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Undiplomatic times of a very diplomatic country

72 years ago nearly 80 thousand of Japanese people died simultaneously in Hiroshima due to the first atomic bombing in the world history. 3 days later the number was nearly doubled with one more atomic bomb being dropped on another Japanese city – Nagasaki. Even though deaths have always been one of inevitable results of any war, the world's community still engages in the painful moral torture of wondering whether or not President Truman's decision was right. According to the recent survey made by Pew Research Center in the year 2015, the majority of Americans, particularly 56% still believes in the necessity of such measure [1]. However, despite such tremendous fact, this article is dedicated to the objection of Harry Truman's decision and is written in order to put an emphasize on the greatest mistake made by the United States of America.

First and foremost, in order to give an objective argumentation to the ex-pressed above statement, the situation has to be considered from two different points of view, that include American and Japanese position.

In 1945, the war between the Allies and the Empire of Japan entered its fourth year. As the the Allies advanced towards Japan, the conditions were becoming worse and worse to the Empire and its people: the decline of merchant fleet, the deterioration of civilian economy and the extension of hunger and malnutrition which resulted from the worst rice harvest since 1909. Historians say that by the middle of the 1944, United States had around a hundred aircrafts in The Pacific, which was far more than Japan's twenty-five for the entire war.

Japan, on the other side, was deliberately trying to put all the efforts into fighting in her last battles. All of Japan's allies surrendered, so the empire was considered to be the last step on the way to the end of the global war. Japanese fought fiercely, which made it clear to the USA that their victory would not come at an easy cost. However, the conditions of Japan and its people were poor and economic indicators reached their disastrous levels due to the exhaustion of the last stages of war. The loss of shipping, which affected the fishing fleet, only added fuel to the fire. With the look at all these factors, it was clear that the peace treaty with Japan was only the matter of time. Nevertheless, the "Little Boy" followed by the "Fat Man" reached their targets.

Even though the world community did not convict the policy of the United States for numerous deaths from high radiation doses, a wide range of arguments proves that this decision still has to be ranked as one of the greatest crimes in the history of a mankind.

Firstly, according to the facts led above, it was obvious from the conditions that the Empire of Japan would surrender soon. The only thing that Americans had to do, but failed was to wait until they run out of needed resources and give up. Opposes might say, however, that president Truman's decision to use atomic bombs tended to solve the dilemma of choice – either American boys, or the bomb. Nevertheless, there were other alternatives left that should have been taken into consideration. For example, one of them included to demonstrate the bomb instead of using it order to proof that the continuation of resistance was foolish. After the end of the war, The United States did conduct such experimental demonstrations on small volcanic atolls in the

Pacific. The same could have been done in 1945 to demonstrate the Japanese government and military possible results of the further war. Or, they could have done this at least for maintaining the moral high ground that USA is trying to represent until nowadays [2]. Not without the absence of morality have they created the United Nations at the same year the war was over and definitely not for nothing issued they afterwards the Universal Declaration of human rights that aims at protecting the rights of those that once they neglected.

Secondly, it is noteworthy to mention, that according to the Manhattan Project, the creation of bombs was initially planned as a defensive weapon against Germany, not an offensive one [2]. It was thought to be a deterrent to make other countries, including Germany, think twice before using weapons against United States and its people.

Last but not least, the dropping of atomic bombs was illegal from the law point as well. According to the Hague Convention of 1907, where USA was an ally country, particularly to its IV treaty “ Convention respecting the Laws and Customs of War and Land” [3], the act of bombing Hiroshima and Nagasaki was illegal from 2 sides. Section II, Chapter I Article 25 [3] states that the attack or bombardment by whatever means of towns villages or building that are undefended is forbidden. Though, it is also a well-known fact that cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were civil; there lived and worked civilians who supplied the base for the Japanese military. What is more, article 23 (b) [3] states that it is also prohibited by the convention to kill or treacherously wound individuals belonging to the hostile nation or army. Point D [3] of the same article mentioned that it was also forbidden to employ arms, projectiles or material calculated to cause unnecessary suffering. But as the world knows, there were ashes on houses left from people seconds after a bomb was dropped; others were killed by the destructed objects and many more died in the next following years because of x-ray sickness. The number of people who unnecessarily suffered, doubled up to 160 thousand people because USA did not want to stop on one bomb.

All things considered, I am absolutely sure that since America represents itself as an embodiment of protection for human rights and a role model for others, it has to apologize to the Japanese people and their country for the committed crime. What is more, it feels fare if USA starts paying contributions to the families whose even distant relatives became victims of such aggressive behavior. And as a precaution measure for the future, I am also strongly convinced that the world has to convict USA and Truman guilty for the disastrous effects that such decision evoked.

References:

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