



'If men looked like their minds, what a frightening world this would be.'

Anonymous

MYTHS OF HIROSHIMA & NAGASAKI

by O.E. Delmos

Part of the sacred mythology propounded by our media and our textbooks is the story of the end of World War II. According to the official [i.e. American] liturgy, the two atom bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August, 1945 constituted almost noble deeds for they not only brought history's most devastating war to an end; they also saved thousands of lives. This version is still widely accepted, even in Canada.

These are the official myths. Now what is the truth? The most overwhelming truth — though this is hardly appreciated by most of us — is the unprecedented and incomprehensible brutality of these two acts whose inhumanity cannot be compared to any other SINGLE event in man's bloody history. To fully understand these aspects of the atom bombings one must take a closer look at the motives that produced such monstrous deeds.

It is to the credit of several American leaders at the time that they were men who strongly opposed the dropping of the two bombs for purely moral reasons. However, the "hawks", headed by President Truman, won in the end, and the two massacres were carried out as ordered.

In this connection it is most important to keep in mind that Japan had been suing for peace for several months prior to the bombings. Japan was willing to surrender, the question was just how and under what conditions. More important still, even if she wanted to Japan was unable to carry on the war much longer, for the onslaught of the Allied armies had increasingly weakened her to the point where her total economic and military collapse was only a question of a few months at the very most.

If, under these circumstances [which, incidentally, have been very well documented], the U.S.

government wanted to demonstrate its destructive weapon, it could have done so in a variety of ways without killing, torturing and crippling hundreds of thousands of innocent and defenceless people. For instance, the bomb could have been demonstrated on an uninhabited island in the presence of international observers; also, the mere threat of its use — made through the appropriate diplomatic channels — may have been sufficient. But none of these more humane and obvious steps were taken. And the reason for these seemingly incomprehensible facts is that the two atom bombings had next to nothing to do with Japan's surrender. For the bombs were used primarily for two entirely different reasons, which are:—

1. To prevent meaningful Russian gains in the Far East. The Soviet Union had entered the war against Japan just before the bombs were dropped, and the Soviet military successes that were inevitable in view of Japan's imminent collapse would have given the Russians, and possibly some other powers, a slice of the Japanese pie. The Americans may have been genuinely afraid of Soviet designs in the Far East, but this hardly entitled them to massacre what under the circumstances were innocent bystanders. By insignificantly hastening Japan's surrender, the atom bombings stopped the Soviet advances, which means that the tactical use of the bombs was directed primarily at America's ally, and not at the enemy!

2. To ensure the kind of peace its government obviously envisioned, the USA had to be credible not only as the world's strongest power, but also as a power that is willing to "lay down the law", i.e. is determined to have its own way under all circumstances. Both purposes were admirably served by dropping the atom bombs on densely populated areas.

As for the human, or rather inhuman, aspects of the bombings, here are some relevant figures: Somewhere around 300,000 to 400,000 men, women and children were killed in these two bombings. The exact figure will never, of course, be known, but it has been established that the number of people killed has been greater than the number of ALL U.S. soldiers killed during ALL of World War III! [291,557 American soldiers were killed.]

Hundreds of thousands of A-bomb "survivors" have died slow, agonizing deaths during the past 25 years as a result of the bombings. SINCE AUGUST 1969 ALONE, some 6,000 victims died; i.e. 25 years after the atrocities were committed, and after years of dreadful suffering. Perhaps worst of all, "survivors" of the bombings have, during the past quarter century, produced a number of children who have virtually no brains or who are in some other way dreadfully deformed due to their parents' exposure to atomic radiation. How many more generations will be thus affected is anybody's guess.

No other crime ever committed by man has had such unspeakably horrendous after-effects. Yet in spite of all this, no American government has ever developed enough shame to contribute one single lousy dollar in order to help these tragic A-bomb victims!

To draw the appropriate moral conclusions is, of course, a matter of individual conscience; but who with any conscience at all could ever doubt that there is only one moral position that makes sense to sane men?

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