

Background Essay on Decision to drop the Atomic Bomb



Truman Presidential
Museum & Library

World War II was fought by millions of people in all corners of the world. There were battles and military posts in surprising places. The Caribbean and Central America, Greenland, Alaska, and the Aleutian Islands, Iraq, Syria, Burma, and the Arctic are a few of the little known places that were involved. Every major country of the time was involved in the war.

Conflict in the Pacific began well before the official start of World War II. Seeking raw materials to fuel its growing industries, Japan invaded the Chinese province of Manchuria in 1931. By 1937 Japan controlled large sections of China and accusations of war crimes against the Chinese people became commonplace. At this time, several treaties were in place to limit the size of navies in the Pacific Ocean. In 1934, Japan ended its cooperation with other major powers in the Pacific by withdrawing from the Five Power Treaty. The United States, along with other countries, criticized Japanese aggression but shied away from any economic or military punishments.

Relations between the United States and Japan worsened when Japanese forces took aim at Indochina with the goal of capturing oil rich areas of the East Indies. Responding to this threat, the United States placed an embargo on scrap metal, oil, and aviation fuel heading to Japan and froze Japanese assets in the United States. Furthermore, the United States demanded that the Japanese withdraw from conquered areas of China and Indochina. Japan, sensing conflict was inevitable, began planning for an attack on Pearl Harbor by April, 1941.

The Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, brought the United States officially into World War II. In the surprise attack, Japan sunk several ships, destroyed hundreds of planes and ended thousands of lives. The Japanese goal was to cripple the U.S. Pacific fleet, and they nearly succeeded. President Franklin Roosevelt called the attack “a day which will live in infamy,” and the American people were shocked and angered.

The ensuing war was costly. Years of fighting brought the US armed forces closer and closer to Japan as they “hopped” from one island to another. The Japanese were vicious fighters, however, and every victory cost more time, material, and, sadly, lives. The last major battle, the fight for Okinawa, lasted almost three months and took more than 100,000 Japanese and American lives.

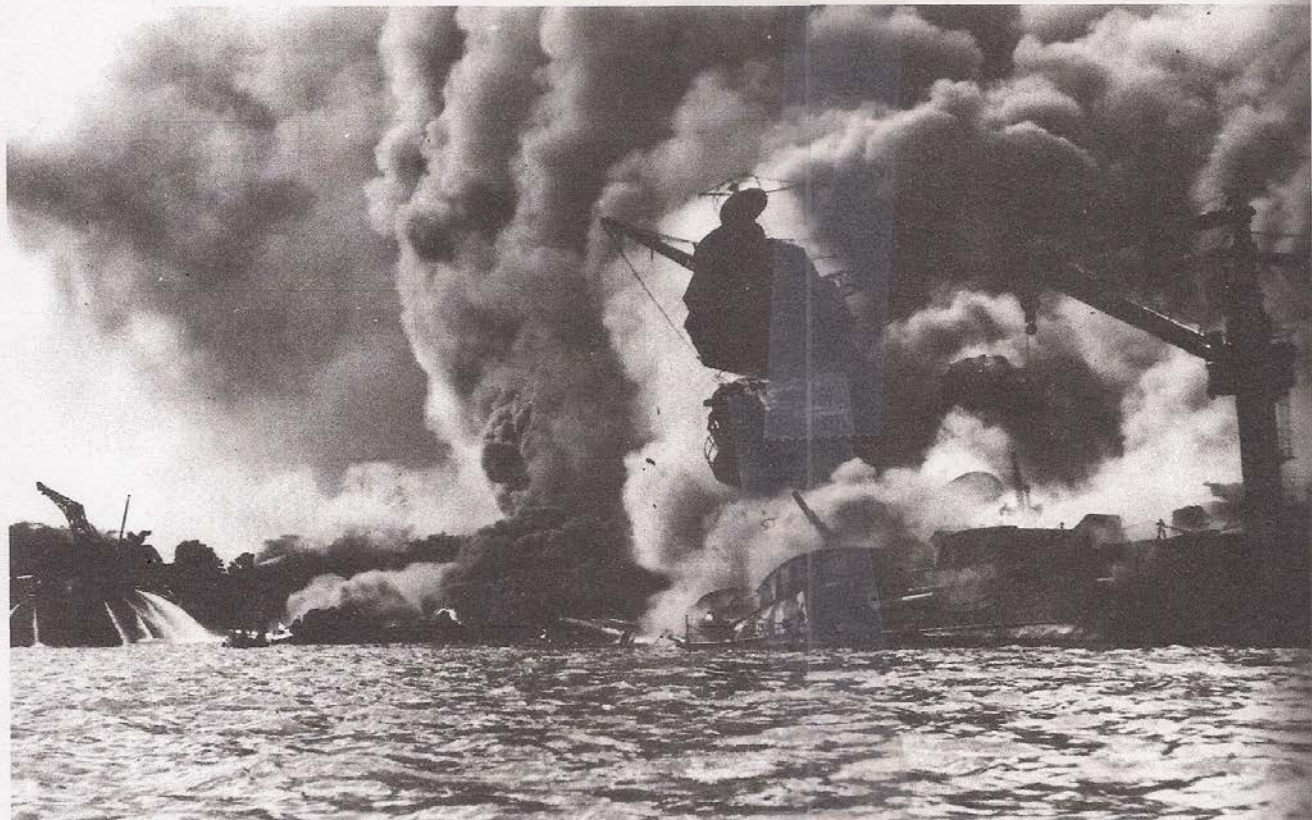
After President Roosevelt died on April 12th, 1945, it became Harry Truman’s job to decide how to end the war. The thought of invading Japan gave Truman and his advisors pause. The war had shown that the Japanese were fighting for the Emperor who convinced them that it was better to die than surrender. Women and children had been taught how to kill with basic weapons. Japanese *kamikaze* pilots could turn planes into guided missiles. The cost of invasion, they knew, would be high.

