

World and a defiance on u.s's pride. and

[Life](#), [Friendship](#)



World War 2 was a war that involved the majority of the world's countries. It lasted from 1939 to 1945 and was formed by 2 opposing military teams - The Allies (U. S, U. K, Russia & China) vs the Axis powers (Germany, Japan & Italy). By the end of the war, the cities of Japan - Hiroshima and Nagasaki - suffered a pernicious attack, that involved 2 atomic bombs, driven by the Americans.

This is an event that has, and still raises many questions regarding the reasons behind it. Despite the U. S being one of the Allies' leaders, it officially only entered WW2 two years after it had begun, on December 8, 1941. Up until then, they had remained neutral in the war, providing war materials to the Allies, and meanwhile, tensions between the United States and Japan had been consistently escalating. It was when Japan launched a surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, a U. S military naval base located in Hawaii, on December 7, 1941, that the U. S entered the war.

This attack was portrayed to the American population as an act of treachery and cowardice. It was indeed wrongful, but it was also taken as an offence and a defiance on U. S's pride. And so with this, U. S declared war on Japan and, in response, Germany and Italy also declared war on the United States, making them officially part of WW2. Although the attack was the breaking-point for the entry of the U. S in the war, they showed that, like the rest of the world, the main reason they decided to enter was for a greater humanitarian cause - to put a permanent end to the horrific fascist regimes and to foster democracy around the world.

It is indeed true this was one of the main reasons, but it seems to be too simple. Was it only and mainly about these humanitarian purposes? Weren't there other interests involved? As it has been speculated by Howard Zinn in "A People's History of the United States" (2005): Did the behavior of the United States show that her war aims were humanitarian, or centered on power and profit? Was she fighting the war to end the control by some nations over others or to make sure the controlling nations were friends with the United States?" (p. 411, 412). He then shows an interesting fact that demonstrates this other interest in war, explaining that in Autumn of 1941, President Roosevelt (U. S) and Winston Churchill (U. K) had met and established the Atlantic Charter - An agreement that set forth goals for the postwar years, such as freedom of the seas, global cooperation, self-government and no unwilling territorial changes.

But, in contradiction, the U. S had earlier implied they would help the French regain their overseas empire (Indochina) after war, which goes against the "self-government" ethic. This shows that they were interested in making friendships with other nations, nevertheless, it's understandable that the U.

S wants good alliances to have what's best for them, as well as any other country. War in Europe was finally over when Germany signed its 'Instrument of Surrender' on May 8, 1945. However, Japan did not accept the terms for unconditional surrender, and the war in the Pacific Ocean continued. In the mean time, the U. S were starting to plan a huge main-land invasion on Japan, codenamed "Operation Downfall". After Americans successfully tested the first atomic bomb in July 16, 1945, the Allies called for

the unconditional surrender of Japan once again, on July 26, 1945, under the so called ' Postdam Declaration', threatening that, ifrejecting, they would face ' prompt and utter destruction'. Japan once again refused to surrender unconditionally and the U.

S did nothessitate to carry out they're threat. And so, on August 6, 1945, the uranium gun-type bomb named " Little Boy" wasdropped on Hiroshima. The results were catastrophic; almost everything within a3 mile radius was completely destroyed. Accordingto the " Manhattan Engineer District" this massive blast caused approximately135.

000 casualties, of which an estimated 66. 000 died, and 69. 000 were injured(Atomic Archive).

And according to journalist and historian Daniel Ford (2017), another 20. 000 deaths can be added if counting the Korean slave workers thatlived in Japan, rounding it up to 80. 000 (assuming they didn't all die). The main cause of these deaths were obliteration, burns, falling debris andradiation exposure.