

A black and white photograph of a massive atomic bombing mushroom cloud. The cloud has a large, billowing white top that spreads out, with a dark, dense column of smoke and debris rising from the center. The base of the cloud is surrounded by smaller, white, cloud-like debris on the ground.

Was the dropping of atomic bombs
justified?



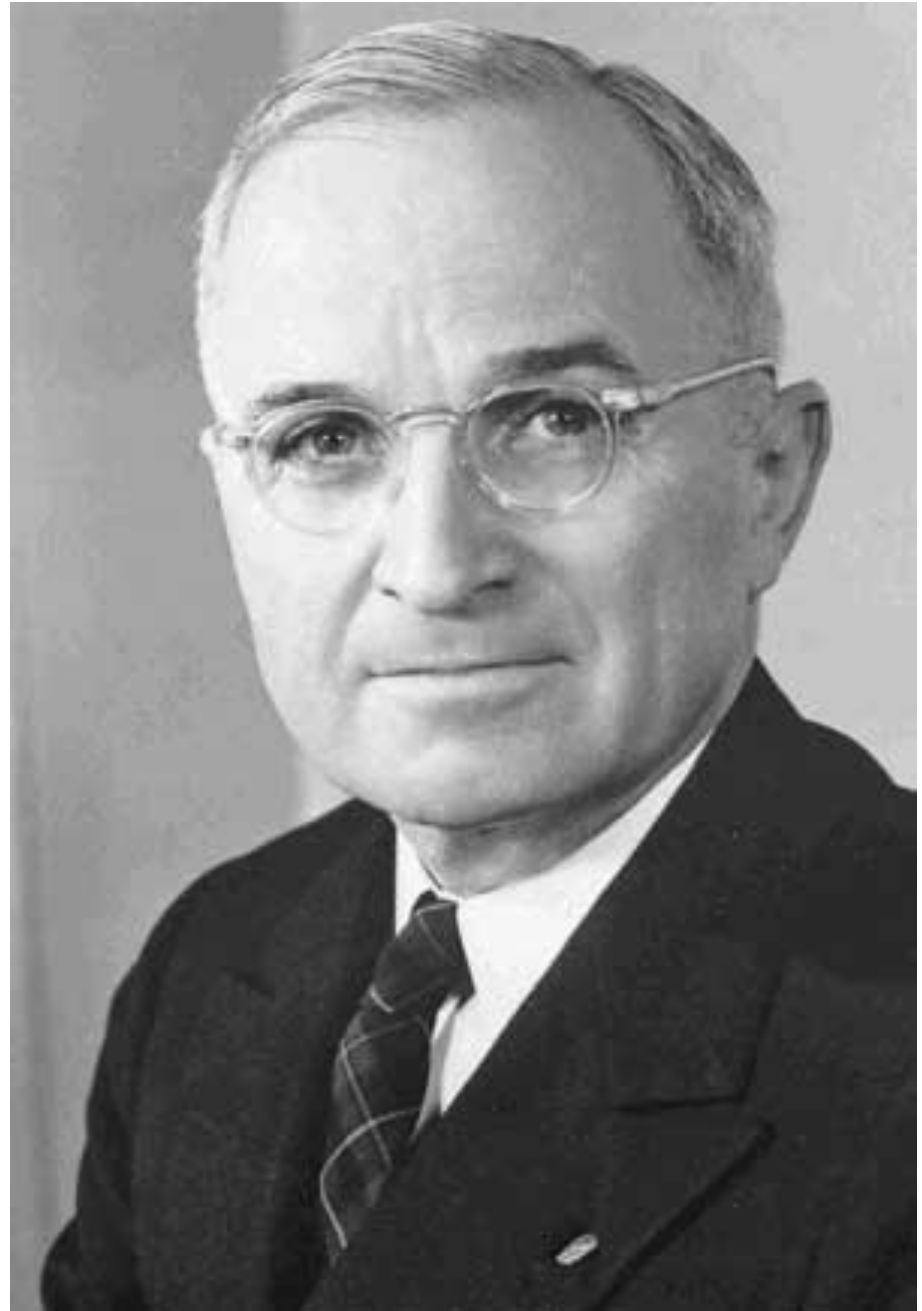


In May 1945, following Hitler's suicide at the end of April, the Nazis surrendered; the war in Europe was over!

