



*THE ASIA PACIFIC WAR:
COLLAPSE AND
CONSEQUENCE
1942-1945*

-Derek Smith-
MBSS

Collapse & Consequence 1942-1945

Contraction

- *In June 1942, the US forces won the **Battle of Midway**, a turning point in the war.*
- *Through 1943-4, the Americans used a strategy called **Island Hopping**, slowly pushing the Japanese back.*



THE ISLAND-SPEARER

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Desperate Defiance

- *The Japanese were determined to fight to the death.*
- *In the **Battle of Saipan** (June-July '44) the Japanese lost 29,000 of 31,000 soldiers.*
- *Saipan saw the largest suicide Banzai charge of the war: 4,300 Japanese soldiers died.*
- *There were over 1,000 civilian suicides (encouraged by the Emperor).*
- ***Iwo Jima** (Feb. '45), proved the tenacity of Japanese soldiers: of over 22,000, only 212 were captured alive.*



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Kamikaze Attacks

- *As Japan became more desperate, in late 1944, Special Attack Units were formed, known now as "Kamikaze" (Divine Wind).*
- *Pilots deliberately crashed their planes into US ships (19% success rate)*
- *3,800 Kamikaze pilots died, killing more than 7,000 US servicemen.*



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What does Kamikaze mean?

- *Kami-God/Kaze-wind=Divine Wind*
- *In 1274 Mongols attempted invasions of Japan. The Japanese repulsed the first attack, and a massive typhoon sank the Mongol fleet as it prepared to retreat.*
- *In 1281, the Mongols attempted a second attack. The Japanese were prepared, and successfully defended against the initial attacks. As the Mongols prepared for a major battle, another typhoon sank the fleet.*
- *Japanese saw these storms as divine intervention, protection from the Gods.*



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Firebombing Tokyo

- *From the islands Saipan & Tinian, B-29s could reach Japan.*
- *Raids started in Feb. 1945 & lasted 7 months.*
- *March 9th, 279 B-29s dropped ~1,700 tons of bombs.*
- *~41 km² of the city were destroyed, ~100,000 people died in the resulting firestorm, (more than Hiroshima or Nagasaki).*
- *~50% of Tokyo was destroyed by the end of the war.*



