

The Universal Language: Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

Carter Acosta

Junior Division

Historical Paper

Length: 2,500 Words

Process Paper

I chose to research the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki because I wanted a topic that was relatively recent so I had an abundance of information available. Earlier in the year, during dinner, I was discussing the theme when my sister suggested that I do something about the message violence sends. I was already considering writing about something in WWII, so the bombings were already fresh in my head. I remembered the phrase: *violence is a universal language*, and started immediately thinking that the atomic bomb was used as a form of communication to the Soviet Union. I also wanted to avoid any traditional forms of communication so that I would have more interesting things to write about.

I started my research by utilizing the search engine Google Scholar. I made an account in the online scholarly database JSTOR. On JSTOR, I found several articles discussing the bombing and its necessity. This is when I fully formulated my argument that the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were only used to communicate something to the Soviet Union. My argument was based on several articles by historians who were in the process of reflecting on WWII. As I read the articles I took notes on points that I thought might be important in the future by writing them down in a binder.

Later in the research process, I started mainly using library books. My article reading on JSTOR and Google Scholar was slowly overcome by my reading of books from the library and several newspapers from the 1940's. As I became more familiar with the nuances of the war, my argument and topic became more focused and singular, while needing more context to understand. I briefly considered doing a topic other than a paper, although I soon convinced

myself that I am a much better writer than I am an actor or presenter. I was also much more familiar with writing an essay than a script.

The topic of my paper relates to the theme of communication in history because the atomic bomb was used as a form of communication. The American bombings of Japan were used as a message by the United States directed towards the Soviet Union. The destructive nature of the bomb was used by America to strengthen their message. The message the United States delivered was for the Soviets to back off of Japan, and that America was ready to defend its puppet states from Soviet competition. The main reason Japan was bombed was that the atomic bomb was believed to have been the most powerful way to intimidate the Soviets. Thus, the atomic bomb was used to communicate a message to the Soviets, rather than end the war with Japan.

Word Count: 453

The destructive nature of violent acts allows them to be strong carriers for messages. The more violent an act is, the clearer the meaning is received. When Hiroshima, Japan was bombed on August 6, 1945, the United States delivered the clearest message that has ever been communicated in the history of warfare. As the Soviet Union's hold on the weakened, post-Nazi Europe continued to grow after Germany surrendered, the United States of America used the raw, destructive power of the atomic bomb to ward off possible Soviet influence over a weakened Japan. The United States used the decimation of two Japanese cities to solely communicate a message of intimidation to the Soviets rather than to end the war quickly and efficiently. Violence was the prevailing form of communication between nation throughout the war between the United States and Japan

Context

The United States of America declared war on Japan on December 8, 1941¹ and conventional American bombings of Japanese cities soon followed. When Germany surrendered on May 7, 1945,² Japan's military was scattered and weak.³ With Japan's surrender imminent, the Potsdam Conference was scheduled to essentially decide who would finish them off, and by what means it would happen. With the brewing hostility between the Soviet Union and the United States causing problems for American diplomacy, a Soviet occupation of Japan would be of great concern to the United States government. With only a few months to prepare, President Truman made huge strides to gain any advantage possible in the conference.

¹ "Attack on Pearl Harbor." *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*. Web.

² Alperovitz, Gar. "Hiroshima: Historians Reassess." *Foreign Policy*, no. 99, 1995, pp. 15–34. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/1149003.

³ *ibid*

Background

The Potsdam Conference—a meeting between Josef Stalin, British Prime Ministers Winston Churchill and Clement Attlee, and United States President Harry Truman—was held on July 17, 1945.⁴ The conference was of monumental importance to American diplomacy and President Truman knew it. This was to be Truman's first in-person meeting with Josef Stalin, the leader of the Soviet Union, therefore Truman wanted to be as prepared as possible. U.S. and Soviet hostility previously began after several economic conflicts in Europe that occurred soon after Germany surrendered.⁵ The outcome of the Potsdam Conference would dictate who would gain the advantage of deciding what Japan's economic system would become after its military surrendered.⁶

The United States government realized the importance of the Potsdam Conference as early as three months in advance.⁷ The United States needed to gain the upper hand.⁸ A large and visually stunning demonstration of American military strength was the perfect tool to intimidate Stalin, and would be a powerful way to communicate America's message to the Soviets.⁹ The ability for the United States to claim that they held the power to level cities and end a war in one fell swoop would be a strong message that would establish a firm hold over Japan, depriving the Soviets of any diplomatic control.¹⁰

⁴ Wilson, W. (2013, May 30). The Bomb Didn't Beat Japan ... Stalin

Did.<http://foreignpolicy.com/2013/05/30/the-bomb-didnt-beat-japan-stalin-did/>

⁵ Alperovitz, Gar. "Hiroshima: Historians Reassess." *Foreign Policy*, no. 99, 1995, pp. 15–34. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/1149003.

