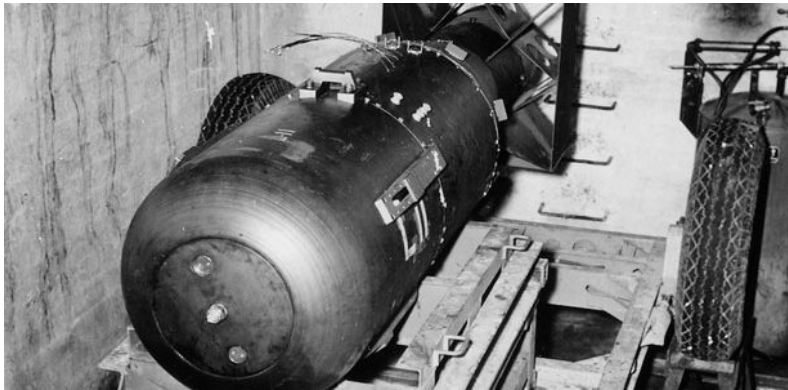


## *Blog Impact of Technology - Raffaella and Sophia*

### **“Little Boy”**

The Second World War has been well known for all the deaths, tragedies, destruction, technological advances, and for being the biggest war of all time. However, there is one story that, for many reasons, remains a shock to this day. On the morning of August 6, 1945, the United States army dropped a uranium gun type device code, named “Little boy”, on the city of Hiroshima in Japan. And later, on August 9, the second bomb was dropped on another Japanese city called Nagasaki. The Americans decision to drop two atomic bombs on these cities, at the end of World War II, has been a topic of intense debate for years. But perhaps the killing of thousands of innocents in the bombing, comes to show that the attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were not justified. And maybe it included a discrete superfluous bias.



### **Were the bombs necessary?**

First, it is important to point out that the US did not depend on the atomic bombs to make Japan surrender in World War 2. MacArthur, commander of the army forces in the Pacific, thought the use of atomic bombs was inexcusable. He later wrote to former President Hoover that if President Truman had followed Hoover's "wise and statesmanlike" advice to modify its surrender terms and tell the Japanese they could keep their emperor, "the Japanese would have accepted it, and gladly, I have no doubt." In addition, it can't be assumed that there was no warning of the Japanese surrender before the attack, for former president and army general, Eisenhower had urged at Potsdam, "the Japanese were ready to surrender and it wasn't necessary to hit them with that awful thing." In that case, it is evident that the bombings were unnecessary to end the war.



Carl Mydans/The LIFE Picture Collection/Getty Images "Japan surrenders"

## What it Cost

Concurrently, we can not forget to mention the amount of destruction that was caused with both bombings. If we were to compare, in numbers, the amount of habitants in both cities before the attack and after, we would have a decrease of 105000 people that had been killed. Some may say that the atomic bombs saved many American lives. While this information is, in fact, true, according to an article by *The Atlantic* (T. Compton) the amount of Americans dead or insured if the bombs were not thrown would have been around between 100000 and 125000. Now, if we added the amounts of Japanese deaths and a total of 94000 insured, we would have a number of 199000 casualties. This clearly shows that more lives were lost than saved. So many more innocent Japanese lives had been taken and all of them suffered drastically with the results after the attack, as Tanemori Takashi, civilian survivor mentions, "People screaming in agony, charred, dead or just barely alive, Creeping, stumbling, dragging their feet, looking for any scape from the blazing inferno"(Wells). There is a chance that these people did not need to be affected at all, considering the end of the war was not the only argument favoring the attack.



## **The real reason for the attack...**

Lastly, it is worth noting that America dropped the bomb not to win the war and save American lives, but to show its power to the Soviet Union, once president Truman couldn't show weakness and go back on his word. This is because the U.S were already thinking about the post-war world and how they could best limit Soviet gains, so they couldn't let the Russians who were going to declare war on Japan, causing the attack. In which, the unacceptable trade-off to annihilate several hundred thousand civilians, had the Soviet Union in mind, just so the U.S. might have the upper-hand in the post-war world. Thus, for a fact, Hiroshima and Nagasaki were bombed primarily to impress the world with the need to accept America's plan for a stable and lasting peace.



## **The Dark Ages: returning to the origins of the barbarians**

In conclusion, it is evident that the bomb was a "barbarous weapon" that was unnecessary, according to the reasons stated: as the U.S did not have to use the bomb to end the war, which only caused more deaths, and was an excuse so the United States could show its power to the world. Thus, it can not be taken as justifiable. Therefore, as the Japanese were already defeated and ready to surrender, being the one to cause the dreadful attack, lowered the U.S, by reaching an ethical standard common to the barbarians of the Dark Ages.



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