



Rockland Coalition  
for Peace & Justice

# Lesson of our Atomic Bombings



Sixty-four years ago on August 6, the U.S. dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Three days later, the U.S. dropped another atomic bomb on Nagasaki.

**Over 400,000 people died** from the initial incineration and the fallout of the two nuclear bombs!

**They are the most horrific Weapons of Mass Destruction ever used in human history.**

Several U.S. generals decried the bomb. **Gen. D. Eisenhower said, “The Japanese were ready to surrender and it wasn’t necessary to hit them with that awful thing.”** Admiral W. Leahy, Chief of Staff to President Truman, made a similar comment that dropping the atomic bombs “was of no material assistance in our war against Japan. The Japanese were already defeated and ready to surrender.”

In bombing Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the U.S. maneuvered for a head start in the post-war arms race. It is hypocritical for us to bristle with indignation as other nations show interest in developing nuclear weapons while we continue to build and maintain them by the thousands.

**Have the billions upon billions of dollars spent on nuclear weapons and the military brought us peace and security? Or has all that money simply improved the killing capability of our military and enriched the merchants of death, the military-industrial complex?**

Ironically, our atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are now motivating our enemies to attack us with the very weapon we invented. We must get rid of the roots of wars – racism, materialism, and militarism. Remember President Kennedy said, **“Mankind must put an end to war or war will put an end to mankind.”**



**Join 351st Peace Vigil to end the war!**

**Every Saturday, 1-3pm, at Rte. 59 & N. Middletown Rd. in Nanuet, NY**

For info: [www.rocklandaction.org](http://www.rocklandaction.org)

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