

Contrary to popular opinion, these weapons were not necessary to end the war with Japan. It is an undisputed fact of history that Japan was truly making sincere requests for peace, before and at the time of the Hiroshima A-bomb.

*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. -- Admiral William Leahy, chief of staff of the US*

This fact is so well established that even popular history books and standard reference works recently published in this country cannot ignore it. The obvious implications of the fact are so damning to the moral position of the American capitalist power structure and so unpleasant to the American people generally, however, that the fact is not often squarely faced in this country, even by many pacifist critics of the government's nuclear warfare policies.

## TODAY

The bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki was the first formal use of these weapons, but the US threatened to use them numerous times thereafter. These threats, and **the current US threat to use nuclear weapons against Iran**, cannot be taken lightly if the US war crime against the Japanese is any indicator. In fact, the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were not only indicators to the world that the US possessed nuclear weapons but that it had the ruthlessness to use them.

The US currently deploys over 4000 nuclear warheads and has an additional 5000 warheads in reserve. This is in direct violation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) of which the US is a signatory.

The NPT obliges the five official nuclear states (USA, Russia, Great Britain, France, China) to work towards "general and complete disarmament". The treaty took effect in 1970. By signing the NPT, all other countries agreed not to pursue nuclear weapons. Currently, there are 189 countries who are party to the treaty. Israel, India, Pakistan and North Korea are not currently parties to the treaty and they all possess nuclear weapons. The treaty has three pillars: non-proliferation, disarmament, and the

right to peacefully use nuclear technology. Under the treaty, Iran has a sovereign right to use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.



The US is one of the greatest proliferator of nuclear weapons. Under NATO nuclear weapons sharing, the United States has provided nuclear weapons for Belgium, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey to deploy and store. This involves pilots and other staff of the "non-nuclear" NATO states practicing handling and delivering the US nuclear bombs, and adapting non-US warplanes to deliver US nuclear bombs. Until 1984 Canada also received shared nuclear weapons, and until 2001, Greece.

During the reign of Saddam Hussein in Iraq, the Chicago Tribune editorialized that even were a person of the stature of

President Jefferson to come to power in Iraq, he would be pressured by US and Israeli threats to pursue nuclear weapons.

Unless the world community forces the members of the nuclear weapons club to disarm, there is little chance to stop more and more countries from pursuing nuclear weapons.

### FOR MORE INFO

- “Hiroshima 1945: Behind The U.S. Atom Bomb Atrocity” at <http://www.hartford-hwp.com/archives/20/043.html>
- “Medical Consequences of a Nuclear Attack on Iran” at [http://psr.convio.net/site/PageServer?pagename=security\\_main\\_iranfactsheet](http://psr.convio.net/site/PageServer?pagename=security_main_iranfactsheet)

### ACTION

Contact president Bush and demand that the military option, especially nuclear weapons, not be used against Iran.


And demand that the US eliminate its nuclear arsenal.

President Bush:  
[president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov)  
202-456-1111

*Note: In case you wish to use this leaflet or other peace leaflets which we have produced for your own peace vigils, classes, etc., you can download and print them from [www.8thdaycenter.org/resources/leaflets.html](http://www.8thdaycenter.org/resources/leaflets.html) These on-line leaflets contain space for adding your own contact information.*

Local contact:

**8<sup>th</sup> Day Center for Justice**  
*A Catholic faith-based NGO  
for social change*



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# HIROSHIMA & NAGASAKI: YESTERDAY AND TODAY

On Aug. 6, 1945, and again on August 9, the US government dropped atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In so doing, the US murdered over 100,000 thousand men, woman and children.



Swords into Plowshares

Thousands more died later from their injuries. Through the years, still many others died from the effects of radiation poisoning, and their offspring were plagued by genetic abnormalities.