⁶ Pape, Robert A. "Why Japan Surrendered." *International Security*, vol. 18, no. 2, 1993, pp. 154–201. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/2539100.

⁷ Bird, Kai, and Martin J. Sherwin. *America Prometheus The Triumph And Tragedy Of J. Robert Oppenheimer*. New York: Random House, 2006. Print.

⁸ Alperovitz, Gar. "Hiroshima: Historians Reassess." *Foreign Policy*, no. 99, 1995, pp. 15–34. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/1149003.

⁹ Baggot, Jim. *The First War Of Physics; The Secret History Of The Atom Bomb 1939-1949*. New York: Pegasus, 2010. Print.

¹⁰ Pape, Robert A. "Why Japan Surrendered." *International Security*, vol. 18, no. 2, 1993, pp. 154–201. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/2539100

The importance of the atomic bomb to American diplomacy regarding the Soviet Union became such a large factor in its usage that once American officials grasped its influence over the Soviets, it was brought to Truman's attention not as a military weapon, but under the pretense that it could be used as a diplomatic tool.¹¹ The idea that the bomb was to be used as a diplomatic bolster was so ingrained within the American government that Henry L. Stimson, former secretary of war and overseer of The Manhattan Project —the project responsible for the development of the atomic bomb— was quoted as calling the bomb the “master card [of U.S. diplomacy],”.¹² With the atomic bomb, the United States had acquired a new, powerful way to communicate with the Soviets.

By mid-June 1945, the Soviets were the long-term concerns of the American Government, however, the Japanese military had yet to surrender. By June 30, 1943, Operation Cartwheel —an American jungle burning campaign— had weakened the Japanese military.¹³ The operation isolated mainland Japan from the islands that it had captured in the early stages of WW2. It did this by invading islands in the middle of Japan's captured territory, creating an American barrier between the conquered islands and the Japanese mainland.¹⁴ This was detrimental for Japan's military position, the separated islands had become major hubs of vital resources for Japan's military such as rubber and oil.¹⁵ With Japan's military's position compromised and low on ammunition and skilled personnel, Japan had no choice but to surrender.

¹¹ Alperovitz, Gar. “Hiroshima: Historians Reassess.” *Foreign Policy*, no. 99, 1995, pp. 15–34. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/1149003.

¹² *Ibid*

¹³ Killeen, Christopher J. Maj, USAF. *Operation Cartwheel, 1943-1944: Integrated Force Projection to Overcome Limited Access*. Thesis. U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, 13-06-2014. Edmond: U of Central Oklahoma, 13-06-2014. 9-66. Print.

¹⁴ *ibid*

¹⁵ *Greatest Events of WW2 In Colour*. By Jonathan Martin. Perf. Robert Powell. *Greatest Events of WW2 In Colour*. 2008. Web.

Japan's Attempted Surrender

By early July 1945, Japan was intent on surrendering.¹⁶ On July 12, 1945, with no possible victory in sight, the Japanese Emperor Hirohito sent a telegram to President Truman. The purpose of the telegram was obvious to Truman, who after the telegram wrote in his personal journal, “telegram from [the Japanese] Emperor asking for peace.”¹⁷ With the obvious attempt by the Emperor to start negotiations for peace, America's response became crucial. When Germany started negotiating, the Allied Nations demanded an unconditional surrender.¹⁸ This meant that Germany would be at the mercy of the Allied Nations to make any changes to the structure of its society and government.

The process of Germany's negotiation had a major impact on the way the Allied Nations—specifically America¹⁹—went about accepting surrender. Because the main enemy of the Allied Nations surrendered without any significant demands, the American government believed the only way to surrender was unconditionally. The Allied terms for unconditional surrender were easily executed by Germany because the structure of its government was relatively familiar to the Allied nations. Because of this, the format of the demands did not have to compensate for any unfamiliar governmental structures.²⁰ The Japanese government was different. Instead of a Führer, Japan Had an Emperor who was seen as a deity, a descendant of God, whose position within the government was considered holy.²¹ Because of this difference, the unconditional

¹⁶ Wilson, W. (2013, May 30). The Bomb Didn't Beat Japan ... Stalin

Did.<http://foreignpolicy.com/2013/05/30/the-bomb-didnt-beat-japan-stalin-did/>

¹⁷ Alperovitz, Gar. “Hiroshima: Historians Reassess.” *Foreign Policy*, no. 99, 1995, pp. 15–34. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/1149003.

