

U.S. Power in the Pacific – End of WW II

Questions # 7 - 14



Allied Strategy in the Pacific



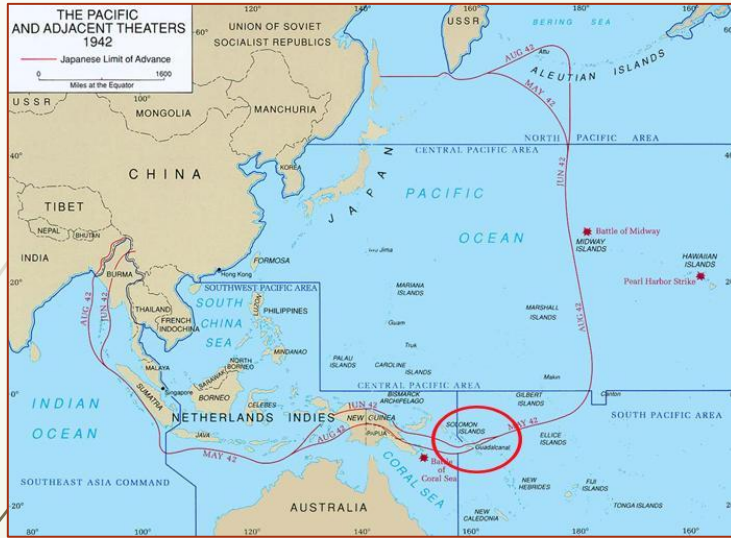
- ** Douglas MacArthur (U.S. general) would re-take the Philippine Islands.
- ** **“Island-hopping:”** Move across the Pacific w/coordinated army, marine / naval attacks in Japanese-held islands; attack the key islands, while leaving others to “wither on the vine.”

World War II in the Pacific 1941–1945



Island victories

- Aug. 1942- Guadalcanal: 19K American troops overrun island in six months.



- Oct. 1944 – **Leyte Gulf**: 178K troops and 738 ships dominate Japanese defenses and re-take the Philippines.





During the Pacific fighting, the Japanese would resort to using **Kamikazes** - pilots that would commit suicide by flying their planes





PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN IN MID YEAR 1967

7 – 10) Iwo Jima & Okinawa

7 - 8) Iwo Jima: 70 K U.S. troops attack island defended by over 22,000 entrenched Japanese troops. 6,000 marines die; 21K Japanese defenders die; over 12,000 U.S. wounded (**Island could be used to bomb mainland Japan**).

9) Napalm-filled firebombs destroyed much of the Japanese infrastructure

10) Okinawa: Apr. – June 1945. 548K Allied troops storm island against 115K Japanese defenders. 18,000 Allied deaths (12K Americans). Over 66K Japanese defenders die.





Albert Einstein and Leo Szilard write a letter to FDR in 1939 warning him that Germany may be attempting to build a new type of weapon: an atomic bomb.

Albert Einstein
Old Grove Rd.
Nassau Point
Peconic, Long Island

August 2nd, 1939

F.D. Roosevelt,
President of the United States,
White House
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Some recent work by E. Fermi and L. Szilard, which has been communicated to me in manuscript, leads me to expect that the element uranium may be turned into a new and important source of energy in the immediate future. Certain aspects of the situation which has arisen seem to call for watchfulness and, if necessary, quick action on the part of the Administration. I believe therefore that it is my duty to bring to your attention the following facts and recommendations:

In the course of the last four months it has been made probable - through the work of Joliot in France as well as Fermi and Szilard in America - that it may become possible to set up a nuclear chain reaction in a large mass of uranium, by which vast amounts of power and large quantities of new radium-like elements would be generated. Now it appears almost certain that this could be achieved in the immediate future.

This new phenomenon would also lead to the construction of bombs, and it is conceivable - though much less certain - that extremely powerful bombs of a new type may thus be constructed. A single bomb of this type, carried by boat and exploded in a port, might very well destroy the whole port together with some of the surrounding territory. However, such bombs might very well prove to be too heavy for transportation by air.

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The United States has only very poor ores of uranium in moderate quantities. There is some good ore in Canada and the former Czechoslovakia, while the most important source of uranium is Belgian Congo.

