



## Victory in the Pacific, 1943-1945

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Document Analysis: Allied Strategy in the Pacific, 1943-1945

**JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF, STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE DEFEAT OF JAPAN (JCS 287/1), 19 MAY 1943:** <http://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/USA/USA-P-Strategy/Strategy-M.html>

1. A brief discussion of a strategic plan for the defeat of JAPAN is contained in Enclosure "A."
2. The plan is based on the following overall strategic concept for the prosecution of the war.
  - a. In cooperation with RUSSIA and other Allies to force an unconditional surrender of the AXIS in EUROPE.
  - b. Simultaneously, in cooperation with the other PACIFIC powers concerned, to maintain and extend unremitting pressure against JAPAN with the purpose of continually reducing her Military power and attaining positions from which her ultimate unconditional surrender can be forced.
  - c. Upon the defeat of the AXIS in EUROPE, in cooperation with other PACIFIC powers and, if possible, with RUSSIA, to direct the full resources of the UNITED STATES and GREAT BRITAIN to force an unconditional surrender of JAPAN. If, however, conditions develop which indicate that the war as a whole can be brought more quickly to a successful conclusion by the earlier mounting of a major offensive against JAPAN, the strategical concept set forth herein may be reversed.
3. In view of the long period covered and the inevitable changes in conditions that cannot be foreseen, it is not practicable to divide the plan into definitely coordinated phases. With this reservation in regard to timing and coordination, the plan is expressed as follows:

#### PHASE I

- a. CONTINUE AND AUGMENT EXISTING UNDERTAKINGS IN AND FROM CHINA.  
Chinese Forces assisted by U.S. Forces.
- b. RECAPTURE BURMA.  
British Forces assisted by U.S. and Chinese Forces.
- c. OPEN A LINE OF COMMUNICATIONS TO THE CELEBES SEA.  
United States Forces.

#### PHASE II

- a. OPERATIONS TO OPEN THE STRAIT OF MALACCA AND TO COMPEL WIDE DISPERSION OF ENEMY FORCES.  
British Forces.

- b. RECAPTURE THE PHILIPPINES.  
United States Forces.
- c. PREPARE TO CAPTURE HONG KONG.  
Chinese Forces.

### PHASE III

- a. CONTINUE OPERATIONS TO OPEN THE STRAIT OF MALACCA AND TO COMPEL WIDE DISPERSION OF ENEMY FORCES.  
British Forces.
- b. SECURE CONTROL OF THE NORTHERN PART OF THE SOUTH CHINA SEA, AND ASSIST IN THE CAPTURE OF HONG KONG.  
United States Forces.
- c. CAPTURE HONG KONG.  
Chinese Forces.

### PHASE IV

ESTABLISH AIR BASES IN JAPANESE OCCUPIED CHINA FROM WHICH TO LAUNCH AN OVERWHELMING BOMBING OFFENSIVE AGAINST JAPAN.  
Chinese Forces, assisted by British and U.S. Forces.

### PHASE V

CONDUCT AN OVERWHELMING AIR OFFENSIVE AGAINST JAPAN.  
U.S. Forces, assisted by British and Chinese Forces.

### PHASE VI

INVADE JAPAN.  
U.S. Forces, assisted by British and Chinese Forces.

## ENCLOSURE "A" STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE DEFEAT OF JAPAN

#### 4. Objective of the plan.

THE UNITED NATIONS war objective is the unconditional surrender of the AXIS Powers. The accomplishment of this objective may require the invasion of JAPAN.

#### 5. Most probable Japanese courses of action. JAPAN's most probable courses of action are to direct her major effort toward securing and exploiting the territory she controls, and eliminating CHINA from the war.

#### 6. The invasion of JAPAN.

Since the invasion of JAPAN is a vast undertaking, it should not be attempted until Japanese power and will to resist have been so reduced that favorable conditions for invasion obtain. Under these conditions the invasion of JAPAN is considered feasible.

It is probable that the reduction of JAPAN'S power and will to resist may only be accomplished by a sustained, systematic, and large-scale air offensive against JAPAN itself.

7. An overwhelming air offensive against JAPAN.

An air offensive on the required scale can only be conducted from bases in CHINA.

8. Recapture BURMA.

The attainment of bases in CHINA for the air offensive against JAPAN is dependent on the continuation of CHINA in the war, and on the establishment of adequate supply routes, not only to maintain CHINA, but also to maintain UNITED NATIONS forces which are to operate in and from CHINA. The recapture of BURMA is a prerequisite to the attainment of adequate bases in CHINA. The capacity of the Burma Road supplemented by the air route from INDIA is inadequate to support the air and ground forces required to implement an air offensive on the required scale. The seizure of a port in CHINA to augment the supply routes through BURMA is essential.

9. The seizure of a port in CHINA.

HONG KONG is the most suitable port which may be seized initially. Its seizure requires an offensive from the interior of CHINA by forces supported through BURMA, and, probably, by supplementary amphibious operations. Control of the SOUTH CHINA SEA by the UNITED NATIONS will be necessary to prevent JAPAN from successfully opposing these measures.

10. A line of communications to HONG KONG.

The most feasible sea route from the UNITED STATES to HONG KONG is through the CELEBES and SULU SEAS; that from the UNITED KINGDOM is through the STRAIT OF MALACCA. The establishment of these routes will require the neutralization of Japanese bases in the northern EAST INDIES, the PHILIPPINES, FORMOSA, and on the Asiatic mainland south of HONG KONG. Control of these areas will prevent JAPAN from supporting her forces in the NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES and will deny her the economic advantages she receives from that area. Operations to open a line of communications to HONG KONG and to control the SOUTH CHINA SEA are considered feasible.

11. A line of communications from HAWAII to the CELEBES SEA.

This line of communications to the CELEBES SEA will be established by advancing in the CENTRAL and SOUTHWEST PACIFIC areas with a view to shortening the sea route, providing for its security, and denying to the enemy bases and means by which he may interfere with the line of communications.