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Battle of Okinawa

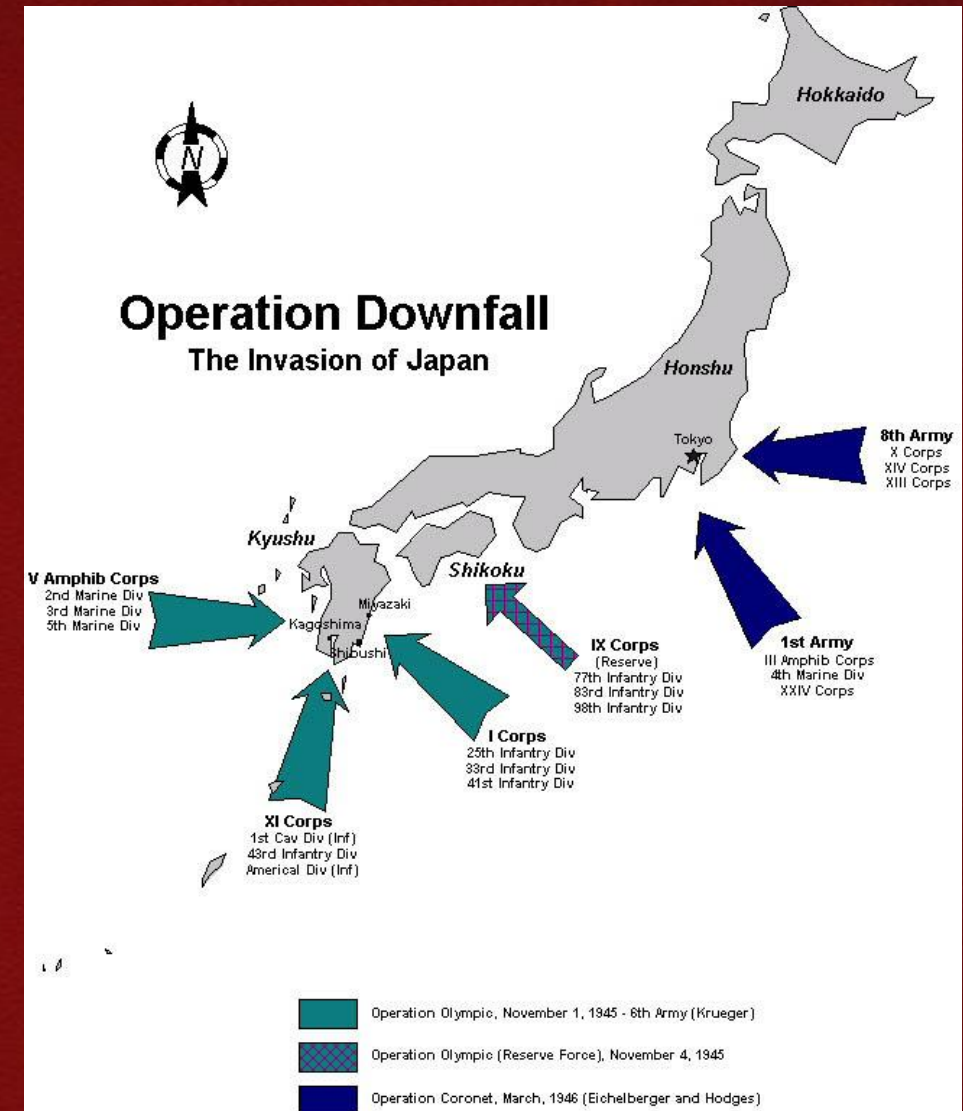
- *The US planned to use Okinawa as the base from which to launch their invasion of Japan.*
- *The US attacked with the largest armada in the Pacific war.*
- *Japan lost 100,000 men in the defense of **Okinawa** (April-June 1945).*
- *Another 100,000 civilians were killed or wounded (many committed suicide rather than face occupation).*



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Operation Downfall

- *The operational plan to invade mainland Japan was never used, but was in place.*
- *Preparations were underway right up to the surrender of Japan.*
- *Casualty estimates varied, but many expected that the attack would cost 1 million US lives and up to 10 million Japanese lives.*



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STRANGE FACTS: Operation Downfall

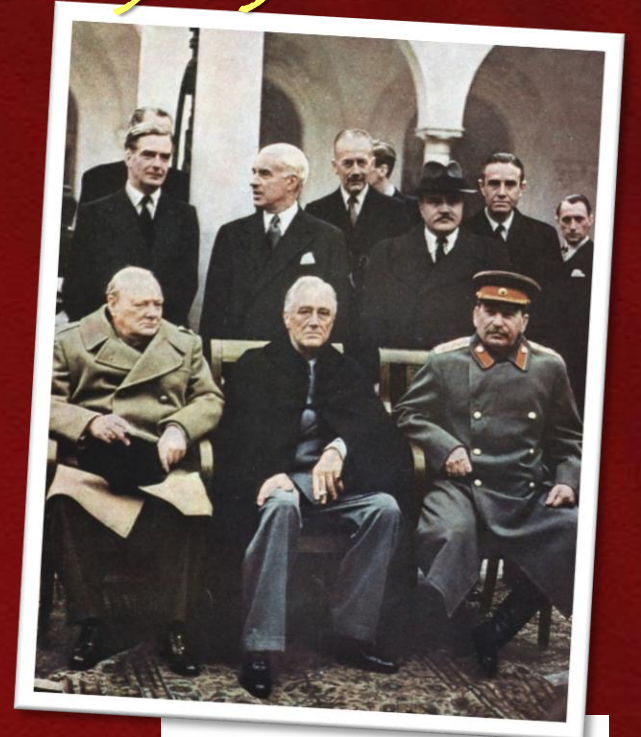
- The operational plan to invade mainland Japan was never used, but was in place and preparations were underway right up to the surrender of Japan.
- *The US manufactured 500,000 purple heart medals in anticipation of the invasion of Japan. This is more than have been needed in the last 65 years (including Korea and Vietnam). In 2003, there were 120,000 of these medals still in stock. There are so many that units in Iraq and Afghanistan carried bulk supplies to award to soldiers in the field.*



