

VICTORY OVER JAPAN

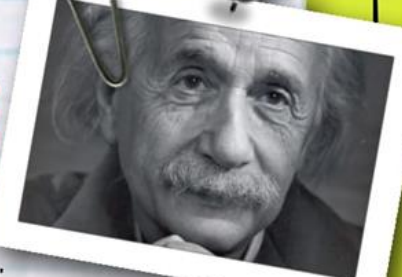
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ALBERT EINSTEIN WRITES PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT, ALERTING THE PRESIDENT TO THE IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH ON NUCLEAR CHAIN REACTIONS AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT RESEARCH MIGHT LEAD TO DEVELOPING POWERFUL BOMBS

In the course of the last four months it has been made probable-- through the work of Joliet in France as well as Fermi and Szilard in America--that it may be possible to set up a nuclear chain reaction in a large mass of uranium [one of the minerals essential to the construction of an atomic bomb], by which large amounts of power and large quantities of a new radium-like element would be generated. Now it appears almost certain that this could be achieved in the immediate future.

This new phenomenon would also lead to the construction of bombs, and it is conceivable--though much less certain--that extremely powerful bombs of a new type may thus be constructed. 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. However, such bombs might very well prove to be too heavy for transportation by air.

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INTERVIEW WITH ADMIRAL WILLIAM D. LEAHY, PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S CHIEF OF STAFF

It is my opinion that the use of this barbarous weapon at Hiroshima and Nagasaki was of no material assistance in our war against Japan. The Japanese were already defeated and ready to surrender because of the effective sea blockade and the successful bombing with conventional weapons... My own feeling was that being the first to use [the atomic bomb], we adopted an ethical standard common to the barbarians of the Dark Ages. I was not taught to make wars in that fashion, and that wars cannot be won by destroying women and children.

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NOTES OF THE INTERIM COMMITTEE MEETING ON THE IMMEDIATE USE OF THE ATOMIC BOMB (JUNE 21, 1945)

Mr. [George L.] Harrison [chairman of the committee] explained that he had recently received through Dr. A. H. Compton a report from a group of the scientists at Chicago. The Committee reaffirmed the position taken at the 31 May and 1 June meetings that the weapon be used against Japan at the earliest opportunity, that it be used without warning, and that it be used on a dual target, namely, a military installation or war plant surrounded by or adjacent to homes or other buildings most susceptible to damage.

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INTERVIEW WITH US INFANTRYMAN PAUL FUSSELL, WHOSE DIVISION WAS SCHEDULED TO BE IN THE FIRST WAVE OF THE INVASION OF JAPAN

When the atom bombs were dropped and the news began to circulate that we would not be obligated in a few months to rush up the beaches near Tokyo assault-firing while being machine-gunned, mortared and shelled we broke down and cried with relief and joy. We were going to live. We were going to grow to adulthood after all.