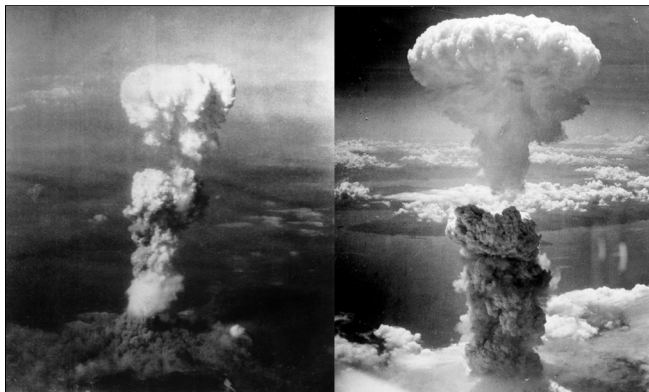


The Decision to Use the Bomb

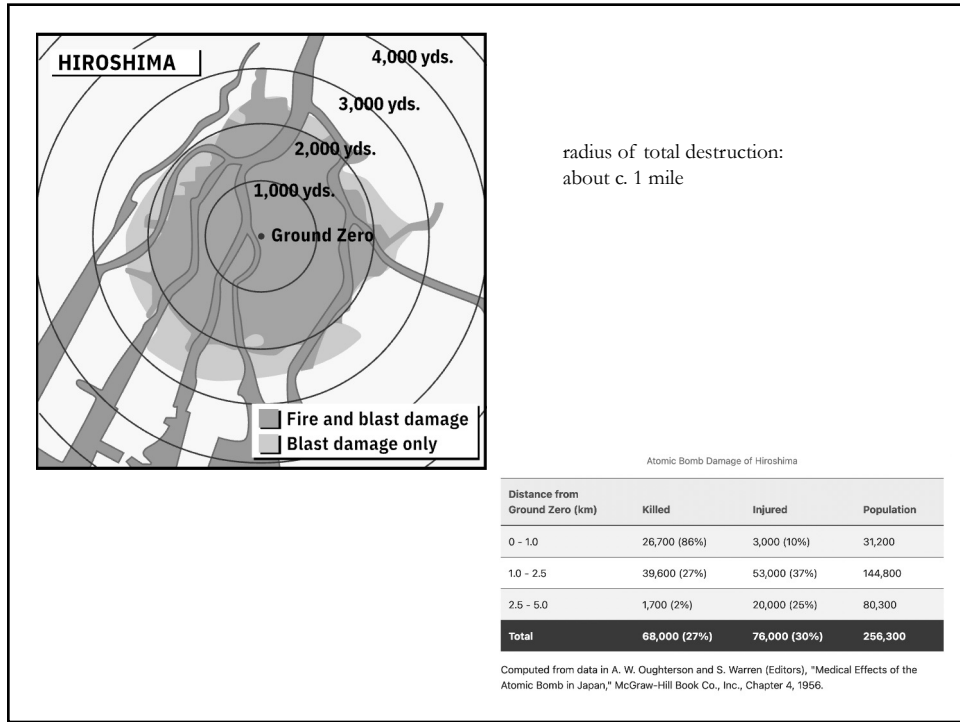


1

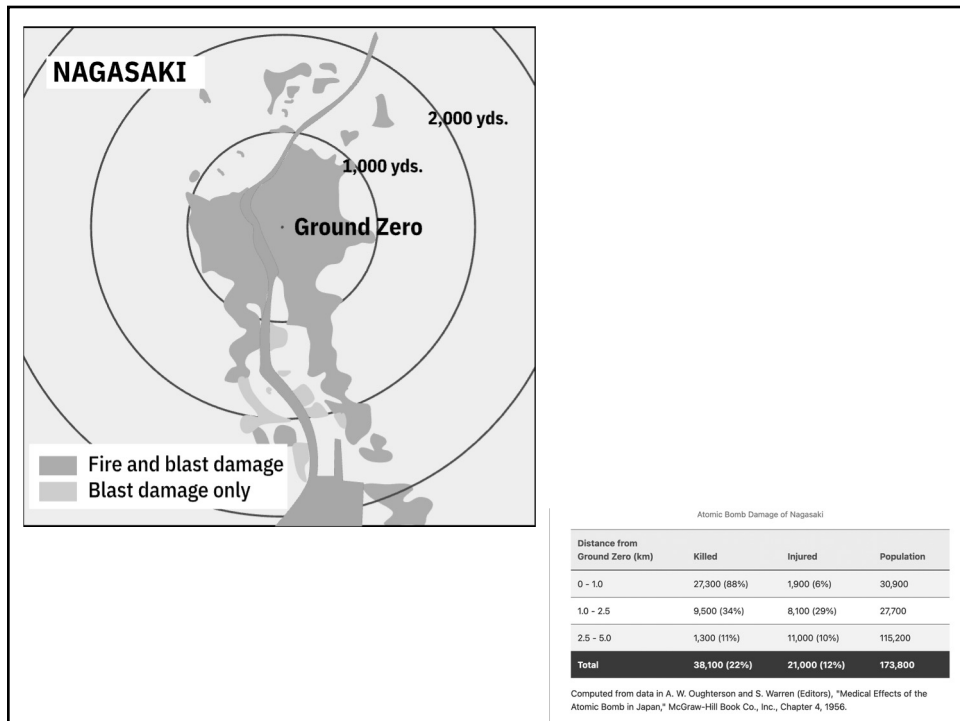
- First explosion (in secret)
 - July 16, 1945: Alamogordo, New Mexico
 - Trinity ("the gadget"): implosion-design plutonium device
- Two bombs dropped
 - August 6, 1945: Hiroshima
 - Little Boy (gun-type uranium-based device)
 - August 9, 1945: Nagasaki
 - Fat Man (implosion-design plutonium device)



2



3



4

- Total fatalities: basically unknowable
- estimates vary depending on what you count
- Essay by Alex Wellerstein, “Counting the Dead at Hiroshima and Nagasaki”

5

Wellerstein, “The Decision to Use the Bomb: A Consensus View?”

- When did controversy over the use of the atomic bomb become a public issue?
- Henry Stimson’s article “The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb” (February 1947)
- What is the ‘traditional’ argument?
- What is the ‘revisionist’ argument?
- What is the ‘consensus’ view?

6

- The article by Tucker and Alvarez quotes a government report which describes 'the most significant hazard of the Manhattan project.' In your own words, summarize what this 'hazard' is referring to. Based on the information presented here, do you find that scientists and administrators of the Manhattan Project should be held accountable? Or should they be excused from guilt because of the importance of the Trinity test?