Upon becoming president, Harry Truman learned of the Manhattan Project, a secret scientific effort to create an atomic bomb. After a successful test of the weapon, Truman issued the Potsdam Declaration demanding the unconditional surrender of the Japanese government, warning of “prompt and utter destruction.” Eleven days later, on August 6, 1945, having received no reply, an American bomber called the Enola Gay left the Tinian Island in route toward Japan. In the belly of the bomber was “Little Boy,” an atomic bomb. At 8:15 am Hiroshima time, “Little Boy” was dropped. The result was approximately 80,000 deaths in just the first few minutes. Thousands died later from radiation sickness. On August 9, 1945, another bomber was in route to Japan, only this time they were heading for Nagasaki with “Fat Man,” another atomic bomb. After the first minute of dropping “Fat Man,” 39,000 men, women and children were killed. 25,000 more were injured. Both cities were leveled from the bombs and this, in turn, forced Japan to surrender to the United States. The war was finally over.

Today, historians continue to debate this decision. Was there another way to end the war? If you were President Truman in 1945, would you have dropped the bomb?

DECEMBER 1941

Japanese planes destroy US fleet at Pearl Harbor



The "Arizona" goes down in a pall of smoke after her magazine exploded: 2,403 American servicemen lost their lives in the devastation at Pearl Harbor.

Honolulu, 8 December

The message was simple and stark: "AIR RAID, PEARL HARBOR. THIS IS NO DRILL."

Japan's devastating opening blow of the Pacific war against the United States came plunging out of a sunny Hawaiian sky yesterday when 184 aircraft from six Japanese aircraft carriers of Vice-Admiral Chuichi Nagumo's Strike Force caught the American defenders completely unawares at Pearl Harbor, Oahu, at 7:55am [local time].

Japanese spies had reported that the Pacific Fleet was almost certain to be in Pearl Harbor on a Sunday morning. They were right. Eighty-six warships of the fleet were spread out before the eager eyes of the Japanese pilots. They included seven battleships — the prime targets in the absence of carriers —

moored close to each other in "Battleship Row", and another, the *Pennsylvania*, in dry dock.

This audacious operation, designed to neutralize the Pacific Fleet in one blow, succeeded in sinking four battleships in a total of 19 warships sunk or disabled. It destroyed 188 military aircraft and damaged 159, and killed 2,403 Americans, 1,000 of them in the battleship *Arizona* which blew up and sank at her mooring early in the attack. For the battle force of the US Pacific Fleet it was the hour of doom.

Japanese losses were light. Only 29 Japanese aircraft failed to make it back to the carriers, and one Japanese I-class submarine and five midget submarines were sunk.

Such a spectacular victory on the first day of war has no parallel in the history of warfare. In Washing-

ton today, President Roosevelt described the Japanese action as "a day that will live in infamy".