12. A line of communications through the STRAIT OF MALACCA.

Although the supply of forces in CHINA will come mainly from the UNITED STATES, operations to open the STRAIT OF MALACCA, after the reconquest of BURMA, are a vital part of the plan. The enemy must be continuously compelled to disperse his forces throughout the PACIFIC and ASIATIC areas thus exposing them to attrition on an additional front in SOUTHEASTERN ASIA. This area is one of British strategic responsibility, and is a suitable and feasible undertaking for British Commonwealth Forces.

13. Control of the seas.

Since control of the seas in the western PACIFIC by the UNITED NATIONS may force the unconditional surrender of JAPAN before invasion and even before JAPAN is subjected to an intensive air offensive, every means to gain this control will be undertaken by the UNITED

STATES. The establishment of the line of communications to the CELEBES SEA will be used as the vehicle to gain this end. The selection of intermediate objectives which will compel the enemy to expose his naval forces will be the greatest single factor in determining the enemy positions to be seized.

Attrition of enemy shipping, air, and naval resources will be a continuing objective. Raids on Japanese lines of communication, and carrier-based air raids on Japanese positions extending to JAPAN itself, will be implemented as our naval strength increases.

**Report by Joint War Plans Committee, Operations in the Pacific and Far East in 1943-44:**  
<http://www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/psf/box2/a17j01.html>

1. An analysis has been made of possible UNITED NATIONS courses of action in the PACIFIC-Asiatic area in 1943 and 1944 to conform to the objectives set forth by the Joint Chiefs of Staff in J.C.S. 290/1. The analysis is contained in Enclosure "A."

2. The courses of action examined and conclusions reached are as follows:

a. Far Eastern theater

(1) ANAKIM and Revised ANAKIM [planned offensive in Burma]

Retained as suitable. Vital to implementing the strategic plan for the defeat of JAPAN and to keeping CHINA in the war.

(2) Air operations in and from CHINA

Retained. Close coordination with other elements of plan are essential.

(3) Operations to open the STRAIT OF MALACCA

Retained for implementation subsequent to the recapture of BURMA as a vital part of the strategic plan for the defeat of JAPAN.

b. PACIFIC theater

(1) Operations in the SOLOMONS and BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO

Retained. Provides for retaining the initiative, maintaining pressure on JAPAN, and the defense of AUSTRALIA.

(2) Operations in NEW GUINEA

Retained. The capture of NEW GUINEA will facilitate the opening of a line of communications to the CELEBES SEA and contribute to the defense of AUSTRALIA.

(3) Operations in eastern NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES

Retained. Due to limitation of forces, operations other than air warfare should be restricted to the seizure of those islands necessary to the capture of NEW GUINEA.

(4) Operations in the MARSHALL ISLANDS

Retained. Shortens line of communications to SOUTHEAST PACIFIC and CELEBES SEA.

(5) Operations in the CAROLINE ISLANDS

Retained. Necessary to gain control of central PACIFIC, thereby facilitating establishment of line of communications to CELEBES SEA. Will enable UNITED NATIONS forces to directly threaten the Japanese Archipelago.

(6) Operations in the northern PACIFIC, after the ejection of Japanese from the ALEUTIANS  
Rejected. Not in accordance with strategic concept.

3. Conclusions:

a. Offensive operations in the PACIFIC and FAR EAST in 1943-1944 should have the following objectives:

- (1) Conduct of air operations in and from CHINA.
- (2) Seizure of BURMA.
- (3) Ejection of the Japanese from the ALEUTIANS.
- (4) Seizure of the MARSHALL and CAROLINE ISLANDS.
- (5) Seizure of the SOLOMONS, the BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO, and Japanese-held NEW GUINEA.

b. Operations to gain these objectives will be restricted by the availability of trained amphibious divisions and amphibious craft.

#### STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

4. To prepare an analysis of possible UNITED NATIONS courses of action in the PACIFIC-Asiatic areas in 1943 and 1944, in conformity with UNITED NATIONS strategy.

#### ASSUMPTIONS

5. It is assumed that:

- a. CHINA will continue in the war against JAPAN.
- b. It is the intention of JAPAN to invade SIBERIA at a time advantageous to her and disadvantageous to RUSSIA, and before GERMANY is defeated.

6. After a thorough estimate of the situation for 1943-44 was made, it was concluded that in the PACIFIC and FAR EAST:

- a. The UNITED NATIONS should conduct limited offensive operations in order to maintain pressure on JAPAN, retain the initiative, and attain or retain positions of readiness for a full-scale offensive against JAPAN, and in order to keep CHINA in the war.
- b. For these purposes, UNITED STATES naval forces should be increased to a maximum consistent with the minimum requirements in the ATLANTIC, and with due regard to the requirements of the main effort against the European AXIS, air and ground forces should be provided so as to facilitate joint action and make optimum use of the increasing strength of UNITED STATES naval forces....

| Question  | Answer |
|---|--------|
| What had to occur before Allied forces could concentrate solely on the Pacific Front? |        |
| What had to occur before an invasion of Japan could take place? Why?                  |        |

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>Why was China so important to success in the war against Japan?</p>                           |  |
| <p>Allied planners placed a great deal of emphasis on the lines of communication. Why?</p>       |  |
| <p>What were planners hoping would happen once the United States gained control of the seas?</p> |  |
| <p>What were the primary objectives of U.S. operations for 1943-44?</p>                          |  |