However, the Pacific war was not over against the Japanese.

US President Harry Truman had been working on a new type of technology - An atomic bomb!

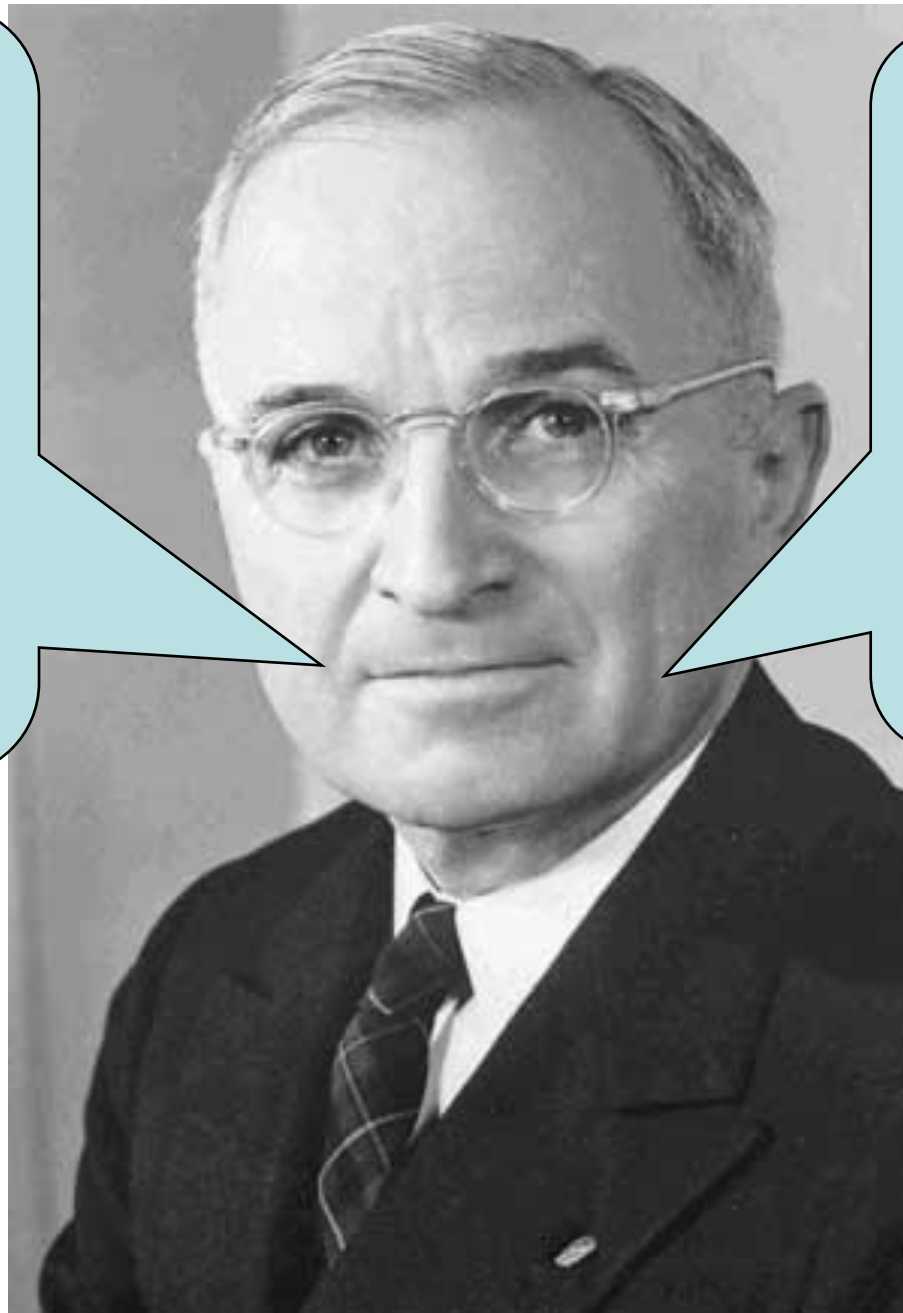
No one knew what the effects of this new super weapon would be, but Truman was considering using it to end the war in the Pacific.