¹⁸ Ibid

¹⁹ Bird, Kai, and Martin J. Sherwin. *America Prometheus The Triumph And Tragedy Of J. Robert Oppenheimer*. New York: Random House, 2006. Print

²⁰ Wilson, W. (2013, May 30). The Bomb Didn't Beat Japan ... Stalin

Did.<http://foreignpolicy.com/2013/05/30/the-bomb-didnt-beat-japan-stalin-did/>

²¹ Alperovitz, Gar. “Hiroshima: Historians Reassess.” *Foreign Policy*, no. 99, 1995, pp. 15–34. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/1149003.

surrender formula would not work. Japan needed to ensure that the Emperor would remain on his throne and they feared that if they surrendered unconditionally, the Emperor would suffer the same punishments as the German leaders in the Nuremberg trials, and be convicted of war crimes.²² After the first American demand for unconditional surrender, the Japanese government tried to explain the conditions they would require for the surrender to be plausible.²³ Unwilling to bend, America replied with further demands for the Japanese surrender to be unconditional.

The main reason America did not accept Japan's attempted surrender was because defeating Japan was not the main reason for war.²⁴ A simple surrender from Japan would not scare the Soviet Union and would not allow America to use the atomic bomb on Japan, thus not allowing the United States to gain any advantage over the Soviet Union. The American government also had to justify the immense cost of the Manhattan Project, which cost an estimated two billion dollars²⁵ —\$23,000,000,000 adjusted to modern inflation— to the American taxpayers. Japan's government could not keep fighting the American military and needed a way out of the war. The United States feared that if Japan surrendered without the use of the atomic bomb, its hold on Japan and the rest of Europe would be weak.²⁶ America's motive for using the atomic bomb as a form of communication also extended further than establishing control over Japan. The several puppet states the United States had established throughout the 1930s and 1940s which competed with the Soviet's puppet states.²⁷ The atomic bomb would also communicate America's power in regards to defending its puppet states.

²² Paterson, Thomas G. "The Origins of the Cold War." *Major Problems in American Foreign Policy*. Ed. Thomas G. Paterson. Third ed. Vol. 2. D.C. Heath, 1989. 273-75. Print. *Major Problems in American History*.

²³ Alperovitz, Gar. "Hiroshima: Historians Reassess." *Foreign Policy*, no. 99, 1995, pp. 15–34. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/1149003.

²⁴ Bird, Kai, and Martin J. Sherwin. *America Prometheus The Triumph And Tragedy Of J. Robert Oppenheimer*. New York: Random House, 2006. Print

²⁵ Manhattan Project: CTBTO Preparatory Commission. CTBTO Preparatory Commission. Web. 25 Feb. 2021

²⁶ Paterson, Thomas G. "The Origins of the Cold War." *Major Problems in American Foreign Policy*. Ed. Thomas G. Paterson. Third ed. Vol. 2. D.C. Heath, 1989. 273-75. Print. *Major Problems in American History*.

²⁷ *Ibid*

With the Allied nations unwilling to accept anything but unconditional surrender, Japan only had one nation left to turn to, the Soviet Union. In April 1941, Japan and the Soviet Union signed a five-year neutrality pact.²⁸ Japan hoped to use the animosity between the Soviet Union and the United States to its advantage by using the neutrality pact as an opportunity to surrender while using the Soviet Union as a mediator between Japan and the Allied Nations.²⁹ This would not only benefit Japan, but the Soviet Union as well. The Soviet Union did not want the Japanese surrender terms to be particularly advantageous to the United States. After Germany's surrender, the Soviet Union had been taking advantage of the countries weakened by Nazi invasion by establishing communist governments, effectively spreading its influence.

Being a capitalist nation, The United States tried to prevent any economic competition by establishing its own spheres of economic influence in Europe.³⁰ The competition caused turmoil between the two global superpowers, resulting in a race to see who could effectively influence more countries.³¹ Having Japan rely on them to surrender was an opportunity for the Soviets to influence and possibly occupy Japan. With an alliance between Japan and the Soviet Union increasing in likelihood,³² the U.S. had to force Japan to surrender before they could finalize negotiations with the Soviets. In the summer of 1945, the U.S. Air Force executed one of the most destructive city bombing campaigns in history.³³ Sixty-eight cities in Japan were

²⁸ Wilson, W. (2013, May 30). The Bomb Didn't Beat Japan ... Stalin
Did.<http://foreignpolicy.com/2013/05/30/the-bomb-didnt-beat-japan-stalin-did/>

²⁹ Ibid

³⁰ Paterson, Thomas G. "The Origins of the Cold War." Major Problems in American Foreign Policy. Ed. Thomas G. Paterson. Third ed. Vol. 2. D.C. Heath, 1989. 273-75. Print. Major Problems in American History.

