

GERMANY SURRENDERS

- Allied forces led bombing raids on Germany
 - Closed in on Germans from all directions
 - Damaged greatly
 - Killed civilians
 - April 30th 1945, Hitler's suicide
 - May 7th, 1945, Germany officially surrendered
- May 8, 1945 V-E Day (Victory in Europe)
 - Marked the end of WWII
 - Weeks before FDR died of a stroke
 - Truman takes over as president
 - War in Europe over; Japan would not surrender in the Pacific



A black and white photograph capturing the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. A massive, dark, columnar plume of smoke and debris rises from the ground, topped by a large, billowing, white mushroom cloud that spreads across the sky. The surrounding landscape is dark and appears to be in a state of devastation. The text "BOMBING OF HIROSHIMA" is overlaid in red, bold, capital letters across the center of the image.

BOMBING OF HIROSHIMA

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers asked to build a top-secret weapon
 - Code Name "The Manhattan Project"
- July 16, 1945, the Manhattan Project launched atomic device
 - New Mexico
 - A blinding flash visible for 200 miles lit up the morning sky.
 - A mushroom cloud reached 40,000 feet, blowing out windows of civilian homes up to 100 miles away.



In November 1954, five months before his death, Einstein summarized his feelings about his role in the creation of the atomic bomb: *"I made one great mistake in my life... when I signed the letter to President Roosevelt recommending that atom bombs be made; but there was some justification - the danger that the Germans would make them."*

A QUESTION OF ETHICS

- Truman faced the most difficult decision of his life— whether or not to drop the bomb.
- Japanese military was unwilling to give up.
- Feared a water landing would result in too many casualties



THE BOMB

- August 6, 1945: an American B-29 bomber (*Enola Gay*) dropped the world's first deployed atomic bomb
 - Japanese city of Hiroshima
 - Nicknamed “Little Boy”
 - explosion wiped out 90 percent of the city
 - immediately killed 80,000 people
 - tens of thousands would later die of radiation exposure



- Three days later, a second B-29 dropped another A-bomb on Nagasaki
 - killing an estimated 40,000 people
 - Nicknamed “Fat Man”
- Japan's Emperor Hirohito announced his country's surrender in World War II
 - radio address on August 15, citing the devastating power of "a new and most cruel bomb."



Was it Ethical?

- Critics have argued that Truman's decision was a barbaric act that brought negative consequences:
 - Americans were accused of racism.
 - Led to radiation sickness
 - Started a nuclear race.
 - The U.S. remains the only nation in the world to have used a nuclear weapon on another nation.