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**Scavenger Hunt:** Using locations 18-36 on the interactive map ([http://development.vbcomm.net/15332\\_NEH/#](http://development.vbcomm.net/15332_NEH/#); click on World War II Lesson Plan 1), answer the following questions:

| Question  | Answer |
|---|--------|
| Operation Flintlock was the name given to the invasion of these islands.  |        |
| U.S. forces decided to land on this Mariana Island first so that it could be used to invade the other two.  |        |
| By August 10, 1944 these two islands, which were in striking distance of the Japanese mainland, were firmly in allied hands.  |        |
| This 1944 battle is sometimes called "The Great Marianas Turkey Shoot."   |        |
| Even though this was the only one of the Solomon Islands that the Japanese still controlled in August of 1943, they had over 33,000 soldiers defending it.                |        |
| MacArthur knew that this battle would be difficult as 250,000 Japanese soldiers controlled the island. Therefore, he decided to hold off his invasion until January 1945. |        |
| This island would become a major US base, as it was close enough for US bombers to make raids against Japanese cities.  |        |
| The first incendiary bombing raid against this city destroyed more than sixteen square miles.   |        |
| During this battle, Japan lost nearly all its remaining naval force.  |        |
| Japan, in an effort to forestall an attack against these islands, formulated a plan to attack and destroy the U.S. Carrier forces.  |        |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>This was the largest naval battle in history and the last major attempt by the Japanese navy to affect the course of the war. This was also where the Japanese began to use the technique of “kamikaze”.</p> |  |
| <p>The capture of this mountain on Iwo Jima is one of the most photographed scenes of the war.</p>  |  |
| <p>After the fighting to regain Attu, the Allies assembled a force of 34,000 to attack this island, only to discover that the Japanese had left the previous month.</p>   |  |
| <p>The last two Japanese soldiers on this island did not lay down their arms until 1951.</p>  |  |
| <p>Japan decided to keep these two Alaskan islands to prevent the United States from using them as bases from which to attack the Japanese mainland.</p>  |  |
| <p>These islands were to serve as a staging area for an invasion of Japan.</p>  |  |
| <p>General MacArthur decided that he needed an air base on this island in order to support an invasion of the Solomon Islands.</p>  |  |
| <p>This was the codename for the invasion of the Gilbert Islands.</p>   |  |
| <p>These were considered the three most important of the Mariana Islands.</p>   |  |
| <p>This was the costliest battle of the pacific theater.</p>  |  |
| <p>The Japanese, rather than meeting the allies on the beaches of New Georgia, decided to defend this air field on the southwestern tip of the island.</p>  |  |
| <p>MacArthur considered this island secure after March 1944, even though it was not completely purged of Japanese soldiers.</p>   |  |
| <p>Even though some unarmed Japanese still remained in the mountains, this island was in allied hands by the end of the summer of 1944.</p>   |  |



|   |  |
|---|--|
| Even though these islands were of little strategic value, their liberation was a matter of prestige.  |  |
| During this year-long battle, the Japanese suffered losses of nearly 24,000.  |  |
| By the end of August, 1943, U.S. forces had complete control of this island.  |  |
| Before an operation against these islands could occur, Allied Military planners wanted to drive the Japanese from the western half of New Guinea. |  |



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### Truman's Decision to Drop the Atomic Bomb: A Document-Based Question

**Directions:** Using the documents that follow, answer the question below. Remember to write your DBQ in proper AP format.

Question: Why did President Truman decide to use the atomic bomb against Hiroshima and Nagasaki?

#### Document A: Notes of the Interim Committee Meeting, 31 May 1945:

[http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study\\_collections/bomb/large/documents/fulltext.php?fulltextid=7](http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/bomb/large/documents/fulltext.php?fulltextid=7)

#### VII. EFFECT OF THE BOMBING ON THE JAPANESE AND THEIR WILL TO FIGHT:

It was pointed out that one atomic bomb on an arsenal would not be much different from the effect caused by any Air Corps strike of present dimensions. However, Dr. [Robert] Oppenheimer [lead scientist on the atomic bomb project] stated that the visual effect of an atomic bombing would be tremendous. It would be accompanied by a brilliant luminescence which would rise to a height of 10,000 to 20,000 feet. The neutron effect of the explosion would be dangerous to life for a radius of at least two-thirds of a mile.

After much discussion concerning various types of targets and the effects to be produced, the Secretary [i.e., Secretary of War Henry Stimson] expressed the conclusion, on which there was general agreement, that we could not give the Japanese any warning; that we could not concentrate on a civilian area; but that we should seek to make a profound psychological impression on as many of the inhabitants as possible. At the suggestion of Dr. [James B.] Conant [Director of the National Defense Research Committee] the Secretary agreed that the most desirable target would be a vital war plant employing a large number of workers and closely surrounded by workers' houses.

There was some discussion of the desirability of attempting several strikes at the same time. Dr. Oppenheimer's judgment was that several strikes would be feasible. General [Leslie R.] Groves [military director of the project], however, expressed doubt about this proposal and pointed out the following objections: (1) We would lose the advantage of gaining additional knowledge concerning the weapon at each successive bombing; (2) such a program would require a rush job on the part of those assembling the bombs and might, therefore, be ineffective; (3) the effect would not be sufficiently distinct from our regular Air Force bombing program.

**Document B: Minutes of Meeting Held at the White House, 18 June 1945:**

[http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study\\_collections/bomb/large/documents/fulltext.php?fulltextid=1](http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/bomb/large/documents/fulltext.php?fulltextid=1)

THE PRESIDENT stated that he had called the meeting for the purpose of informing himself with respect to the details of the campaign against Japan....

General MacArthur and Admiral Nimitz are in agreement with the Chiefs of Staff in selecting 1 November as the target date to go into Kyushu because by that time:

- a. If we press preparations we can be ready.
- b. Our estimates are that our air action will have smashed practically every industrial target worth hitting in Japan as well as destroying huge areas in the Jap cities.
- c. The Japanese Navy, if any still exists, will be completely powerless.
- d. Our sea action and air power will have cut Jap reinforcement capabilities from the mainland to negligible proportions.

Important considerations bearing on the 1 November date rather than a later one are the weather and cutting to a minimum Jap time for preparation of defenses. If we delay much after the beginning of November the weather situation in the succeeding months may be such that the invasion of Japan, and hence the end of the war, will be delayed for up to 6 months....

ADMIRAL LEAHY recalled that the President had been interested in knowing what the price in casualties for Kyushu would be and whether or not that price in casualties for Kyushu would be and whether or not that price could be paid. He pointed out that the troops on Okinawa had lost 35 percent in casualties. If this percentage were applied to the number of troops to be employed in Kyushu, he thought from the similarity of the fighting to be expected that this would give a good estimate of the casualties to be expected. He was interested therefore in finding out how many troops are to be used in Kyushu.