³¹ Ibid

³² Wilson, W. (2013, May 30). The Bomb Didn't Beat Japan ... Stalin
Did.<http://foreignpolicy.com/2013/05/30/the-bomb-didnt-beat-japan-stalin-did/>

³³ Baggot, Jim. *The First War Of Physics; The Secret History Of The Atom Bomb 1939-1949*. New York: Pegasus, 2010. Print.

attacked, each of them were entirely or nearly destroyed.³⁴ 300,000 Japanese civilians were killed, 750,000 were wounded, and an estimated 1.7 million were made homeless.³⁵

The Potsdam Conference .

Before the Potsdam conference, the American government considered how the successful testing of the atomic bomb would affect world diplomacy.³⁶ A weapon that held the power to end life on a scale as large as the atomic bomb in one explosion carried a vast amount of weight, the likes of which the world hadn't seen before.³⁷ Past diplomatic relations between nations had been widely centered on countries' monetary wealth, a concept that would be drastically changed with the addition of atomic bombs to countries' arsenal.³⁸ American isolationism³⁹ —isolating America from other countries' affairs — had been strong after WWI with American leaders having very little diplomatic contact with other countries or the League of Nations. After the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, American isolationism was quickly dismantled.⁴⁰ The use of an atomic bomb would offset diplomatic power within the modern world leading to what would essentially become an arms race. It would shift the scale of wars permanently, knowing that the enemy held the power to kill millions and level cities with one bomb.⁴¹ The fear of a total nuclear

³⁴ Alperovitz, Gar. "Hiroshima: Historians Reassess." *Foreign Policy*, no. 99, 1995, pp. 15–34. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/1149003.

³⁵ Ibid

³⁶ Ibid

³⁷ Humanities, National Endowment for the. "The People's Voice. [volume] (Helena, Mont.) 1939-1969, November 10, 1961, Page Page Two, Image 2." *News about Chronicling America RSS*. People's Voice Pub. Co. Web. 05 Apr. 2021.

³⁸ Robert A. Pastor (1999). *A Century's Journey: How the Great Powers Shape the World*. Basic Books. p. 218ff. ISBN 9780465054763. Archived from the original on 2017-03-06.

³⁹ Barry, Tom. "A Global Affairs Commentary: The Terms of Power," *Foreign Policy in Focus*, November 6, 2002, University Press.

⁴⁰ Attack on Pearl Harbor." *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*. Web.

⁴¹ Baggot, Jim. *The First War Of Physics; The Secret History Of The Atom Bomb 1939-1949*. New York: Pegasus, 2010. Print.

war was looming over American minds before the bomb had even been tested.⁴² The promise that another country would potentially possess an atomic bomb made America want to protect itself as soon as possible. Military theories such as MAD (mutually assured destruction)⁴³ started appearing and called for the American arsenal to be vastly expanded in order to protect the country. Overwhelming paranoia of other global superpowers soon clouded American judgement.

Fortunately for the United States, the timing of the first atomic bomb test fit perfectly for its protection. On July 16, 1945, one day before the conference, the first atomic bomb explosion took place in New Mexico, U.S.A.⁴⁴ The Potsdam Conference took place during the perfect political environment for the American strategy to dominate.⁴⁵ After the conference, Henry L. Stimson, former secretary of war, wrote that, “[Churchill] told me that he had noticed at the meeting of the [Big] Three yesterday that Truman was evidently much fortified by something that had happened and that he stood up to the [Soviets] in a most emphatic and decisive manner, telling them as to certain demands they absolutely could not have...”.⁴⁶ The initial communication between Truman and Stalin was a powerful encounter that was heavily based on gaining any advantage possible. The United States came out on top of the conference with the advantage of the atomic bomb.⁴⁷ America’s focus coming out of the meeting shifted from deciding if the bomb would be used, to deciding how they were going to use it.⁴⁸

⁴² Robert A. Pastor (1999). *A Century's Journey: How the Great Powers Shape the World*. Basic Books. p. 218ff. ISBN 9780465054763. Archived from the original on 2017-03-06.

⁴³ KAPLAN, EDWARD. *TO KILL NATIONS: American Strategy in the Air -atomic Age and the Rise of Mutually Assured ... Destruction*. CORNELL UP, 2020. Print.

⁴⁴ Wilson, W. (2013, May 30). The Bomb Didn't Beat Japan ... Stalin Did.
<http://foreignpolicy.com/2013/05/30/the-bomb-didnt-beat-japan-stalin-did/>

⁴⁵ Paterson, Thomas G. "The Origins of the Cold War." *Major Problems in American Foreign Policy*. Ed. Thomas G. Paterson. Third ed. Vol. 2. D.C. Heath, 1989. 273-75. Print. *Major Problems in American History*.

⁴⁶ Alperovitz, Gar. "Hiroshima: Historians Reassess." *Foreign Policy*, no. 99, 1995, pp. 15–34. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/1149003.