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Yalta Conference

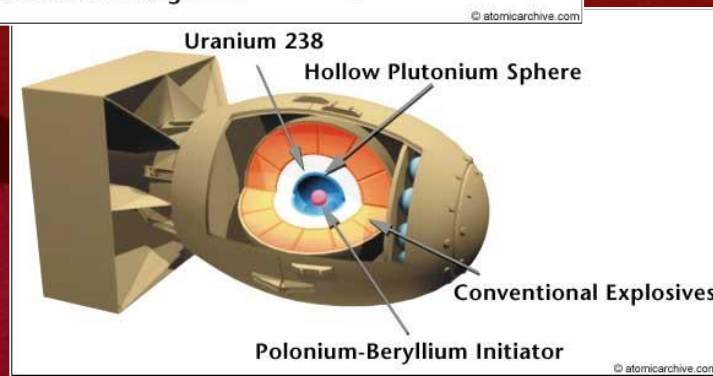
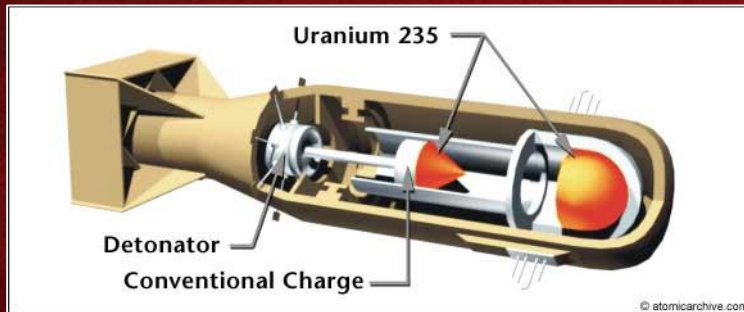
- *In Feb. 1945, Allied leaders met in the USSR Yalta to plan the end of the war.*
- *Stalin committed to joining the fight against Japan within three months after the surrender of Nazi Germany.*
- *The US welcomed this news, hoping to minimize the US losses in Operation Downfall.*
- *BUT, the US didn't want the USSR to gain post war influence in the region after the war.*



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The Manhattan Project 1942-46

- *A secret US Army project to build an atomic bomb.*
- *They built 3 bombs- Trinity, Little Boy & Fat Man.*
- *Fat Man was based on collapsing pressure on a single mass of uranium, and Little Boy was based on a uranium bullet being shot at another mass.*



Bomb	Country	Yield (Kt)
Trinity ('45)	US	19
Littleboy ('45)	US	15
Fatman ('45)	US	21
Castle ('54)	US	15,000
Tsar Bomba ('61)	USSR	57,000

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The Potsdam Declaration

- *July 26, 1945, a declaration was issued by Truman, Churchill, and Chiang Kai-Shek at the Potsdam Conference in Germany.*
- *It outlined the terms for unconditional Japanese surrender, stating that if Japan did not surrender, it would face "prompt and utter destruction."*
- *The Japanese rejected the declaration by ignoring it.*
- *The United States then formalized its plans to use atomic weapons on Japan to encourage Japanese surrender.*



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Hiroshima

- *Aug 6, 1945, **The Enola Gay**, a B-29, dropped Little Boy over Hiroshima.*
- *Hiroshima was home to 2nd Army headquarters, an important supply port, and had a wartime population of ~350,000.*
- *"Little Boy" detonated at 8:15am, instantly killing about 80,000.*
- *About another 100,000 would die from injuries and radiation sickness.*



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Enter Stage North: USSR

- Aug 8: the USSR kept its promise to join the war within 3 months of the Nazi surrender, (May 8).
- They told Japan a state of war would exist as of Aug. 9.
- Aug. 9, 12:01am: The USSR invaded Manchukuo, unaware that the US would bomb Nagasaki that morning.