ADMIRAL KING called attention to what he considered an important difference in Okinawa and Kyushu. There had been only one way to go on Okinawa. This meant a straight frontal attack against a highly fortified position. On Kyushu, however, landings would be made on three fronts simultaneously and there would be much more room for maneuver. It was his opinion that a realistic casualty figure for Kyushu would lie somewhere between the number experienced by General MacArthur in the operations on Luzon and the Okinawa casualties.

GENERAL MARSHALL pointed out that the total assault troops for the Kyushu campaign were shown in the memorandum prepared for the President as 766,700. He said, in answer to the President's question as to what opposition could be expected on Kyushu, that it was estimated at eight Japanese divisions or about 350,000 troops. He said that divisions were still being raised in Japan and that reinforcement from other areas was possible but it was becoming increasingly difficult and painful....

THE PRESIDENT said that as he understood it the Joint Chiefs of Staff, after weighing all the possibilities of the situation and considering all possible alternative plans, were still of the unanimous opinion that the Kyushu operation was the best solution under the circumstances.

The Chiefs of Staff agreed that this was so.

THE PRESIDENT then asked the Secretary of War for his opinion.

MR. STIMSON agreed with the Chiefs of Staff that there was no other choice. He felt that he was personally responsible to the President more for political than for Military considerations. It was his opinion that there was a large submerged class in Japan who do not favor the present war and whose full opinion and influence had never yet been felt. He felt sure that this submerged class would fight and fight tenaciously if attacked on their own ground. He was concerned that something should be done to arouse them and to develop any possible influence they might have before it became necessary to come to grips with them.

THE PRESIDENT stated that this possibility was being worked on all the time. He asked if the invasion of Japan by white men would not have the effect of more closely uniting the Japanese.

MR. STIMSON thought there was every prospect of this. He agreed with the plan proposed by the Joint Chiefs of Staff as being the best thing to do, but he still hoped for some fruitful accomplishment through other means....

**Document C: Notes of the Interim Committee Meeting, 21 June 1945:**

[http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study\\_collections/bomb/large/documents/fulltext.php?fulltextid=11](http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/bomb/large/documents/fulltext.php?fulltextid=11)

b. Immediate use of the weapon.

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 recommending, among other things, that the weapon not be used in this war but that a purely technical test be conducted which would be made known to other countries. Mr. Harrison had turned this report over to the Scientific Panel for study and recommendation. Part II of the report of the Scientific Panel stated that they saw no acceptable alternative to direct military use. 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.

**Document D: Pages from President Truman's Diary:**

[http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study\\_collections/bomb/large/documents/fulltext.php?fulltextid=15](http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/bomb/large/documents/fulltext.php?fulltextid=15)

July 19, 1945

....P.M. [Winston Churchill] and I ate alone. Discussed Manhattan [the atomic bomb project] (it is a success). Decided to tell Stalin about it. Stalin had told P.M. of telegram from Jap Emperor asking for peace. Stalin also read his answer to me. It was satisfactory. Believe Japs will fold up before Russia comes in.

I am sure they will when Manhattan appears over their homeland.

July 25, 1945

We have discovered the most terrible bomb in the history of the world. It may be the fire destruction [destruction] prophesied in the Euphrates Valley Era, after Noah and his fabulous Ark. Anyway we think we have found the way to cause a disintegration of the atom. An experiment in the New Mexican

desert was startling—to put it mildly. Thirteen pounds of the explosive caused the complete disintegration of a steel tower 60 feet high, created a crater 6 feet deep and 1200 feet in diameter, knocked over a steel tower 1/2 mile away and knocked men down 10,000 yards away. The explosion was visible for more than 200 miles and audible for 40 miles and more.

This weapon is to be used against Japan between now and August 10th. I have told the Sec. of War, Mr. Stimson to use it so that military objectives and soldiers and sailors are the target and not women and children....

He and I are in accord. The target will be a purely military one and we will issue a warning statement asking the Japs to surrender and save lives. I'm sure they will not do that, but we will have given them the chance. It is certainly a good thing for the world that Hitler's crowd or Stalin's did not discover this atomic bomb. It seems to be the most terrible thing ever discovered, but it can be made the most useful.

**Document E: Memorandum for General Arnold:**

[http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study\\_collections/bomb/large/documents/fulltext.php?fulltextid=18](http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/bomb/large/documents/fulltext.php?fulltextid=18)

SUBJECT: Groves Project

1. The following plan and schedule for initial attacks using special bombs have been worked out:

- a. The first bomb (gun type) will be ready to drop between August 1 and 10 and plans are to drop it the first day of good weather following readiness.
- b. The following targets have been selected: Hiroshima, Kokura, Niigata and Nagasaki.
  - (1) Hiroshima (population 350,000) is an "Army" city; a major POE [port of embarkation]; has large QM [quartermaster] and supply depots; has considerable industry and several small shipyards.
  - (2) Nagasaki (population 210,000) is a major shipping and industrial center of Kyushu.
  - (3) Kokura (population 178,000) has one of the largest army arsenals and ordnance works; has the largest railroad shops on Kyushu: and has large munitions storage to the south.
  - (4) Niigata (population 150,000) is an important industrial city, building machine tools, diesel engines, etc., and is a key port for shipping to the mainland.
- c. All four cities are believed to contain large numbers of key Japanese industrialists and political figures who have sought refuge from major destroyed cities.
- d. The attack is planned to be visual to insure accuracy and will await favorable weather. The four targets give a very high probability of one being open even if the weather varies from that forecast, as they are considerably separated....

2. Two tested type bombs are expected to be available in August, one about the 6th and another the 24th. General Groves expects to have more information on future availabilities in a few days which will be furnished you when received.

3. The above has been discussed with Generals Spaatz and Eaker who concur.

JOHN N. STONE  
Colonel, GSC

**Document F: Statement by the President of the United States, August 6, 1945:**

[http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study\\_collections/bomb/large/documents/index.php?documentdate=1945-08-06&documentid=56&studycollectionid=abomb&pagenumber=1](http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/bomb/large/documents/index.php?documentdate=1945-08-06&documentid=56&studycollectionid=abomb&pagenumber=1)

Sixteen hours ago an American airplane dropped one bomb on [the city of Hiroshima] and destroyed its usefulness to the enemy. That bomb had more power than 20,000 tons of T.N.T. It had more than two thousand times the blast power of the British “Grand Slam” which is the largest bomb ever yet used in the history of warfare.

