**Hiroshima**

Potsdam Conference  
July 18, 1945

* At the Potsdam Conference, Truman tells Stalin that the US has a “new weapon” that could end the war
* Stalin replies that he hopes they make good use of it against the Japanese
* Russia had already been receiving intelligence about the Manhattan Project since 1941
* Decision to drop the bomb made on the second day of the conference
* Hiroshima, Kokura, Niigata, or Nagasaki (in that order of preference) would be bombed as soon after August 3 as weather permitted.
* Chosen for its psychological effect – none of them had been bombed yet
* Decision made to ask for unconditional surrender of Japan

End of Pacific Front Timeline

* 1941 Japan attacks Pearl Harbor
* June 1942 Battle of Midway turns the tide
* Japan’s resources are thinning and major battles have destroyed most of its ships and planes (left with empty carriers)
* US had learned to decode Japanese communications and thwarted their counter offensives at the Battle of Leyte (Oct 1944), Iwo Jima (Feb-Mar 1945), etc.
* Iwo Jima shows US that Japanese would fight till the death
* 1000 of 20,000 taken alive

Justification for the A-Bomb

1. it would end the war successfully at the earliest possible moment
2. it justified the effort and expense of building the atomic bombs ($2 Billion)
3. it offered hope of achieving diplomatic gains in the growing rivalry with the Soviet Union
4. there were a lack of incentives not to use the weapons
5. because of America's hatred of the Japanese and a desire for vengeance
6. Japanese would fight until the end (Iwo Jima)

Little Boy, Fat Man

* Assembles a "critical mass" of fission fuel fast enough to start a chain reaction: One liberated neutron strikes a uranium nucleus, releasing energy and more neutrons.
* Hiroshima had a civilian population of almost 300,000 and was an important military center, containing about 43,000 soldiers
* 8:15am Little Boy is dropped, 43 seconds later it detonates 1900ft (600m) above ground
* Target is the T-Bridge
* Nagasaki is bombed 3 days after
* After Hiroshima, Japan is given another chance to surrender

Fat Man is launched

* Kills about 40,000 and 20,000 injured

The End

* Japan had failed in controlling the Pacific
* Fleets were gone
* Couldn’t get oil because they couldn’t control the Pacific
* they lost oil, steel, and other supplies so they wouldn’t be able to fight much longer anyway
* Main cities destroyed by fire bombings
* Hiroshima and Nagasaki showed that US would take no mercy (especially Nagasaki)
* Soviets attacked Manchuria after the Hiroshima bomb

The End

* August 14 Emperor’s recording stating that the war was over
* August 15 Truman accepts the surrender
* September 2, Emperor Hirohito’s Foreign Minister signs a formal surrender aboard the [USS Missouri](http://ca.youtube.com/watch?v=vcnH_kF1zXc)