The six Japanese carriers, *Akagi*, *Kagi*, *Hiryu*, *Soryu*, *Zuikaku* and *Shokaku*, had met in late November at Takan Bay in the Kuriles and with naval escort, approached in great secrecy to the flying-off position 275 miles north of Hawaii.

The first attacking wave comprised 50 high-level bombers, 40 planes carrying shallow-running torpedoes, 51 dive-bombers and 43 Zero fighters. Their approach was detected by army radar at a distance of 132 miles, but they were thought to be friendly planes.

By 7:40am the Japanese strike force was over Oahu, and 15 minutes later the attack began with dive-bombers blasting the army, navy and marine airfields to neu-

tralize American air power so that the attack on warships could proceed without interference.

The torpedo planes, high-level and dive-bombers attacked the warships initially without any position whatever. Amid the roar of engines and the crash of bombs they turned Pearl Harbor into a smoke-filled inferno of blazing, exploding warships and installations.

At 8:30am a lull developed, but within 45 minutes a second wave of 176 planes launched its attack. They withdrew by 10am and the raid was over. The big disappointment for the Japanese was the absence of the aircraft carriers of the Pacific Fleet which were manoeuvring at the time of the raid. By this action alone, the Japanese have proved the value of big carriers in any naval campaign (→)

Using Source 1

Sourcing Questions	Notice the date of publication of the newspaper. How might this detail be important to understanding the content of the account?
Contextualization Questions	What events led up to the attack on Pearl Harbor? What were American's views of WWII before this event?
Corroboration Tasks	Make connections between this newspaper account and FDR's speech in source #2. What information is not provided in the newspaper account?
Close Reading Questions	What words or phrases does this account use to describe the Pearl Harbor attack? How are these word choices significant?

Source 2: Excerpts from President Franklin Roosevelt's speech to Congress, December 8, 1941

Mr. Vice President, and Mr. Speaker, and Members of the Senate and House of Representatives:

Yesterday, December 7, 1941 -- a date which will live in infamy -- the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan . . .

. . . It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time the Japanese Government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. I regret to tell you that very many American lives have been lost. In addition American ships have been reported torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu . . .

. . . No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory. I believe that I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost but will make it very certain that this form of treachery shall never again endanger us.

Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory, and our interests are in grave danger.

With confidence in our armed forces- with the unbounding determination of our people- we will gain the inevitable triumph- so help us God.

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December 7, 1941, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire . . .

Using Source 2

Sourcing Questions	Who is the audience for FDR's speech? How might that affect the content of the information given? What might be the limitations of FDR giving this speech the day after the attack?
Contextualization Questions	What events led up to the attack on Pearl Harbor? What were American's views of WWII before this event? What actually occurred on December 7th?
Corroboration Tasks	Make connections between source #1 and this speech.
Close Reading Questions	What do you think President Roosevelt was trying to accomplish with this speech, aside from asking for a declaration of war by Congress? How do you know?

Source 3: Casualties from World War 2. <http://necrometrics.com/ww2stats.htm>

	Axis Military	Allied Military	Civilians	Europe-North Africa	Asia-Pacific	TOTAL, in millions
Soviet Union		8,668,000	16,900,000	8,660,000	8,000	25.6m
China	240,000	1,757,000	8,000,000		1,997,000	10.0m
Poland		123,000	6,028,000	123,000		6.1m
Germany	3,500,000		1,600,000	3,500,000		5.1m
East Indies			4,000,000			4.0m
Japan	2,566,000		672,000		2,566,000	3.2m
India		49,000	3,000,000	42,000	7,000	3.0m
French Indochina			2,000,000			2.0m
Yugoslavia		305,000	1,200,000	305,000		1.5m
Romania	350,000	170,000	300,000	520,000		0.8m
France	3,000	250,000	350,000	250,000		0.6m
Czechoslovakia	200,000	46,000	294,000	246,000		540,000
Great Britain		403,000	93,000	397,000	6,000	496,000
Italy	280,000	67,000	93,000	347,000		440,000
Hungary	136,000		294,000	136,000		430,000
USA		405,000	9,000	309,000	96,000	414,000
Korea			400,000			400,000
Greece		17,000	325,000	17,000		342,000
Netherlands		8,000	200,000	8,000		208,000
Philippines		27,000	100,000		27,000	127,000
Belgium		9,000	76,000	9,000		85,000
Finland	80,000		3,000	80,000		83,000
	7.3m	12.3m	45.9m	14.9m	4.7m	65.6m

Using Source 3

Sourcing Questions	Visit the website where this information was collected. Do you consider it to be a reliable source? http://necrometrics.com/ww2stats.htm
Contextualization Questions	What military tactics / weapons were used in World War II that were new or different from previous wars? In general, what accounts for the high number of civilian casualties during WWII?
Corroboration Tasks	
Close Reading Questions	What does the number of Casualties from each country tell you about the war? Compare Japan and the United States. Who lost more? Why are Japan's civilian casualties so high?