The Japanese began the war from the air at Pearl Harbor. They have been repaid many fold. And the end is not yet. With this bomb we have now added a new and revolutionary increase in destruction to supplement the growing power of our armed forces. In their present form these bombs are now in production and even more powerful forms are in development.

It is an atomic bomb. It is a harnessing of the basic power of the universe. The force from which the sun draws its power has been loosed against those who brought war to the Far East....

We are now prepared to obliterate more rapidly and completely every productive enterprise the Japanese have above ground in any city. We shall destroy their docks, their factories, and their communications. Let there be no mistake: we shall completely destroy Japan's power to make war.

It was to spare the Japanese people from utter destruction that the ultimatum of July 26 was issued at Potsdam. Their leaders promptly rejected that ultimatum. If they do not now accept our terms, they may expect a rain of ruin from the air, the like of which has never been seen on this earth. Behind this air attack will follow sea and land forces in such numbers and power as they have not yet seen and with the fighting skill of which they are already well aware....

**Document G: Translation of a leaflet dropped on Japanese cities shortly after the first atomic bomb was dropped, 6 August 1945:**

[http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study\\_collections/bomb/large/documents/index.php?documentdate=1945-08-06&documentid=7&studycollectionid=abomb&pagenumber=1](http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/bomb/large/documents/index.php?documentdate=1945-08-06&documentid=7&studycollectionid=abomb&pagenumber=1)

TO THE JAPANESE PEOPLE:

America asks that you take immediate heed of what we say on this leaflet.

We are in possession of the most destructive explosive ever devised by man. A single one of our newly developed atomic bombs is actually the equivalent in explosive power to what 2000 of our giant B-29's can carry on a single mission. This awful fact is one for you to ponder and we solemnly assure you it is grimly accurate.

We have just begun to use this weapon against your homeland. If you still have any doubt, make inquiry as to what happened in Hiroshima when just one atomic bomb fell on that city.

Before using this bomb to destroy every resource of the military by which they are prolonging this useless war, we ask that you now petition the Emperor to end the war. Our President has outlined for you the thirteen consequences of an honorable surrender: We urge that you accept those consequences and begin the work of building a new, better, and peace-loving Japan.

You should take steps now to cease military resistance. Otherwise, we shall resolutely employ this bomb and all our other superior weapons to promptly and forcefully end the war.

**EVACUATE YOUR CITIES!**



## Victory in the Pacific, 1943-1945

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Japan’s Decision to Surrender: A “Yeah, but” Debate

Using the following documents, prepare to debate the following statement:

#### **The use of the atomic bombs caused Japan to surrender.**

During class you will debate the topic with a partner in a silent “Yeah, but” Debate. Prior to the debate, the instructor will assign each person a viewpoint from which he or she will debate. The first student should begin by citing a fact from one of the documents in support of the resolution; this should be written on the “pro” side of the worksheet. The second student then follows by citing another fact in opposition to that point. This should continue until one student or the other runs out of relevant facts.

Use the following chart to graph your ideas from the reading. You must understand both sides since you will not know what viewpoint you will be defending until just before the debate begins.

| Pro | Con |
|-----|-----|
|     |     |



**Document 1: Cairo Conference, 1943:** <http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/wwii/cairo.htm>

The several military missions have agreed upon future military operations against Japan. The Three Great Allies expressed their resolve to bring unrelenting pressure against their brutal enemies by sea, land, and air. This pressure is already mounting.

The Three Great Allies are fighting this war to restrain and punish the aggression of Japan. They covet no gain for themselves and have no thought of territorial expansion.

It is their purpose that Japan shall be stripped of all the islands in the Pacific which she has seized or occupied since the beginning of the first World War in 1914, and that all the territories Japan has stolen from the Chinese, such as Manchuria, Formosa, and the Pescadores, shall be restored to the Republic of China.

Japan will also be expelled from all other territories which she has taken by violence and greed. The aforesaid three great powers, mindful of the enslavement of the people of Korea, are determined that in due course Korea shall become free and independent.

With these objects in view the three Allies, in harmony with those of the United Nations at war with Japan, will continue to persevere in the serious and prolonged operations necessary to procure the unconditional surrender of Japan.

**Document 2: The Potsdam Proclamation, 26 July 1945:**

<http://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/PTO/Dip/Potsdam.html>

1. We, the President of the United States, the President of the National Government of the Republic of China, and the Prime Minister of Great Britain, representing the hundreds of millions of our countrymen, have conferred and agree that Japan shall be given an opportunity to end the war.
2. The prodigious land, sea, and air forces of the United States, the British Empire, and China, many times reinforced by their armies and air fleets from the West, are poised to strike the final blows upon Japan. This military power is sustained and inspired by the determination of all the allied nations to prosecute the war against Japan until she ceases to resist.
3. The result of the futile and senseless German resistance to the might of the aroused free peoples of the world stands forth in awful clarity as an example to the people of Japan.
4. The time has come for Japan to decide whether she will continue to be controlled by those self-willed militaristic advisers whose unintelligent calculations have brought the Empire of Japan to the threshold of annihilation, or whether she will follow the path of reason.
5. The following are our terms. We shall not deviate from them. There are no alternatives. We shall brook no delay.
6. There must be eliminated for all time the authority and influence of those who have deceived and misled the people of Japan into embarking on world conquest, for we insist that a new order of peace, security, and justice will be impossible until irresponsible militarism is driven from the world.

