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Should we have dropped the atomic bomb?

It had been four long years, filled with blood, invasions and killing. Americans and the Japanese had endured rough years with the war continuing to rage on as both sides refused to end their fighting. Truman is then faced with the biggest decision of his life, use the atomic bomb to help end the war sooner or let the war progress and cause more chaos. Thousands of casualties on both sides had resulted from the war, and had we continued with it there would’ve been countless more casualties, both civilian and military.

By the end of the 4 years, the number of American and Japanese casualties had run numbers as high as in the range of the hundreds of thousands. Although the Japanese were on the brink of being defeated, they were still mighty in their military numbers as they had a couple million guarding the cities in preparation of defending the country of an invasion by America. No matter what, they would not be subject to unconditional surrender which would further increase the number of casualties had we not used the atomic bomb. The Japanese had seen the Americans as pure evil, they would rather sacrifice their lives than to be in our captivity. President Truman’s decision to use the atomic bomb not only came with the result of Japan surrendering, it also came with the benefit that the lives which would be used to continue with the war would not be wasted in it. Although the bombs would result with a little over 200,000 deaths, civilian and military, it does not outweigh the lives of the near few million which were spared as a result of the war ending on both sides.

Not only would the death count be reduced, in addition it would be a message to the USSR to tread carefully and could be seen as the first glimpse of the beginning of the Cold War and the endings of WWII. However, it wouldn’t stop the Soviets from creating their own nuclear weapons but dropping the atomic bomb was not necessarily meant to prevent them from doing that. It helped keep the Soviet Union in check, keeping the peace between the US and USSR.

With the decision to move forward with the use of nuclear weapons, it was a rather sound choice than to allow the war to progress and millions of more lives to be wasted and the amount of debt which results from war aftermath to increase. The attack on Pearl Harbor was neither expected nor justified, the US had not initiated any violent attacks toward Japan. We were merely showing that we did not support their actions which they were doing to the Chinese by limiting their oil supply. The atomic bomb was mainly a weapon of the war, it was a way to end the war before the death toll and cost rose even higher than they already were. Do the needs of the few outweigh the needs of the many?