The Japanese will never surrender. Japan have 5000 aircraft and 5 million soldiers prepared to fight to their death.

Hundreds of thousands more American soldiers could be killed if we do not stop the war once and for all.

What do you advise?



We don't know the true effects of the bomb.

We cannot be sure what it will do.

Many innocent people will die.





Truman dropped the
bomb, changing the world
FOREVER!







First there was a
glaring pinkish light
in the sky, which
burned out
people's eyes.

Beneath the centre of the explosion, the temperature was hot enough to melt concrete and steel.



Within seconds, 75,000 people were incinerated





This human shadow is all that was left of a person standing with a ladder in the centre of the explosion.

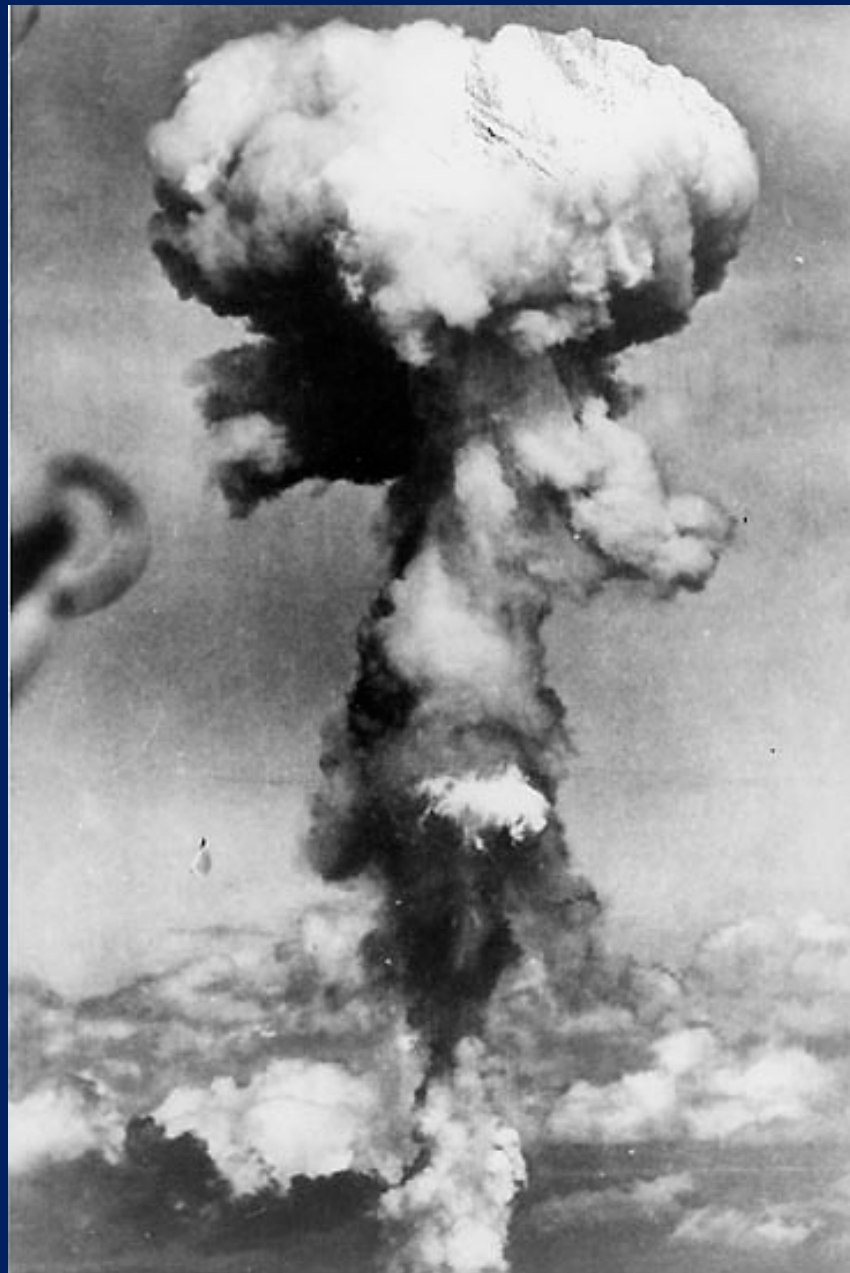














What was the impact?