⁴⁷ Paterson, Thomas G. "The Origins of the Cold War." *Major Problems in American Foreign Policy*. Ed. Thomas G. Paterson. Third ed. Vol. 2. D.C. Heath, 1989. 273-75. Print. *Major Problems in American History*.

⁴⁸ Ibid

A Soviet Invasion

Soviet priorities after the conference were refocused towards the need to maintain control over Japan. The Soviet Union could no longer rely on Japan to surrender through the five year neutrality pact since the constant American bombardment on Japan turned the Japanese government's focus⁴⁹ towards surviving the bombings.⁵⁰ In response, the Soviet Union saw only one other way to seize control over Japan before a possible American occupation. Earlier in the war, Japan invaded Manchuria and had maintained strong control over the captured territory throughout the war.⁵¹ Later, after the American bombings had started, Japan's military resources were rerouted to defend against American bombing raids, leaving Manchuria relatively undefended.⁵²

Soon after the Japanese invasion of Manchuria, their combined armies—known as the Kwantung army⁵³— was stationed there. The Kwantung army was considered an elite force and the most skilled within the Japanese military.⁵⁴ The Soviet army started preparations for an invasion of Manchuria,⁵⁵ which would be of monumental concern to both the American and Japanese governments. If the Soviets defeated the Kwantung army, it would show its ability to easily defeat Japan's most skilled forces. It would also show that the fear of the Soviet Union possibly causing Japan's surrender, and thus controlling the negotiation thereafter, was all the more accurate.⁵⁶

⁴⁹ Wilson, W. (2013, May 30). The Bomb Didn't Beat Japan ... Stalin
Did.<http://foreignpolicy.com/2013/05/30/the-bomb-didnt-beat-japan-stalin-did/>

⁵⁰ Ibid

⁵¹ Alperovitz, Gar. "Hiroshima: Historians Reassess." *Foreign Policy*, no. 99, 1995, pp. 15–34. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/1149003.

⁵² Ibid

⁵³ Ibid

⁵⁴ Wilson, W. (2013, May 30). The Bomb Didn't Beat Japan ... Stalin
Did.<http://foreignpolicy.com/2013/05/30/the-bomb-didnt-beat-japan-stalin-did/>

⁵⁵ Alperovitz, Gar. "Hiroshima: Historians Reassess." *Foreign Policy*, no. 99, 1995, pp. 15–34. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/1149003.

⁵⁶ Wilson, W. (2013, May 30). The Bomb Didn't Beat Japan ... Stalin
Did.<http://foreignpolicy.com/2013/05/30/the-bomb-didnt-beat-japan-stalin-did/>

America was very receptive to the threat of a Soviet invasion of Manchuria, and needed to act quickly in order to maintain control over Japan. Preparations for deploying the atomic bomb had begun.⁵⁷ The United States thought that they could prevent Japan from surrendering to the Soviets, and end the war with Japan in one fell swoop by destroying one of Japan's last cities with the atomic bomb.⁵⁸ On August 6, 1945, Little Boy, the first atomic bomb, was dropped on Hiroshima and killed an estimated 140,000 people.⁵⁹ The placement of the atomic bomb was chosen to “make a profound psychological impression on as many of the inhabitants as possible.”⁶⁰ However, this did not stop the Soviet invasion, which occurred on August 9, 1945, the same day the Soviet Union officially declared war on Japan.⁶¹ As expected, the Soviet army easily defeated the Kwantung army in an effortless victory. The Soviets were described as “only stopping when they ran out of gas.”⁶² The Americans scurried to reinforce its message and to prevent Japan from surrendering to the Soviet Union. On the same day the Soviet Union declared war on Japan and invaded Manchuria, the United States dropped Fat Man, the second atomic bomb, on Nagasaki, killing an additional 39,000 people.⁶³ Japan surrendered to the United States on August 14, 1945.⁶⁴ American occupation of Japan began in late August 1945 and ended in April 1945.⁶⁵ The Soviet Union never invaded or occupied Japan.

⁵⁷ Boyer, Paul. *By the Bomb's Early Light: American Thought and Culture At the Dawn of the Atomic Age*. Univ of North Carolina, 2005. Print.

⁵⁸ Jacobson, Harold, Dr. "Death to Stalk Hiroshima Area for next 70 Years." *Detroit Times* 1945. Print.

⁵⁹ Paterson, Thomas G. "The Origins of the Cold War." *Major Problems in American Foreign Policy*. Ed. Thomas G. Paterson. Third ed. Vol. 2. D.C. Heath, 1989. 273-75. Print. *Major Problems in American History*.