Source 4: Proclamation Defining Terms for Japanese Surrender (Excerpted)

Issued, at Potsdam, July 26, 1945

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 this war.
2. The prodigious land, sea and air forces of the United States, the British Empire and of 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 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.
4. Following are our terms. We will not deviate from them. There are no alternatives. We shall brook no delay.
5. 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 to be designated by the Allies shall be occupied to secure the achievement of the basic objectives we are here setting forth.
6. The Japanese military forces, after being completely disarmed, shall be permitted to return to their homes with the opportunity to lead peaceful and productive lives.
7. We do not intend that the Japanese shall be enslaved as a race or destroyed as a nation, but stern justice shall be meted out to all war criminals, including those who have visited cruelties upon our prisoners. . . . Freedom of speech, of religion, and of thought, as well as respect for the fundamental human rights shall be established.
8. Japan shall be permitted to maintain such industries as will sustain her economy and permit the exaction of just reparations in kind, but not those which would enable her to re-arm for war.
9. 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.
10. We call upon the government of Japan to proclaim now the unconditional surrender of all Japanese armed forces, and to provide proper and adequate assurances of their good faith in such action. The alternative for Japan is prompt and utter destruction.

Using Source 4

Sourcing Questions	Who are the authors of this Declaration? What is their purpose in issuing it? What brought these individuals together?
Contextualization Questions	What problems were addressed at the Potsdam Conference? How might the Potsdam Conference have been a challenge for Harry Truman? What developments/actions by the Manhattan Project are relevant to this source?
Corroboration Tasks	Corroborate this declaration with Source #5. What does this source reveal about developments with the Atomic Bomb?
Close Reading Questions	What are the major demands being made upon Japan by the Potsdam Declaration? Are these demands reasonable? Why or why not?

Source 5: Henry Stimson to Harry S. Truman, April 24, 1945. Truman Papers, Confidential File. War Department

White House Central Files
Confidential Files

SECRET

WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON

*C.F.
War*

*25
file*

April 24, 1945.

*Law
4-25-45*

Dear Mr. President:

I think it is very important that I should have a talk with you as soon as possible on a highly secret matter.

I mentioned it to you shortly after you took office but have not urged it since on account of the pressue you have been under. It, however, has such a bearing on our present foreign relations and has such an important effect upon all my thinking in this field that I think you ought to know about it without much further delay.

x386

Faithfully yours,

Henry L. Stimson

Secretary of War. *x25*



The President,
The White House.

Ma H

Put on list tomorrow, Wed. 25, H.S.

DECLASSIFIED

E. O. 11652, Sec. 3(E) and 3(D) or (F)

OSD letter, April 12, 1974

By NLT, *HC*, NARS Date *2-2-76*

SECRET

Using Source 5

Sourcing Questions	What is significant about the date of this letter? Why might the Secretary of War need to speak to Truman at this time? What are the duties of the President in relation to the conduct of WWII?
Contextualization Questions	How and when did Harry Truman become president? How is the war going at the time of this letter's creation?
Corroboration Tasks	
Close Reading Questions	Harry Stimson is vague about the "highly secret matter". What <i>secret</i> is he referring to? Why is it secret? How might this secret be important to US Foreign relations? Can you predict what problems or solutions might be impacted by this development?

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Misc.

August 9, 1945

Dear Dick:

I read your telegram of August seventh with a lot of interest.

I know that Japan is a terribly cruel and uncivilized nation in warfare but I can't bring myself to believe that, because they are beasts, we should ourselves act in the same manner.

x197
xPP7185

For myself, I certainly regret the necessity of wiping out whole populations because of the "pighheadedness" of the leaders of a nation and, for your information, I am not going to do it unless it is absolutely necessary. It is my opinion that after the Russians enter into war the Japanese will very shortly fold up.

x220

My object is to save as many American lives as possible but I also have a humane feeling for the women and children in Japan.

x190

Sincerely yours,

HARRY S. TRUMAN

Honorable Richard B. Russell xPP71072
Winder xJen
Georgia

x190-Misc.