7. Until such a new order is established and until there is convincing proof that Japan's war-making power is destroyed points in Japanese territory designated by the Allies will be occupied to secure the achievement of the basic objective we are here setting forth.
8. The terms of the Cairo Declaration shall be carried out, and Japanese sovereignty shall be limited to the islands of Honshu, Hokkaido, Kyushu, Shikoku, and such minor islands as we determine.
9. The Japanese military forces after being completely disarmed shall be permitted to return to their homes, with the opportunity of leading peaceful and productive lives.
10. We do not intend that the Japanese shall be enslaved as a race nor destroyed as a nation, but stern justice will be meted out to all war criminals, including those who have visited cruelties upon our prisoners. The Japanese Government shall remove all obstacles to the revival and strengthening of democratic tendencies among the Japanese people. Freedom of speech, or religion, and of thought, as well as respect for fundamental human rights, shall be established.
11. Japan shall be permitted to maintain such industries as will sustain her economy and allow of the exaction of just reparations in kind, but not those industries which would enable her to rearm for war. To this end access to, and distinguished from control of, raw materials shall be permitted. Eventual Japanese participation in world trade relations shall be permitted.
12. The occupying forces of the Allies shall be withdrawn from Japan as soon as these objectives have been accomplished, and there has been established, in accordance with the freely expressed will of the Japanese people, a peacefully inclined and responsible Government.
13. We call upon the Government of Japan to proclaim now the unconditional surrender of all the Japanese armed forces, and to provide proper and adequate assurances of their good faith in such action. The alternative for Japan is complete and utter destruction.

**Document 3: United States Strategic Bombing Survey, “Japan’s Struggle to End the War,” July 1, 1946:**

[http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study\\_collections/bomb/large/documents/fulltext.php?fulltextid=29](http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/study_collections/bomb/large/documents/fulltext.php?fulltextid=29)

SUZUKI [prime minister of Japan since April] informed the Survey that when he assumed office "it was the Emperor’s desire to make every effort to bring the war to a conclusion as quickly as possible, and that was my purpose". This created a position SUZUKI described as difficult. On the one hand he had instructions from the Emperor to arrange an end to the war; on the other hand any of those opposing this policy who learned of such peace moves would be apt to attack or even assassinate him. Thus with the general staffs, government in general and the people, he advocated increased war effort and determination to fight, whereas "through diplomacy and any other means available" he had to negotiate with other countries to stop the war.

Almost immediately, SUZUKI ordered his chief cabinet secretary, SAKOMIZU, to make a study of Japan’s fighting capabilities and whether they were sufficient to continue the war. SAKOMIZU concluded in May that Japan could not continue the war, basing his estimate on Japanese studies as to the inability to produce aircraft, losses and damage to shipping, the precarious food situation and the anti-war sentiments of the people. SUZUKI, who agreed with the estimate, presented it to the Emperor. Concurrently he asked ex-premier Koki HIROTA to sound out the Russian ambassador to Tokyo, MALIK, privately as to the Russian attitude toward interceding with America.

Early in May the Supreme War Direction Council began to discuss ways and means of ending the war. Concurrently other meetings of the Council were going on with the view of obtaining Russia's services at an opportune time. Foreign Minister TOGO was leader of this. While HIROTA was talking with MALIK, Ambassador SATO had been instructed in Moscow to prepare the way for a Japanese emissary to discuss improvement of Soviet-Japanese relations and Russia's intercession to end the war. Specific terms for ending the war apparently did not come up at this time, but the Council was prepared that whatever the result they "would be worse than pre-war conditions". The Potsdam declaration had not been issued, but it was felt that the Cairo declaration terms [the demand for unconditional surrender] would not actually be applied; it was looked upon as a declaration only, whose terms could be reduced by negotiating and by being in a position to exact "heavy sacrifices" if the war continued.

....Shortly after the end of the European war, 8 May, the war minister, General Korechika ANAMI, asked the cabinet for an Imperial conference to decide the "fundamental principle of the war", that is whether to continue it. This action, while not indicating that the army was ready to quit (on the contrary the war minister and army chief of staff urged continuance of hostilities), did confirm KIDO's belief that the Army would permit open consideration of the question within the cabinet only after Germany's collapse.... The Navy of course was divided, with [Navy minister] YONAI among the foremost advocates of peace and Admiral Soemu TOYODA, the navy chief of staff, siding with the Army....

....After ANAMI's request for an Imperial conference SAKOMIZU prepared a statement for that occasion which opened by saying that the war should be "accomplished", and the Emperor's reign and the homeland kept intact. This was followed by the details of SAKOMIZU's estimate prepared shortly after SUZUKI assumed office. On 6 June the six regular members of the Council discussed what steps should be taken to prosecute the war.... The conclusion was that unless some radical measure could be adopted to arouse the people, the nation's war power was bound to decline very rapidly. At this session, as TOYODA explained, "no one expressed the view that we should ask for peace--when a large number of people are present it is difficult for any one member to say that we should so entreat".

On 8 June the six regular members of the Council conferred with the Emperor. The statement was read by the Emperor who made no comment at this meeting. Each of the others expressed his own official opinion, but none as yet expressed his own official opinion, but none as yet expressed his real feelings. On 20 June the Emperor on his own initiative called the six council members to a conference and stated that it was necessary to have a plan to close the war at once, as well as a plan to defend the home islands. He asked what the council thought of that idea. The prime minister, the foreign minister and the Navy minister stated that they fully concurred with the Imperial view and that such steps were then being taken to that end. Then the Emperor in turn asked when the ministers expected they would be able to send a special ambassador to Moscow. The reply was that it was uncertain but they hoped he could be sent before the Potsdam conference. [A]fter this expression from the Emperor, SUZUKI decided he could stop the war; when he returned from the conference he told SAKOMIZU "Today the Emperor said what everyone has wanted to say but yet was afraid to say".

After that the government redoubled its talks with Russia and decided to send [former Japanese prime minister] Prince KONOYE to Moscow.... Russia asked for more details concerning the mission and SATO was directed to explain the mission as follows: (1) to make an improvement in relations between Russia and Japan (in view of Russia's denunciation of the neutrality pact), and (2) to ask Russia to intercede with the United States in order to stop the war. The Soviets replied on 13 July that since Stalin and Molotov were just leaving for Potsdam no answer could be given until their return to Moscow. On 12 July meanwhile the Emperor had called in KONOYE and secretly instructed him to accept any terms he could get and to wire these terms direct to the Emperor. KONOYE also testified that when SATO

was sounding out the Russians he reported the Russians would not consider a peace role unless the terms were unconditional surrender, and that this reply had a great influence on the Emperor.

