISCUSS

1. Why did President Roosevelt decide to undertake a two billion-dollar program that had only a fifty percent probability of success?
2. Who were the key leaders involved in the Manhattan Project?
3. Why was super-secrecy so important?
4. Who were the original intended targets for the atomic bomb?
5. Name the key locations of the Manhattan Project? Identify the charter of each location?
6. What were Navy Captain Parsons, Dr. John von Neumann and Colonel Paul Tibbets contributions to the Manhattan Project?
7. How did the U.S. Government explain to the public the commotion caused by the "Trinity Test"?

Note 2 Myths and Facts

TRACING THE MAIN IDEAS

The use of the atomic bombs to effectively bring an end to World War II has been a fertile ground for peace activists, propagandist, and left wing liberals every since the bombs were used in 1945. As a result there are lots of stories circulating – some true, some myths, and some misconceptions

This chapter is an eyewitness account by the only individual who participated as a crew member on both atomic mission strike aircraft. In addition, he was involved to some extent with the design of the weapon, the selection of targets, and the deployment of both bombs. This is his attempt to set the record straight by summarizing some of the myths, report the facts, and give a little insight into the reasoning behind using the bombs.

On the subject of remorse, guilt, and insanity of the crews of the *Enola Gay* and *Bock's Car*. This has been another fertile ground for mythmakers and propagandists. The writer personally knew all the men involved before, during, and after the missions as well as during the post war years. They have let him know that none ever expressed any remorse and each and every man said that given the same conditions, he would do it again.

The remorse, guilt, and insanity stories stem primarily from two incidents – the first, remorse and guilt stories stem from the statement “My God, what have we done” that Captain Bob Lewis, the *Enola Gay* co-pilot, wrote in his log a few minutes after the bomb exploded over Hiroshima. What he wrote and what he said are different. What he really said “Look at that sonofabitch go.” What he meant by his written statement was “*What has mankind done in designing and developing a bomb like this to destroy mankind.*” This statement certainly expressed the feelings of all aboard the *Enola Gay* and certainly did not express any guilt or remorse for what they had done as many revisionist historians have interpreted his written comment to mean.

The second part that relates to the insanity of the crew members began with the onset of the problems of Major Claude Eatherly.

Claude was a very unusual person. He was a happy go lucky type of person who needed, and demanded, a lot of personal attention. When he did not get attention, he sought ways of attracting it. He was obviously disappointed that he and his crew did not participate in the tremendous amount of publicity that the *Enola Gay* crew received after the war.

After being forced to resign from the Air Corps, it was downhill for Major Eatherly. He was first caught in New Orleans in the company of another Colonel who was down on his luck. They were caught by the federal authorities running guns to Central America. They were heavily fined, but they gained a lot of notoriety from it – national press coverage, radio and TV coverage. This pleased Major Eatherly that he got all this attention and he devised a scheme whereby he could get the attention and not get confined. So he began holding up corner grocery stores and post offices. Once the money was transferred to him he would lay a toy gun which he carried and say “*now call the police and the newspapers.*”

Eatherly, with the help of some liberal media people including the writer Gunther Anders, is the one who fabricated the story that he had witnessed the dropping of the atomic bomb over Hiroshima and that seeing the blast made such an impact on him he went crazy. It was part of his successful insanity defense in federal court on the armed robbery charge. He beat the rap and gained notoriety for a while. If any reporters had bothered to check, they would have learned that Eatherly not only didn't witness the atomic blast, he had in fact, flown one of the weather planes

on August 6 that was 250 miles away from Hiroshima at the time of the blast. The press, naturally, picked up his story without ever verifying it. But once the story was in print it began a life of its own that persists to this day. And yes, eventually he was committed to a mental hospital.

POINTS TO RESEARCH AND DISCUSS

1. Who was the only man to participate in the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki as a crew member on the strike aircraft?
2. What arguments have been presented that the targets selected for the atomic bombs were designed to “kill more Japs”? How did this idea originate and what evidence is available that shows that this is not the case?
3. What are some of the sources of the remorse, guilty and insanity stories? Discuss your thoughts on the validity of these stories. Discuss Captain Lewis’ statement “*My God what have we done?*” and what he meant by that statement.
4. Discuss your thoughts on the sad story of Major Eatherly and how he attracted attention to himself?
5. Jacob Beser stated: “*As in any war, our goal was—as it should be—to win. The stakes were too high to equivocate. We had to do what was necessary! Humane warfare is an oxymoron. War by definition is barbaric. I particularly feel a special sense of indignation at those self-proclaimed humanitarians that make an acceptable or intolerable distinction between the use of nuclear explosives or the use of conventional explosives such as fire bombing or bullets as the means of killing the enemy. To try and distinguish between an acceptable method of killing and an unacceptable method is ludicrous. In my mind, to suggest that one specific act of war is barbaric and thereby illegal is to imply that other forms of slaughter are acceptable and consequently legal! If you have to die in warfare, what is the difference of being killed by a bomb or a bullet? In my opinion our leaders chose the most rapid and humane path to victory they felt possible. We were only following orders. We had to do what was necessary to win. The use of the bombs saved the lives of hundreds of thousands of American soldiers as well as millions of Japanese soldiers and civilian lives.*

It is a myth that if we fight as fiercely as our enemy’s do we are no better than they are. I strongly disagree. Did the fire bombing of Dresden and Hamburg Germany turn us into Nazis? Did the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki turn us into the inhuman beasts that conducted the Bataan death march or transported American prisoners of war to Japan on the Hell Ships?” Do you agree or disagree with him. Justify your opinions.