Using Source 6

Sourcing Questions	We see that Truman received a telegram on August 7th. What was the Telegram likely about? Do some research on Richard B. Russell. Who is he? Why would he would he feel comfortable writing to Truman? Why would Truman write a personal letter back to Russell?
Contextualization Questions	What military actions had the US taken against Japan prior to August 6th? What happened on August 9th, the day Truman replied in this letter?
Corroboration Tasks	Does Truman's assessment of the Japanese nation match the rest of American? Research this topic. Make connections between this letter and the Potsdam Declaration.
Close Reading Questions	What are President Truman's main concerns as he works to end World War II? How do you know?

Source 7: Translation of leaflet dropped on the Japanese (AB-11), August 6, 1945. Miscellaneous Historical Documents Collection. 258

2. A translation of the above leaflet follows:

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 to 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 these 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

3. Below is a copy of the second leaflet (AB-12) which was dropped on Japanese cities in conjunction with the Atomic Bomb.

~~SECRET~~
DCR No. 5200.10, June 29, 1950
Classified by SE Date 12-12-62

DECLASSIFIED
DOD Dir. 5200.10
Classified By SE Date 8-17-77

Using Source 7

Sourcing Questions	This content was a leaflet, dropped on Japanese cities. What is the purpose of communicating this way? Why not some other way? Why was this memo produced in English? What do you think its purpose was in this format?
Contextualization Questions	This leaflet was dropped after the first atomic bomb was delivered. What happened when that bomb was dropped on Hiroshima?
Corroboration Tasks	The source refers to the “ <i>thirteen consequences of honorable surrender.</i> ” Which of the previous sources you have examined was the leaflet referring to? Why might the Japanese have had a hard time accepting those terms?
Close Reading Questions	What actions does this source suggest the Japanese people take? What reasons or rationale are given?

~~SECRET~~

July 17, 1945

A PETITION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

Discoveries of which the people of the United States are not aware may affect the welfare of this nation in the near future. The liberation of atomic power which has been achieved places atomic bombs in the hands of the Army. It places in your hands, as Commander-in-Chief, the fateful decision whether or not to sanction the use of such bombs in the present phase of the war against Japan.

We, the undersigned scientists, have been working in the field of atomic power. Until recently we have had to fear that the United States might be attacked by atomic bombs during this war and that her only defense might lie in a counterattack by the same means. Today, with the defeat of Germany, this danger is averted and we feel impelled to say what follows:

The war has to be brought speedily to a successful conclusion and attacks by atomic bombs may very well be an effective method of warfare. We feel, however, that such attacks on Japan could not be justified, at least not unless the terms which will be imposed after the war on Japan were made public in detail and Japan were given an opportunity to surrender.

If such public announcement gave assurance to the Japanese that they could look forward to a life devoted to peaceful pursuits in their homeland and if Japan still refused to surrender our nation might then, in certain circumstances, find itself forced to resort to the use of atomic bombs. Such a step, however, ought not to be made at any time without seriously considering the moral responsibilities which are involved.

The development of atomic power will provide the nations with new means of destruction. The atomic bombs at our disposal represent only the first step in this direction, and there is almost no limit to the destructive power which will become available in the course of their future development. Thus a nation which sets the precedent of using these newly liberated forces of nature for purposes of destruction may have to bear the responsibility of opening the door to an era of devastation on an unimaginable scale.

If after this war a situation is allowed to develop in the world which permits rival powers to be in uncontrolled possession of these new means of destruction, the cities of the United States as well as the cities of other nations will be in continuous danger of sudden annihilation. All the resources of the United States, moral and material, may have to be mobilized to prevent the advent of such a world situation. Its prevention is at present the solemn responsibility of the United States--singled out by virtue of her lead in the field of atomic power.

The added material strength which this lead gives to the United States brings with it the obligation of restraint and if we were to violate this obligation our moral position would be weakened in the eyes of the world and in our own eyes. It would then be more difficult for us to live up to our responsibility of bringing the unloosened forces of destruction under control.

In view of the foregoing, we, the undersigned, respectfully petition: first, that you exercise your power as Commander-in-Chief, to rule that the United States shall not resort to the use of atomic bombs in this war unless the terms which will be imposed upon Japan have been made public in detail and Japan knowing these terms has refused to surrender; second, that in such an event the question whether or not to use atomic bombs be decided by you in the light of the considerations presented in this petition as well as all the other moral responsibilities which are involved.