In view of this situation you may think it desirable to have some permanent contact maintained between the Administration and the group of physicists working on chain reactions in America. One possible way of achieving this might be for you to entrust with this task a person who has your confidence and who could perhaps serve in an unofficial capacity. His task might comprise the following:

a) to approach Government Departments, keep them informed of the further development, and put forward recommendations for Government action, giving particular attention to the problem of securing a supply of uranium ore for the United States;

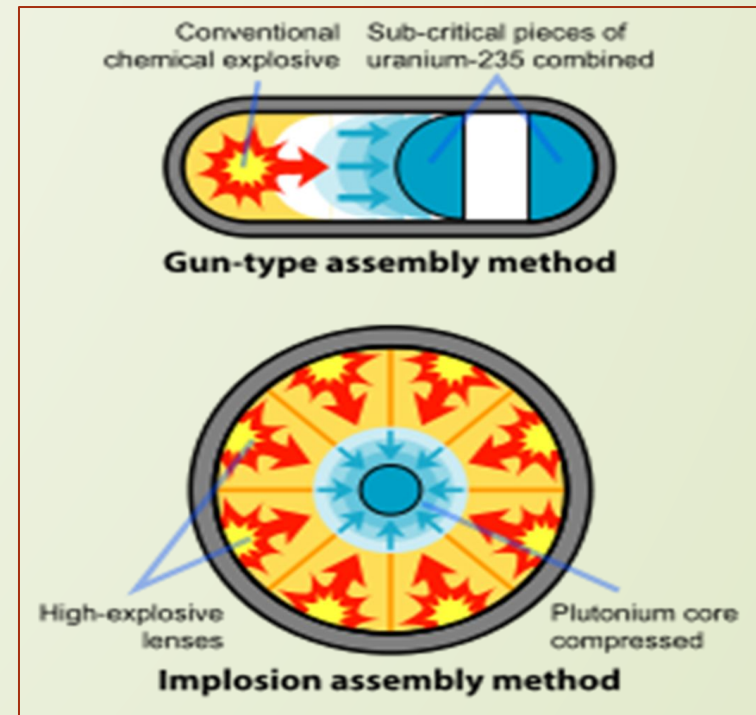
b) to speed up the experimental work, which is at present being carried on within the limits of the budgets of University laboratories, by providing funds, if such funds be required, through his contacts with private persons who are willing to make contributions for this cause, and perhaps also by obtaining the co-operation of industrial laboratories which have the necessary equipment.

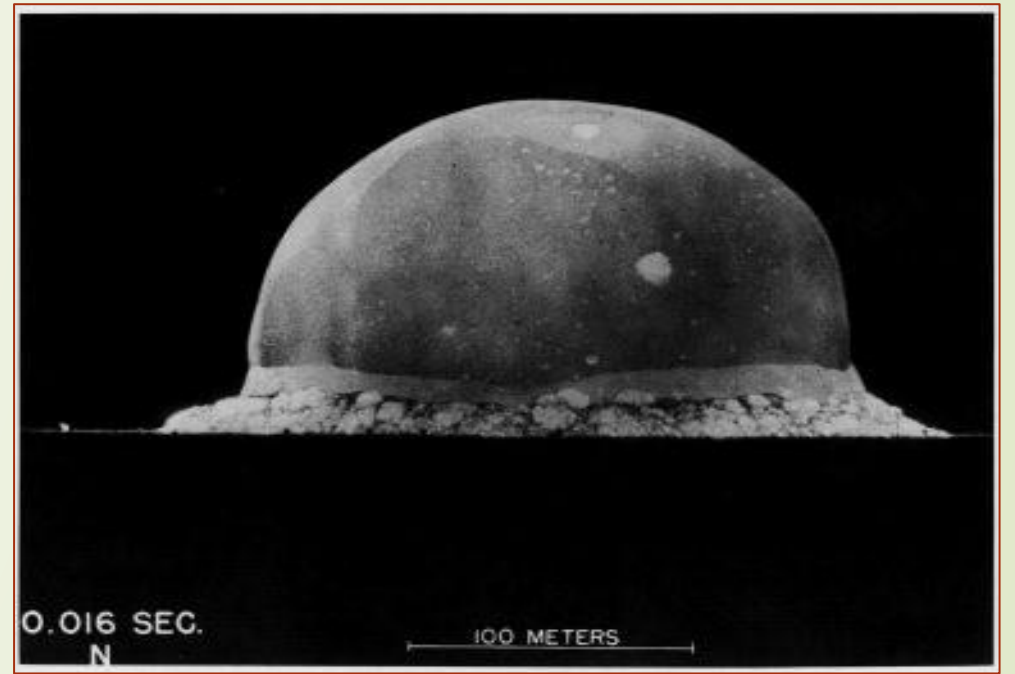
I understand that Germany has actually stopped the sale of uranium from the Czechoslovakian mines which she has taken over. That she should have taken such early action might perhaps be understood on the ground that the son of the German Under-Secretary of State, von Weizsäcker, is attached to the Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institut in Berlin where some of the American work on uranium is now being repeated.

