# The Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki: A Tragedy Remembered

On August 6, 1945, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. The bomb exploded with the force of 15,000 tons of TNT, instantly killing an estimated 80,000 people. The city was largely destroyed, and thousands more people died in the weeks and months that followed from radiation poisoning.



#### The Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (Great Historic Disasters) by J. Poolos

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Three days later, on August 9, 1945, the United States dropped a second atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Nagasaki. The bomb exploded with the force of 21,000 tons of TNT, instantly killing an estimated 40,000 people. The city was largely destroyed, and thousands more people died in the weeks and months that followed from radiation poisoning.

The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were the first and only times that atomic weapons have been used in war. These bombings resulted in the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people and had a profound impact on the course of human history.

#### The Decision to Drop the Bomb

The decision to drop the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki was made by President Harry S. Truman. Truman believed that the bombs would force Japan to surrender and end World War II. Truman also believed that the bombs would save American lives that would have been lost in an invasion of Japan.

The decision to drop the atomic bombs was a controversial one. Some people believe that the bombs were necessary to end the war, while others believe that the bombs were a war crime.

#### The Impact of the Bombings

The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki had a devastating impact on the people of Japan. The bombs killed hundreds of thousands of people, injured many more, and left a legacy of radiation-related illnesses.

The bombings also had a profound impact on the course of human history. The bombings showed the world the terrible power of atomic weapons and led to a new era of fear and insecurity.

#### The Legacy of the Bombings

The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are a reminder of the terrible power of nuclear weapons. These bombings also serve as a warning about the dangers of war.

Today, the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are symbols of peace. The people of these cities have worked to build a better world, free from the threat of nuclear war.

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