R. E. Shapp
O. D. Mulliken
E. P. Wigzell
Georges. M. M...
Leo Hilbert

J. G. Wilson
W. T. Zacharias
Francis R. S. ...
John C. Simpson
Walter Bartray
John R. Howey

Frankly Forte

DECLASSIFIED
NND 73 00 39
By _____
NARS, Date _____

Using Source 8

Sourcing Questions	<p>The source was co-signed by a group of people. Who are these individuals? Why is their opinion relevant to the topic of the atomic bomb?</p> <p>Consider the date of the letter? Why is that significant? Compare this date with source 4 and 5.</p> <p>Research any of the individuals who signed the letter. What is the role of these specific scientists?</p>
Contextualization Questions	<p>Research the Manhattan Project. How was it created?</p> <p>What is the state of the war in July 1945?</p>
Corroboration Tasks	<p>Compare this date with source 4 and 5.</p> <p>What options are shared regarding the terms of surrender of the Japanese? How do these compare with the Potsdam demands?</p>
Close Reading Questions	<p>Do the scientists agree with the use of the atomic bomb? If so, under what conditions?</p>

Source 9: Minutes of Meeting held at the White House, June 18, 1945. Miscellaneous Historical Documents Collection. 736.

1. DETAILS OF THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST JAPAN

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 set out in Admiral Leahy's memorandum to the Joint Chiefs of Staff of 14 June. He asked General Marshall if he would express his opinion.

GENERAL MARSHALL pointed out that the present situation with respect to operations against Japan was practically identical with the situation which had existed in connection with the operations proposed against Normandy. He then read, as an expression of his views, the following digest of a memorandum prepared by the Joint Chiefs of Staff for presentation to the President (J.C.S. 1388):

Our air and sea power has already greatly reduced movement of Jap shipping south of Korea and should in the next few months cut it to a trickle if not choke it off entirely. Hence, there is no need for seizing further positions in order to block Japanese communications south of Korea.

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.

Campaign	U.S. Casualties		Jap Casualties	Ratio
	Killed, wounded, missing		Killed and Prisoners (Not including wounded)	U.S. to Jap
Leyte	17,000		78,000	1:4.6
Luzon	31,000		156,000	1:5.0
Iwo Jima	20,000		25,000	1:1.25
Okinawa	34,000 (Ground) 7,700 (Navy)		81,000 (not a complete count)	1:2
Normandy (1st 30 days)	42,000		- - -	- - -

The record of General MacArthur's operations from 1 March 1944 through 1 May 1945 shows 13,742 U.S. killed compared to 310,165 Japanese killed, or a ratio of 22 to 1.

There is reason to believe that the first 30 days in Kyushu should not exceed the price we have paid for Luzon. It is a grim fact that there is not an easy, bloodless way to victory in war and it is the thankless task of the leaders to maintain their firm outward front which holds the resolution of their subordinates. Any irresolution in the leaders may result in costly weakening and indecision in the subordinates. It was this basic difficulty with the Primo

GENERAL MARSHALL said that it was his personal view that the operation against Kyushu was the only course to pursue. He felt that air power alone was not sufficient to put the Japanese out of the war. It was unable alone to put the Germans out. General Eaker and General Eisenhower both agreed to this. Against the Japanese, scattered through mountainous country, the problem would be much more difficult than it had been in Germany. He felt that this plan offered the only way the Japanese could be forced into a feeling of utter helplessness. The operation would be difficult but not more so than the assault in Normandy. He was convinced that every individual moving to the Pacific should be indoctrinated with a firm determination to see it through.

Using Source 9

Sourcing Questions	<p>What is the setting of this source? Who can you tell was present? Who might you infer was present?</p> <p>How might this source have been created?</p>
Contextualization Questions	<p>The Okinawa campaign was wrapping up as these source was created. What happened during the two months of that campaign?</p> <p>Examine a map of the region. Why might there be a need to explore invasion options at this time?</p>
Corroboration Tasks	<p>Make a timeline of the sources for this lesson. How does this source fit with other pieces of information?</p>
Close Reading Questions	<p>Why is the table of casualties included in this report? What does this information mean?</p> <p>Detail the options of defeating Japan in this source, along with the assessments of military leaders provided. What pros and cons can you determine for each?</p>