Hiroshima video

The Americans asked the
Japanese to surrender.

They refused.

Three days later, the Americans
dropped a second atomic bomb
on Nagasaki killing 36,000 people.

Justified?
(We now know what it can do)

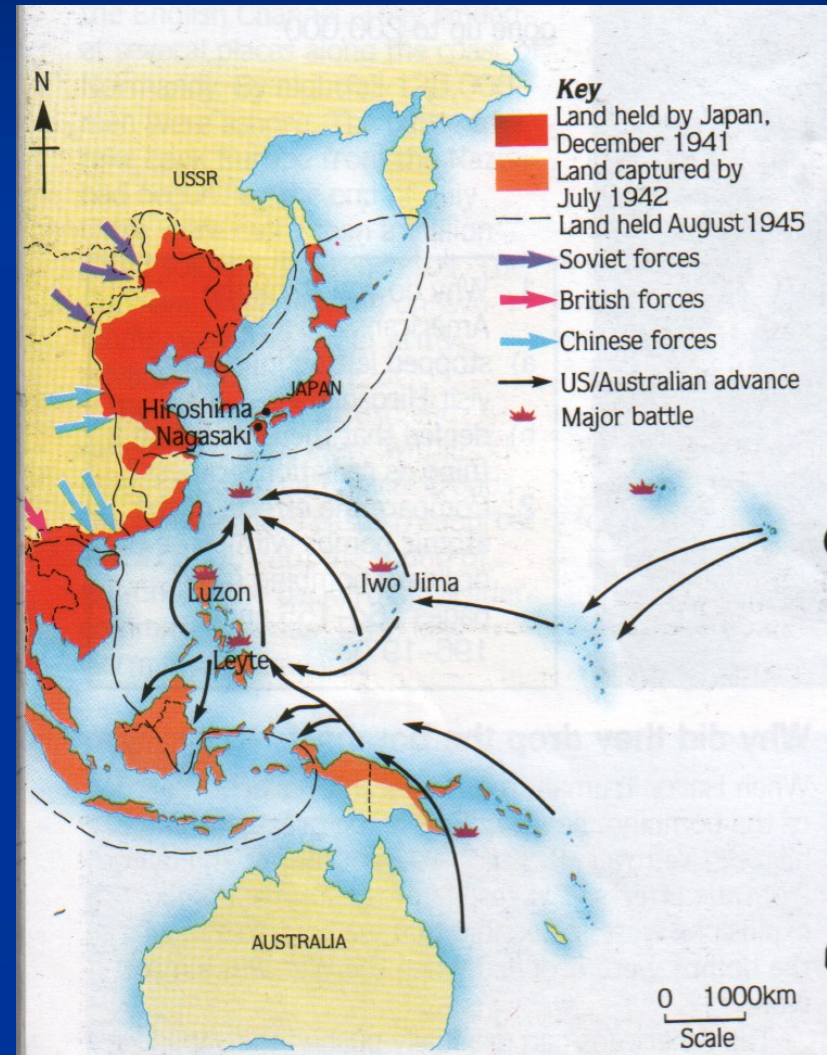




Six days later the
Japanese
surrendered.

Why did the US decide to drop the bomb?