In the days before the Potsdam Declaration, SUZUKI, TOGO AND YONAI became pessimistic about the Russian negotiations. They expected eventually that they would have some answer; but if it were unfavorable they concluded that their only recourse would be to broadcast directly to the United States.

On 26 July the Potsdam declaration was issued. In their deliberations on that statement, which began immediately, no member of the Inner Cabinet had any objections to ending the war. SUZUKI, TOGO and YONAI felt that the declaration must be accepted as the final terms of peace at once, whether they liked it or not. The War Minister and the two chiefs of staff on the other hand felt that the terms were "too dishonorable". Discussion centered around first the future position of the Emperor, second the disposition of war criminals, and third the future form of Japan's "national polity".

On 6 August in the midst of these discussions an atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. Early reports to Tokyo described very great damage, but the military did not think it was an atomic bomb until President Truman's announcement and a mission of Japanese scientists sent to Hiroshima confirmed it. On the morning of 7 August SUZUKI and TOGO conferred and then reported the news to the Emperor, stating that this was the time to accept the Potsdam Declaration. The military side however could not make up their minds to accept it.

These differences continued to be examined and hope of favorable word from Russia had been all but abandoned when very early in the morning of 9 August the news arrived that Russia had declared war. Although considerable pessimism had prevailed regarding the outcome of the negotiations, the government was not prepared for war with the Soviets, nor the military capable of any effective counter-plan. SUZUKI calculated that he had a choice of resigning, or taking immediate positive action which could be either declaring war on Russia or continuing until the whole nation was destroyed or accepting the Potsdam declaration. He conferred with the Emperor around 0700 and after a couple of hours decided to accept the Potsdam terms, with which decision the Emperor agreed. A meeting of the six regular members of the Supreme War Direction Council was called for 1000. After two gloomy hours it remained deadlocked as before on the two opposing opinions: (1) to accept the Potsdam declaration outright, with the understanding that it did not alter the Emperor's legal position; 2( To accept the declaration with the following conditions: (a) that the Allied forces would not occupy the homeland; (b) that the Japanese military and naval forces abroad would be withdrawn, disarmed and demobilized by Japan itself; (c) that all war crimes should be prosecuted by the Japanese government.

....After a session lasting until 2000 without achieving unity, the cabinet declared an intermission. In this impasse SUZUKI decided to request an Imperial conference for the Inner Cabinet at which the conflicting views could be presented and the Emperor's own decision sought. At 2330 on the 9<sup>th</sup> the conference was held.... The Potsdam declaration was first read to the Emperor, then TOGO expressed his opinion, followed by all the others who stated their views. Around 0300 on the 10<sup>th</sup> SUZUKI announced, "We have discussed this question for a long time and everyone has expressed his own opinion sincerely without any conclusion being reached. The situation is urgent, so any delay in coming to a decision should not be tolerated. I am therefore proposing to ask the Emperor his own wish and to decide the conference's conclusion on that basis. His wish should settle the issue, and the government should follow it." The Emperor then stated his own view, "I agree with the first opinion as expressed by the foreign minister. I think I should tell you the reasons why I have decided so. Thinking about the world situation and the internal Japanese situation, to continue the war means nothing but the destruction of the whole nation. My ancestors and I have always wished to put forward the nation's welfare and international world peace as our prime concern. To continue the war now means that cruelty and

bloodshed will still continue in the world and that the Japanese nation will suffer severe damage. So, to stop the war on this occasion is the only way to save the nation from destruction and to restore peace in the world. Looking back at what our military headquarters have done, it is apparent that their performance has fallen far short of the plans expressed. I don't think this discrepancy can be corrected in the future. But when I think about my obedient soldiers abroad and of those who died or were wounded in battle, about those who have lost their property or lives by bombing in the homeland, when I think of all those sacrifices, I cannot help but feel sad. I decided that this war should be stopped, however, in spite of this sentiment and for more important considerations."

SUZUKI then said, "The Imperial decision has been expressed. This should be the conclusion of the conference." Immediately thereafter the full cabinet resumed its meeting and ratified unanimously a decision to accept the Potsdam terms provided they did not alter the Emperor's prerogatives. This was cabled to the United States through the Swiss around 0700 the 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Document 4: Interrogation of Admiral Toyoda Soemu, Chief of Combined Naval Forces, 13-14 November 1945:** <http://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/AAF/USSBS/IJO/IJO-75.html>

**Q.** (General Anderson) We were conducting at that time operations on the surface, we were making invasions, moving ahead on the surface; but also by that time we had begun the air attack on JAPAN proper. How would you list the relative importance of these various military operations in their contribution to the decision on the part of the Supreme Council to surrender: (1) the air attacks against the homeland proper; (2) the surface invasions; and (3) the threat of course of further advances of our surface forces?

**A.** The fact that the Japanese Navy's surface units had been badly defeated was not generally known in JAPAN outside of the services, so I think that your bombing against JAPAN proper, together with our failure in the OKINAWA Operations, had a great deal to do with the decision to cease hostilities. So far as the Navy's surface units were concerned, it was realized that we couldn't expect much of our Navy once the PHILIPPINES were lost, because of the fuel situation.

**Q.** You referred to the rapid depletion of military resources. Do you have an estimate as to what form of force that we were employing against JAPAN contributed most toward the depletion of JAPAN's military resources for the continuation of hostilities?

**A.** Cutting off of our supplies from the south, principally through the loss of shipping bottoms and disruption of transportation facilities in general.

**Q.** Did you feel that these air attacks, these fire attacks, were contributing in any degree toward the disruption of the remaining military resources?

**A.** Until this year our main loss in shipping was due to submarine activities; but, especially beginning around April and May of this year, your air raids were the principal cause of our shipping losses.