⁶⁰ Paterson, Thomas G. "The Interim committee on military use of the atomic bomb." *Major Problems in American Foreign Policy*. Ed. Thomas G. Paterson. Third ed. Vol. 2. D.C. Heath, 1989. 273-75. Print. *Major Problems in American History*.

⁶¹ Alperovitz, Gar. "Hiroshima: Historians Reassess." *Foreign Policy*, no. 99, 1995, pp. 15–34. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/1149003.

⁶² Ibid

⁶³ "City Converted Into Cosmic Dust." *Detroit Times* 1945. Print.

⁶⁴ Bird, Kai, and Martin J. Sherwin. *America Prometheus The Triumph And Tragedy Of J. Robert Oppenheimer*. New York: Random House, 2006. Print

⁶⁵ "HIROSHIMA- TEN YEARS LATER." *The Washing Star Pictorial Magazine* 24 July 1955. Print.

Conclusion

In an attempt to halt the spread of communism, the United States violently communicated their message to the Soviets, and thus, the world. Although the United States was successful in its efforts to prevent Japan from surrendering to the Soviet Union, the means by which they did so cost nearly two hundred thousand human lives.⁶⁶ The United States government used a barbaric show of force as a brutal form of communication. Never before had the phrase; “violence is the universal language” been taken to such extremes with the message and the actions taken to deliver it.

⁶⁶ Alperovitz, Gar. “Hiroshima: Historians Reassess.” *Foreign Policy*, no. 99, 1995, pp. 15–34. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/1149003.

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources

"City Converted into Cosmic Dust." *Detroit Evening Times* [Detroit, MI], 9 Aug. 1945, pp. 1-20. *Chronicling America*, chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn88063294/1945-08-09/ed-1/seq-1/#date1=1777&index=0&rows=20&words=City+Converted+Dust&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=&date2=1963&roxtext=City+converted+into+dust&y=0&x=0&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1.

This newspaper was mainly about the overall destruction of Hiroshima as reported at the time. It discusses what the pilots saw and how each bombing occurred step by step. It also briefly covers how the Hiroshima area is going to be affected long term.

The newspaper was slightly skewed in its presentation because of the overwhelming patriotism at the time of the war. It very heavily believes the bomb was entirely necessary and that it ended the war which was the common belief at the time.

I used it mainly to contextualize the American view on the bombings during the war. It was helpful in assembling a rough timeline as it discusses other recent events. Overall, it was not as much for info. as it was for context.

Powell, Robert, narrator. *Greatest Events of World War II in Colour*. Written by Jonathan Martin, World Media Rights, 2009.

This is a documentary series split into several parts covering the events of the war. It contains footage of the war that has been recolored. The episode I watched was about the American side of the Pacific war.

The documentary has a very Western perspective of the war, mainly focusing on the American and European view of the conflict. The few parts of the episode that were about the Japanese POV were immensely helpful in further contextualizing the major events.

I used this episode mainly to gain understanding of how the war transitioned from the German conflict to the Japanese conflict. It was also the first time I had heard about

operation cartwheel, leading me to further reading. It was mainly used by me to understand the military side of the war.

"HIROSHIMA- TEN YEARS LATER." *The Washing Star Pictorial Magazine* 24 July 1955. Print.

This article was about Hiroshima's recovery from the atomic bomb. It was mostly about the construction process and how the workers had to deal with general clean up. It touched on the lingering effect of radiation on civilians and how that affected the rebuilding of the city.

The article tries to paint the bombing in a positive light, touching very little on the horrifying effects it had and how many lives were lost. It wasn't very helpful on the diplomatic side of the war, but it helped me understand the moral side of the bombing and how truly cruel it was.

I used this article for mainly contextualizing and furthering my understanding on how the bomb affected Japan even after the initial explosion.

Humanities, National Endowment for the. "Evening Star. [volume] (Washington, D.C.) 1854-1972, October 13, 1957, Page 8, Image 128." *News about Chronicling America RSS*. W.D. Wallach & Hope. Web. 05 Apr. 2021.

This article is mainly about discussing the possibility of nuclear war and what that would mean for the average American. It talks about the impact the atomic bomb has on society and the danger it poses. It talks about trying to prevent a nuclear war and what Americans can do to stop it.

The article is very antiquated in its view of what a nuclear war would mean for the world. It is somehow also ahead of its time suggesting ways to possibly ban or restrict the usage of atomic bombs.

I used this article mostly to learn about the looming paranoia that came with the successful deployment of the atomic bomb. It also helped me understand who and what the American populace feared during WWII.

Humanities, National Endowment for the. "The People's Voice. [volume] (Helena, Mont.) 1939-1969, November 10, 1961, Page Page Two, Image 2." *News about Chronicling America* RSS. People's Voice Pub. Co. Web. 05 Apr. 2021.