- Pacific war
- Millions invested in development
- Growing threat from USSR
- Vengeance for torture & suicide attacks



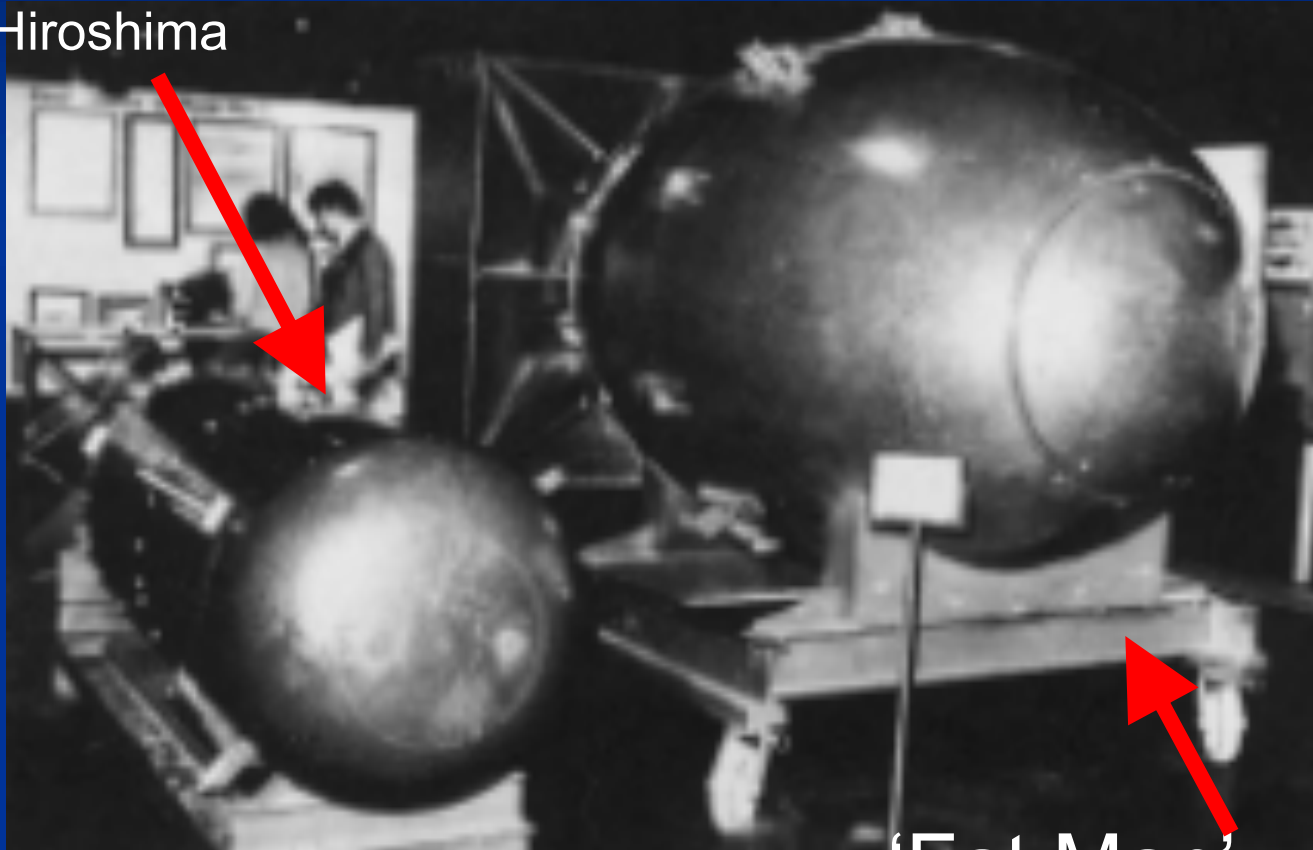
What happened when the bomb was dropped?



- 6 August 1945 Enola Gay dropped atomic bomb on Hiroshima
- 75,000 immediate deaths
- 200,000+ deaths radiation and **fall out**
- 9 August, Nagasaki 40,000 deaths
- 14 August Japan surrenders

What did the bombs look like?

'Little Boy' Uranium,
Hiroshima



'Fat Man', Plutonium,
Nagasaki

How powerful were they?

- 'Little Boy' blast equivalent to 20,000 tons of explosives detonated at once
- Strong winds from blast destroyed all buildings within a 1.5 mile radius
- Heat generated incinerated everything in its path



Was the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki justified?

Have we unleashed our ultimate end?