**Q.** We know that shipping had become interdicted rather effectively, leaving JAPAN with only the military resources on the homeland with which to conduct her further military operations. What effect was the air attacks, the fire attacks, on the homeland having on the remaining military resources that you had on the homeland proper with which, if you had continued war, you had intended to continue war? How much effect did those operations have on further depleting your resources for continuing war?

**A.** I cannot give even approximate figures as to the extent of damage done to material in JAPAN proper, but I believe that greater than the effect on the destruction of materials themselves was the destruction of our production capacity by air raids.

**Q.** How did you feel that it affected the will of the people to continue to fight? In other words, what effect did these air attacks, these fire attacks, have on the will of the nation to continue war? Did it tend to deteriorate? If so, to what degree?

**A.** The effect on the people's morale was not as great as we had feared. In other words, while people who lost their homes faced extremely difficult times, it did not develop to the point of wanting to give up the war. To be sure, it had an effect on production because it cut off transportation, and in some cases, no doubt, some factory hands stayed away from factories because of the danger of bombing. That affected production to some extent, but affecting the people's will to fight was not as great as we had feared.

**Q.** In these conferences leading to the consideration of surrender, what value was put on the air assaults on JAPAN proper? How did they evaluate that when they were considering the matter of terminating war?

**A.** I do not believe that the question of air raids came up in the minds of the members as an independent question at all; that is there was no idea that we must give up the war to avoid even a single additional day of bombing. The main consideration that led to the decision to cease hostilities was, after all, the overall weakening of the Nation's production capacity, loss of material, etc.

I refer to the statement already made regarding the effect on morale and point out that outside of bombed areas, especially in the country, people appeared to be almost wholly unconcerned about bombing as was evidenced by their failure to dig air raid shelters, etc.; so that, taking the country as a whole, the effect on morale was very light.

**Q.** Was there any attempt at this time to put a value on the cumulative effect of sustained bombing of this nature had it been permitted to continue on for many months, the cumulative effect that such sustained operations would have on JAPAN proper, her capacity to wage war, or to survive?

**A.** The point that worried me most was the effect of continued bombing on aircraft production. Whereas the year before we were producing over 1,000 naval aircraft alone monthly, in July of this year that production had fallen to around 600, less than half of the previous year; and so far as I could see we were just about nearing the end of our aviation fuel supply, and I could not see how we could possibly procure sufficient aviation fuel after September; and since those two facts, namely, fall in aircraft production and shortage in aviation fuel, were largely due to your air raids, we would naturally reach the conclusion that, if the air raids were to continue for months after that, it would become impossible for us to continue the war.

**Document 5: The Imperial Rescript of 15 August 1945:**

<http://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/PTO/Dip/Crane.html>

To our good and loyal subjects:

After pondering deeply the general trends of the world and the actual conditions obtaining in Our Empire today, We have decided to effect a settlement of the present situation by resorting to an extraordinary measure.

We have ordered Our Government to communicate to the Governments of the United States, Great Britain, China and the Soviet Union that Our Empire accepts the provision of their Joint Declaration.

To strive for the common prosperity and happiness of all nations, as well as the security and well-being of Our subjects, is the solemn obligation which has been handed down by Our Imperial Ancestors, and which We lay close to heart. Indeed, We declared war on America and Britain out of Our sincere desire to ensure Japan's self-preservation and the stabilization of East Asia, it being far from Our thought either to infringe upon the sovereignty of other nations or to embark upon territorial aggrandizement. But now the war has lasted for nearly four years. Despite the best that has been done by everyone--the gallant fighting of military and naval forces, the diligence and assiduity of Our servants of the State and the devoted service of Our one hundred million people--the war situation has developed not necessarily to Japan's advantage, while the general trends of the world have all turned against her interest. Moreover, the enemy has begun to employ a new and most cruel bomb, the power of which to do damage is indeed incalculable, taking the toll of many innocent lives. Should We continue to fight, it would not only result in an ultimate collapse and obliteration of the Japanese nation, but also it would lead to the total extinction of human civilization. Such being the case, how are We to save the millions of Our subjects; or to atone Ourselves before the hallowed spirits of Our Imperial Ancestors? This is the reason why We have ordered the acceptance of the provisions of the Joint Declaration of the Powers.

We cannot but express the deepest sense of regret to our allied nations of East Asia, who have consistently co-operated with the Empire toward the emancipation of East Asia. The thought of those officers and men as well as others who have fallen in the fields of battle, those who died at their posts of duty, or those who met with untimely death and all their bereaved families, pains Our heart night and day. The welfare of the wounded and the war-sufferers, and of those who have lost their homes and livelihood, are the objects of Our profound solicitude. The hardships and sufferings to which Our nation is to be subject hereafter will certainly be great. We are keenly aware of the inmost feelings of all ye, Our subjects. However, it is according to the dictate of time and fate that We have resolved to pave the way for a grand peace for all the generations to come by enduring the unendurable and suffering what is insufferable.

Having been able to safeguard and maintain the structure of the Imperial State, We are always with ye, Our good and loyal subjects, relying upon your sincerity and integrity. Beware most strictly of any outbursts of emotion which may engender needless complications, or any fraternal contention and strife which may create confusion, lead ye astray and cause ye to lose the confidence of the world. Let the entire nation continue as one family from generation to generation, ever firm in its faith of the imperishableness of its divine land, and mindful of its heavy burden of responsibilities, and the long road before it. Unite your total strength to be devoted to the construction for the future. Cultivate the ways of rectitude; foster nobility of spirit; and work with resolution so as ye may enhance the innate glory of the Imperial State and keep pace with the progress of the world.



## Victory in the Pacific, 1943-1945

Student Names \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### “Yeah, but” Debate Worksheet

Directions: With your partner, you must debate the following question, without talking. Every statement must begin with Yeah, but. Both of you will be given a position to debate prior to class. You have twenty minutes to work with your partner, after which there will be a class discussion. Using the information that you learned in this unit, debate the following statement (You may need to continue onto separate paper):

**The use of the atomic bombs caused Japan to surrender.**

Yeah, but...

Yeah, but...

Yeah, but...

Yeah, but...

Yeah, but...

Yeah, but...

Yeah, but...

Yeah, but...