Yours very truly,

A. Einstein
(Albert Einstein)

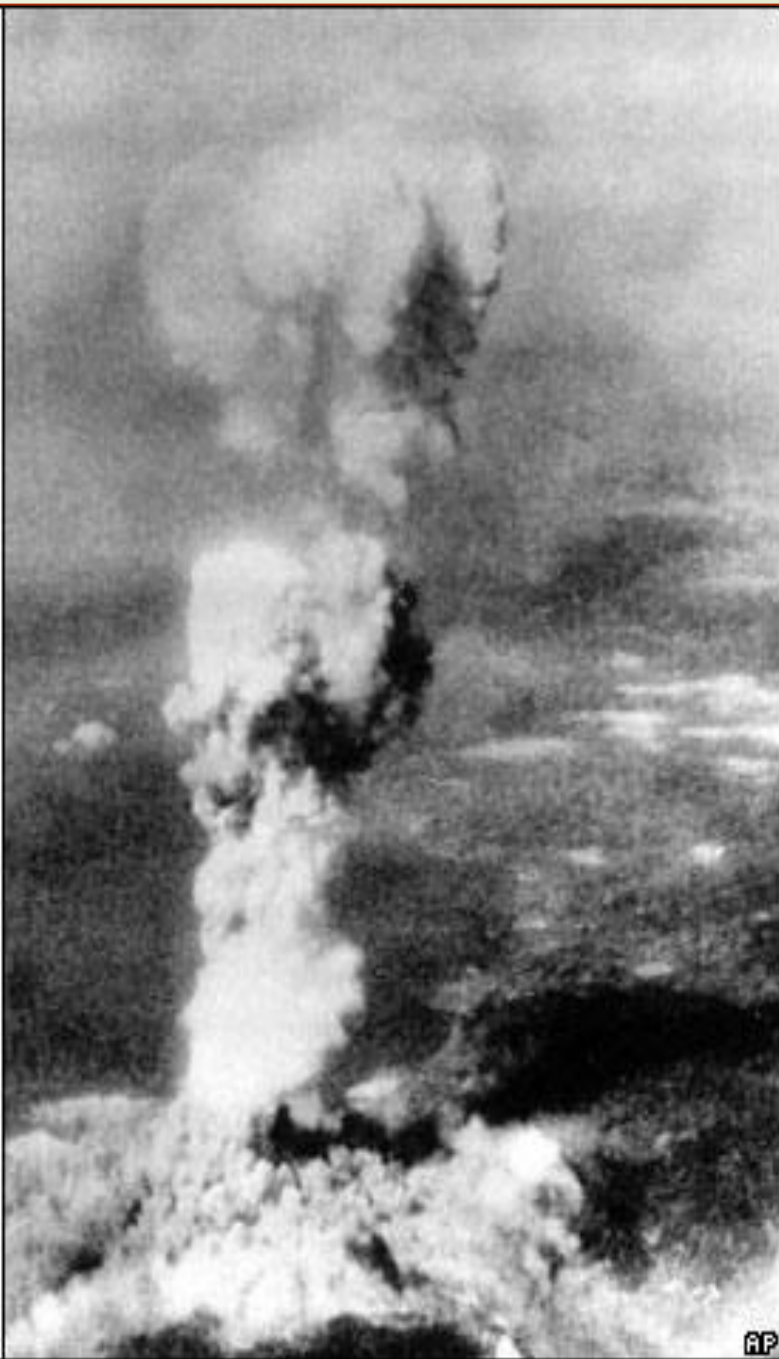
11) The Manhattan Project: This is the name of the U.S. project to construct a nuclear weapon. **General Leslie Groves** and lead scientist **Robert Oppenheimer** will be based at Los Alamos, NM.





12) Truman

- Harry Truman had to decide whether to use new weapons.
- Experts predicted over 1 million Allied casualties in attack on Japanese home islands (at least 120K American deaths).
- On July 25 plans were made to drop the bombs.
- July 26 Truman sends message to Japan warning of “prompt and utter destruction” if no surrender.
- Japan refuses (offer rebuffed on 29 July as well).





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13) Hiroshima & Nagasaki

- August 6: B-29 Bomber “Enola Gay” drops “Little Boy” (code name for A-bomb) over Hiroshima (military production center).
- Much of the city of Hiroshima ceased to exist.
- Japanese leaders are offered a chance to surrender – they refuse.
- August 9: “Fat Man” detonates over Nagasaki (industrial center).

14) V-J Day: August 15, 1945 - WW II is over.

Human Losses

- 72 million people killed in WW II
- Allies lose 61 million (47 million civilians)
- Axis lose 11 million (2 million civilians)
- 25 million soldiers (4 million POW's – almost all Allies)
- Japan lost 2.1 million soldiers & 580K civilians
- America lost 420K soldiers
- Japan was responsible for 22 million civilian deaths in China, SE Asia, Indonesia, The Philippines, and the Pacific Islands. Most deaths due to famine and harsh treatment in