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Nagasaki

- *On Aug 9, 1945, "Bock's Car" dropped Fat Man over Nagasaki.*
- *Nagasaki had many arms factories, including the torpedoes used at Pearl Harbor.*
- *Nagasaki's wartime population was ~210,000.*
- *Fat Man detonated 3km away from the aiming point, limiting the blast to a valley area.*
- *By the end of the year, ~80,000 had died.*



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Impact of the Bombs

- *Those in the fireball were vaporized or turned to carbon.*
- *Survivors, suffered severe burns melted skin off of bodies, milder burns healed with tough keloid scars.*
- *Some drank the black rain that fell after the blast.*
- *Many suffered radiation sickness. Hair would fall out, blood would not clot and vomiting of blood and black fluid would precede death.*



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THE DEBATE

- *Was the US justified in dropping the bomb?*

Justified	NOT Justified
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•The Japanese were given a chance to surrender.•The bombs forced Japanese surrender- quickly ending the war & limiting deaths.•They prevented massive casualties on both sides if an invasion was launched.•Japan was the aggressor nation•Japan was still waging war in China•Prisoners needed to be liberated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•They were militarily unnecessary; Japan could have been defeated without them (invasion, blockade)•The bombings were inherently immoral; they targeted civilians•No warnings were given•It was just a test to measure the weapons•The use of these weapons was a War Crime

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Surrender Announced

- *Aug. 14, Japan agreed to accept the terms of the Potsdam Declaration.*
- *Aug. 15, 1945- Emperor Hirohito, in a radio address to the nation, announced the surrender of Japan.*
- *Considered a living God, most people had never heard his voice.*
- *He told the people that they must bear the unbearable.*
- *Aug 15 became known as VJ Day (Victory over Japan)*
- *Japanese representatives flew to the Philippines to meet with MacArthur & prepare for the US occupation of Japan.*

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Americans Arrive in Japan

- *The 3rd Fleet, led by the battleship USS Missouri, sailed into Tokyo Harbour.*

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Surrender Signed

On September 2, 1945, Japanese representatives gathered on the on the deck of the USS Missouri.

NOTE: The USS Missouri, the flagship for Admiral Halsey's 3rd Fleet, led the armada which sailed into Tokyo Bay. It also had the most deck space for the ceremony. It has been suggested that Truman wanted the ceremony on the Missouri because that was his home state & it had been christened by his daughter when it launched. That's a nice story, but it was really just the flagship!



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THE MIGHTY MO

The battleship USS Missouri was the last commissioned battleship in the US Navy. Pearl Harbor was the end of the era of battleships and the start of the era of aircraft carriers. Regardless, the Missouri (the Mighty Mo), would go on to serve in the Korean War before being mothballed (retired). In the 1980's it was retrofitted and brought back into service and served in Desert Storm (liberation of Kuwait - 1991). It was decommissioned in 1992 and was eventually brought to Pearl Harbor to be moored next to the Arizona, as a museum and bookend to the story of America's war with Japan.



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War Crimes & The Treaty

- *The International Military Tribunal for the Far East (IMTFE), ran from May 1946 to November 1948.*
- *The IMTFE was less than ideal:*
 - *The Imperial family was never charged*
 - *Dr. Shiro Ishii was never charged in exchange for his medical research data from Unit 731*
 - *Many who were charged were never brought to trial.*
 - *By 1958, all prisoners were paroled.*
- *In 1951, the San Francisco Peace Treaty formally ended the war between Japan and the Western powers.*
- *The US was eager to rebuild Japan as a strategic ally in the Pacific, and many are critical of their willingness to "look the other way" after the war ended.*

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Occupation & Zones of Influence

- *Gen. Douglas MacArthur was the Supreme Allied Commander in the Pacific.*
- *He oversaw the 1945-52 US occupation of Japan from Sept. '45 to April '52.*
- *Okinawa was occupied by the US until 1972*
- *China took over administration of Taiwan.*
- *Korea was administered in the north by the Soviets (installed **Kim Il-sung**), and the Americans in the south, (installed **Syngman Rhee**).*