This article is largely about the impact an atomic bomb had on the war and how it changed war forever. It mainly focuses on the large amount of destruction that further usage of the bomb would cause.

The article is shockingly grounded even though it was made so long ago. It does a great job touching on the immense fear of not only American citizens but worldwide populations.

I used this article to base my points about past diplomacy and how it would be changed forever because of the atomic bomb.

Jacobson, Harold, Dr. "Death to Stalk Hiroshima Area for next 70 Years." *Detroit Times* 1945. Print.

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>

This newspaper was about the effect radiation would have on Hiroshima after the explosion. It was written by an ex-Manhattan Project scientist and he talked about the destruction of Hiroshima and the problems associated with a fatality count.

The article is surprisingly critical of America for the time period, even questioning the necessity of the bomb. It is also critical of Japan and comes off overwhelmingly neutral.

I used this newspaper mainly to learn about the full destruction of Hiroshima and how large of an effect the bombing had on the country as a whole.

Paterson, Thomas G. "The Interim committee on military use of the atomic bomb." *Major Problems in American Foreign Policy*. Ed. Thomas G. Paterson. Third ed. Vol. 2. D.C. Heath, 1989. 273-75. Print. *Major Problems in American History*.

This paper was about the interim committee deciding where the atomic bomb should be dropped. It discussed that the bomb should be dropped for a large psychological effect and as much damage as possible.

The paper is written in such a fashion that you don't notice that they are discussing the best way to kill people with the greatest effect. It makes logical sense that they would decide to place it where they did.

This paper helped me get into the general mindset of the American leaders and strategizers. It helped my understanding of the immense psychological effect the United States was going for and how they planned to execute it.

Secondary Sources

Alperovitz, Gar. "Hiroshima: Historians Reassess." *Foreign Policy*, no. 99, 1995, pp. 15–34. *JSTOR*, www.jstor.org/stable/1149003.

This article was about the entire diplomatic timeline of the Pacific War, causing it to become my main source. It discussed Japan's attempted surrender and the American and Russian conflict. It also talked about the importance of the Potsdam Conference and the diplomatic tension between Russia, America, and Japan.

This article talks about the several intertwined conflicts in a chronological and analytical fashion. It talked about thinking overtime and how the American strategy evolved throughout the war.

This article was extremely helpful in the formulation of my central argument and the flow of my paper as a whole.

Boyer, Paul. *By the Bomb's Early Light: American Thought and Culture At the Dawn of the Atomic Age*. Univ of North Carolina, 2005. Print.

This book was about the world's reaction to the atomic bomb. It also touched on the process of inventing and testing the bomb. It dives deeper into the psyche of the American officials that gave the atomic bomb the green light.

The book is largely from an objective point of view and is very critical of American decision making during the Pacific War. It heavily examines better options the United States could have taken.

This book was helpful in overall completing the viewpoints the bombing could be seen through. It was very useful in filling in gaps left by other sources.

Wilson, W. (2013, May 30). The Bomb Didn't Beat Japan ... Stalin Did.

<http://foreignpolicy.com/2013/05/30/the-bomb-didnt-beat-japan-stalin-did/>

This article was about the Soviet and American side of the conflict. It reinforced the argument that the bomb was used as a message to the soviet rather than to end the war. It discussed the military situations of all sides of the war and further highlighted how unnecessary the bombing was.

The article came from a relatively objective view of the war and drew conclusions based on sound logic and facts. It also exposed me to the possibility of a Soviet invasion of Japan. Overall the article was based on the belief that the atomic bomb was unnecessary for Japan to surrender.

This article was helpful in introducing me to major points in favor of the bomb not being necessary. It strengthened the overall argument and deepened the diplomatic ties to the bomb.

Baggot, Jim. *The First War Of Physics; The Secret History Of The Atom Bomb 1939-1949*. New York: Pegasus, 2010. Print.

This book was about the development of the atomic bomb and the politics surrounding it. It talked about the process of scientists to ensure maximum destructive effect. It also touched on J. Robert Oppenheimer and how he contributed to the bomb.

The book talked more on the actual bomb than its usage and the reason behind it. It dove deep into specific struggles the scientists faced rather than the broad events surrounding it.

I used this book mostly to understand how the politicians encouraged the scientists and how the scientists felt after it was used.

Bird, Kai, and Martin J. Sherwin. *America Prometheus The Triumph And Tragedy Of J. Robert Oppenheimer*. New York: Random House, 2006. Print.

This book was about the scientist J. Robert Oppenheimer and how he helped develop the atomic bomb. It was also about the political situation surrounding the bomb.

It was mostly about how Oppenheimer felt throughout the process of making the bomb and how the sage of the bomb affected different people.

