

# ART & WAR

ARTH 4919 - Kira van Lil

# Japan's Response

# Context

**During World War 2:** When Japan refused to surrender when requested (after events including Pearl Harbor), President Harry S. Truman, after being warned by some of his advisers that any attempt to invade Japan would result in massive amounts of American casualties, ordered that the atomic bomb be used to bring the war to an end.

On August 6, 1945, the American bomber Enola Gay dropped a five-ton bomb over the Japanese city of Hiroshima.

**Atomic bombs:** The first was dropped August 6, 1945, on Hiroshima, virtually leveling the city. A second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki on August 9, 1945.

**Death toll:** About 140,000 in Hiroshima and 70,000 in Nagasaki. About half the deaths in each city occurred on the day of the blasts; burns and radiation sickness claimed many more in the following weeks and months.

**Nagasaki and Hiroshima:** Chosen because of their high military strategic value, were densely built up areas, and were close to other atomic bomb runs.

# Testimonial



# Testimonial

<https://vimeo.com/ondemand/wodiczkoe>

“The video shows ghostly images of different people's hands projected over a river onto a wall at the foot of the A-Bomb Dome, a building that survived the 1945 blast and is now preserved as a memorial. As the hands gesture and fidget, voices relate harrowing personal experiences of the bomb and its effects. A woman talks about people dying in the irradiated water of the river; a man shows and tells about a bicycle lock found with the remains of his father; a survivor tells how she was discriminated against by people outside Hiroshima.” - New York Times

# Testimonial

- Published in response to President Obama's visit and apology:  
[https://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/28/world/asia/survivors-recount-horrors-of-hiroshima-and-nagasaki.html?\\_r=0](https://www.nytimes.com/2016/05/28/world/asia/survivors-recount-horrors-of-hiroshima-and-nagasaki.html?_r=0)
- Passing stories and testimonials to a new generation:  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/08/06/world/asia/witnesses-to-hiroshima-atomic-bomb-pass-their-stories-to-a-new-generation.html>
- Published on 70 year anniversary:  
<http://www.cnn.com/2015/08/05/asia/japan-hiroshima-70-years-ceremony/>

# Testimonial

## Etsukko, my grandma

- 15 years old when the bombs were dropped
- Lost her sister to tetanus during the war and her brother died in the Pacific Theater during the war
- When she was 30 she had married my grandfather who was in the air force and based in Japan, and had my mother
- Won't eat brown rice now because that's all they had during the war
- When the foothills near my grandparents house in Los Angeles caught on fire she had a panic attack because it reminded her of the bombings.

## Naomi, my Mom

- Refused to go with my Mom, Aunt, and Grandfather into the Hiroshima Peace Memorial
  - Said to my Mom when asked why she wasn't going: "Memorials do not help me, I'm glad they are there but they bring me pain. Remembering is painful."
- My Mom said it was eery, incredibly quiet and somber, foot steps echo...
  - Ie: in conjunction to my experience on Ground Zero in NYC.

# Memorials

Hiroshima Peace Memorial / Atomic Bomb Dome



<http://www.cnn.com/2016/05/26/travel/hiroshima-peace-memorial/>



# Memorials

## Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park



# Memorials

## Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum



# Memorials

## Nagasaki Peace Park





# Memorials

## Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum



# Memorials

Nagasaki National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims



# Mourning Rituals

## Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony



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