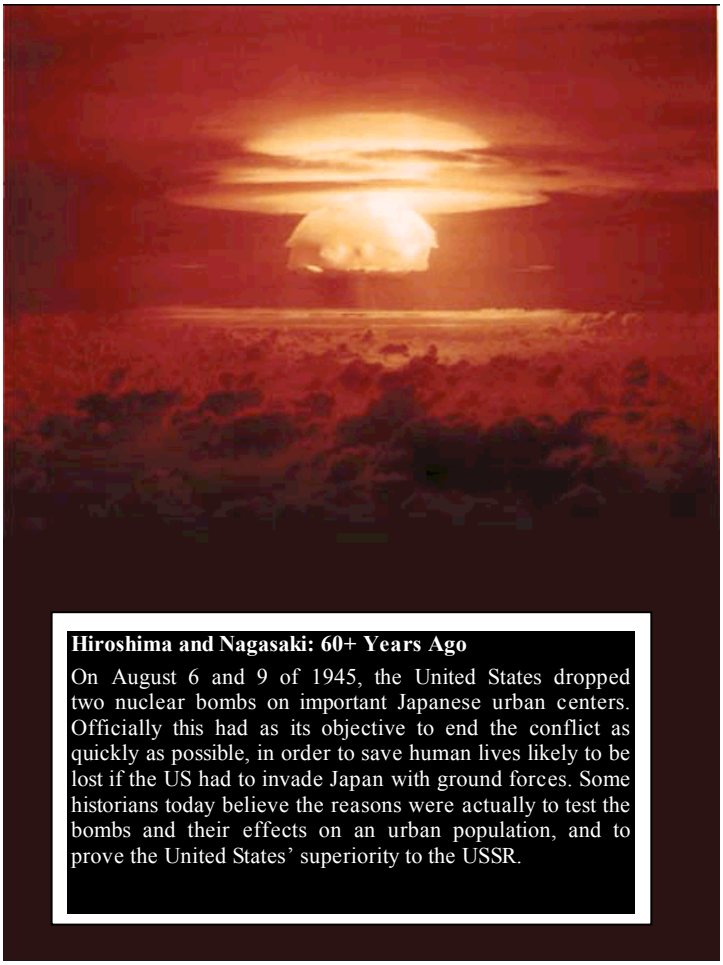
THE REALITY OF NUCLEAR WARFARE



Hiroshima and Nagasaki: 60+ Years Ago

On August 6 and 9 of 1945, the United States dropped two nuclear bombs on important Japanese urban centers. Officially this had as its objective to end the conflict as quickly as possible, in order to save human lives likely to be lost if the US had to invade Japan with ground forces. Some historians today believe the reasons were actually to test the bombs and their effects on an urban population, and to prove the United States' superiority to the USSR.

On August 6 at 8.15 a.m., the US bomber Enola Gay dropped an enriched uranium bomb dubbed "Little Boy" on the city of Hiroshima.

Forty-five seconds later, the bomb released above the city energy that turned the air into a fireball of several million degrees Celsius and about 0.7 mile in diameter. At ground level, the temperature reached several thousand degrees Celsius at the point of impact. Within a radius of 0.7 mile, everything was vaporized and reduced to ashes.

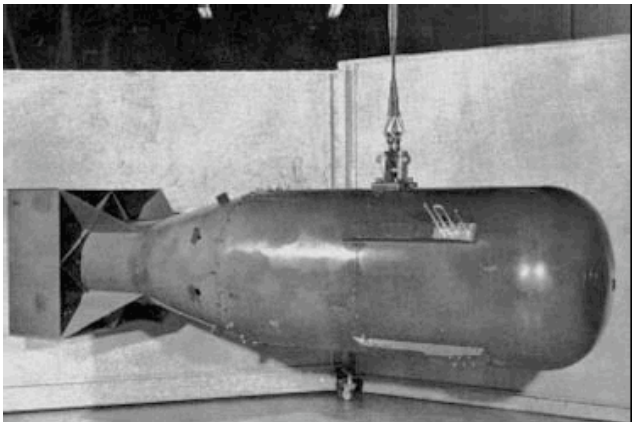
Up to 2.5 miles from the epicenter, buildings and humans went up in flames. People located within a radius of 5 miles were burnt to the third degree.

After the heat came a shock wave that devastated nearly everything on its course. It progressed at a speed averaging 620 mph, like a wall of solid air. Out of the 90,000 buildings of the city, 60,000 were destroyed in a surface area of over 11.5 square miles.

Finally, the explosion released deadly radiation that during the following months and years provoked cancers, leukemia and other grave diseases, causing the death of thousands more victims, continuing even today. Out of the 350,000 inhabitants of Hiroshima at the time of the explosion, more than 200,000 died, 70,000 instantly.

At Nagasaki, on August 9, the bomb "Fat Man", made with plutonium, instantly killed some 40,000 people, with 80,000 dying later. The light generated by the explosion was ten times brighter than the sun.

Today an estimated 300,000 A-Bomb survivors (*Hibakusha* in Japanese) and their descendents continue to suffer the health consequences of these explosions.



Trinity: 60+ Years Since the First Nuclear Test

The first atmospheric nuclear test took place in New Mexico less than one month before a similar type of bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. After the United States signed the Partial Test Ban Treaty in 1962, tests were conducted underground, sometimes in unstable grounds such as the Amchitka Island, Alaska (1971). When the last tests were completed under George H. W. Bush in 1992, a total of 1,030 had been performed in the Pacific Ocean, Nevada, Alaska, Colorado, Mississippi and New Mexico.

The tests exposed the population to nuclear fallout and leaks, in particular after the "Castle Bravo" test of 1954 over the Rongelap and Rongerik Pacific atolls, which had to be subsequently evacuated.