I used this book mainly to further my understanding of the inner politics of the bomb. I was informed of many intricacies that swayed the motive of the bomb and how it was used.

KAPLAN, EDWARD. *TO KILL NATIONS: American Strategy in the Air -atomic Age and the Rise of Mutually Assured ... Destruction*. CORNELL UP, 2020. Print.

This book discussed military strategy in response to the invention of the atomic bomb. It talks about the paranoia of american military leaders in knowing that other countries have an atomic bomb.

This book mainly is about the theory of MAD and how its shaped the world around us and has caused an arms race between countries.

I used this book mainly to explore the rapidly appearing paranoia that would plague american thinking throughout the war.

Killeen, Christopher J., , Maj, USAF. *Operation Cartwheel, 1943-1944: Integrated Force Projection to Overcome Limited Access*. Thesis. U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, 13-06-2014. Edmond: U of Central Oklahoma, 13-06-2014. 9-66. Print.

This thesis was about operation cartwheel and gives general information of its effectiveness and how it was executed.

It is a military thesis and gives an objective view of the reasoning behind the operation. It also explains the military situation directly before and after the operation.

This thesis helped my understanding of the military positions and strengths of each respective party and how each of them was planning to advance on eachother.

"Manhattan Project." *Manhattan Project: CTBTO Preparatory Commission*. CTBTO Preparatory Commission. Web.

This website was about the impact of the atomic bomb on the international community and the history behind it.

It discusses the Manhattan project and how it affected how atomic bombs were handled into modern times. It also touches on J. Robert Oppenheimer and his impact on the creation of the atomic bomb.

I used this to complete the timeline of the Manhattan project and continue to the deployment of the bomb.

Paterson, Thomas G. "The Origins of the Cold War." *Major Problems in American Foreign Policy*. Ed. Thomas G. Paterson. Third ed. Vol. 2. D.C. Heath, 1989. 273-75. Print. *Major Problems in American History*.

This paper is about the beginning of the conflict between the Soviet Union and America. It talks about the Potsdam conference and the Soviet invasion of Manchuria.

The paper is written from an objective point of view, being critical of all participating parties.

I used this paper to learn more about the Potsdam conference's diplomatic importance and the invasion of Manchuria's military importance.

Pape, Robert A. "Why Japan Surrendered." *International Security*, vol. 18, no. 2, 1993, pp. 154–201. *JSTOR*,

www.jstor.org/stable/2539100

This essay helped me understand the military positions of all participating parties in the war. It talked about how the American military was essentially starving Japan's army.

It also discussed how the bombing affected the Japanese government. It was helpful to formulate an argument because of its objective point of view.

It informed me of how desperate Japan was to surrender and how intent America was to use the bomb.

"Attack on Pearl Harbor." *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*. Web.

This website talked about the Japanese attack on pearl harbor and went deep in to discussing the political importance of it

It also discussed how America joined the war.

I used it to fill my timeline before the pacific war became the main concern of america.

Process Paper

I chose to research the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki because I wanted a topic that was relatively recent so I had an abundance of information available. Earlier in the year, during dinner, I was discussing the theme when my sister suggested that I do something about the message violence sends. I was already considering writing about something in WWII, so the bombings were already fresh in my head. I remembered the phrase: *violence is a universal language*, and started immediately thinking that the atomic bomb was used as a form of communication to the Soviet Union. I also wanted to avoid any traditional forms of communication so that I would have more interesting things to write about.

I started my research by utilizing the search engine Google Scholar. I made an account in the online scholarly database JSTOR. On JSTOR, I found several articles discussing the bombing and its necessity. This is when I fully formulated my argument that the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were only used to communicate something to the Soviet Union. My argument was based on several articles by historians who were in the process of reflecting on WWII. As I read the articles I took notes on points that I thought might be important in the future by writing them down in a binder.

Later in the research process, I started mainly using library books. My article reading on JSTOR and Google Scholar was slowly overcome by my reading of books from the library and several newspapers from the 1940's. As I became more familiar with the nuances of the war, my argument and topic became more focused and singular, while needing more context to understand. I briefly considered doing a topic other than a paper, although I soon convinced myself that I am a much better writer than I am an actor or presenter. I was also much more familiar with writing an essay than a script.

The topic of my paper relates to the theme of communication in history because the atomic bomb was used as a form of communication. The American bombings of Japan were used as a message by the United States directed towards the Soviet Union. The destructive nature of the bomb was used by America to strengthen their message. The message the United States delivered was for the Soviets to back off of Japan, and that America was ready to defend its puppet states from Soviet competition. The main reason Japan was bombed was that the atomic bomb was believed to have been the most powerful way to intimidate the Soviets. Thus, the atomic bomb was used to communicate a message to the Soviets, rather than end the war with Japan.

Word Count: 453