

On August 6, 1945, the U.S. unleashed the atomic bomb on humanity. The world's first use of nuclear weapons, against the Japanese city of Hiroshima, was followed on August 9 by the bombing of Nagasaki.

The two atomic bombs dropped at the end of World War 2 were deliberately set to explode high in the air. The point was to maximize the killing, not the destruction of buildings. More than 110,000 people died immediately in the two bombings and the radiation eventually killed hundreds of thousands more. Many years of painful death by cancer and later birth defects lay ahead for the survivors and their descendants.

If terrorism is defined as the killing of innocent civilians for a political purpose, then the world has seldom seen such terrorism. Think of September 11, 2001 in New York multiplied by 40 times and you will only imagine the first few seconds.

Shortly after, Japan surrendered. But its economy and capital city, Tokyo, had been destroyed even before the atomic bombs reduced two militarily unimportant cities to towns of the dead. Many historians believe that the country was on the verge of surrender before those terrible days in August 1945. The main reason the U.S. wanted to use atomic weapons was to demonstrate its strength to threaten the USSR. The Soviet Union was then a socialist country. It had been allied with the U.S. against Germany and Japan during the war, but even before that war was over, the U.S. was baring its teeth to the USSR and setting out to dominate the world.

Before World War 2, bombing civilians was considered a barbaric and illegal act. The U.S. was not the only nation to commit that crime in WW2, but along with the British it did so on an enormous scale. Since then the U.S. has threatened to use nuclear weapons on dozens of occasions, not only against the USSR when that country later became an imperialist rival to the U.S., but also against Vietnam and China. That the U.S. would make first use of nuclear weapons whenever it felt its interests sufficiently threatened has been official U.S. doctrine, and the cornerstone of American military policy, from the 1950s through today.

In other words, massive death and unbelievable suffering rained down on men, women and children—even nuclear holocaust and, yes, quite possibly the end of human civilization—all this is justified to defend “the American way of life.” And, as we wrote recently while talking of nuclear disarmament, Obama has made clear that in practice the U.S. still follows this doctrine, especially today in regard to Iran.¹

This system—this way of life—has been a horror for humanity. The Revolutionary Communist Party's Message and Call puts it clearly: “This system needs to be swept aside...its crimes against humanity stopped cold...its institutions dismantled, and replaced by ones that empower people to build a new society free of exploitation and oppression.” (“The Revolution We Need... The Leadership We Have,” available at revcom.us)

Editor's note: Much of the content here on the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki is drawn from the article, “The Nuclear Bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki: Not Just History,” distributed by A World To Win News Service, Aug. 2, 2010.

¹ See “Obama Speeches at West Point and Oslo: More Troops in Afghanistan and Preserving U.S. Nuclear Dominance... Is This the Path to Ending the Horrors of War?” by Larry Everest, Jan, 17, 2010, available at revcom.us.

The U.S. Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima...



On August 6, 1945, the U.S. became the first and only country ever to use nuclear weapons against people. 200,000 people died from the atomic bombing of the Japanese city Hiroshima on August 6 and a second bombing three days later of Nagasaki. “That fateful summer, 8:15. The roar of a B-29 breaks the morning calm. A parachute opens in the blue sky. Then suddenly, a flash, an enormous blast—silence—hell on earth.

“The eyes of young girls watching the parachute melted. Their faces became giant charred blisters. The skin of people seeking help dangled from their fingernails. Their hair stood on end. Their clothes were ripped to shreds. People trapped in houses toppled by the blast were burned alive. Others died when their eyes and internal organs burst from their bodies. Hiroshima was a hell where those who somehow survived envied the dead.” (From the August 6, 2007 memorial statement by Hiroshima mayor Tadatoshi Akiba, in a plea to rid the world of all nuclear weapons)

Photo: AP

...And The American Way of Death



U.S. troops burying those they murdered at Wounded Knee in mass grave. Wounded Knee, South Dakota. On December 29, 1890, U.S. soldiers massacred as many as 300 Native-American Lakota Sioux. From the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific, the U.S. army drove Native-Americans off the lands they had lived on for generations, including through raids against whole villages where similar massacres took place. This genocidal robbery—coupled with the forcible kidnapping and enslavement of Africans, who were abducted to America and exploited for generations—lies at the foundation of “the American way of life.”



Kandahar, south of Kabul, Afghanistan, August 5, 2009. Two children who were killed in an airstrike by U.S. forces. Last month the website WikiLeaks used official U.S. documents to reveal that the military forces led by the U.S. have killed many more unarmed civilians than they had admitted. In fact, the U.S. had tried to keep this information covered up. Once WikiLeaks courageously leaked it, the government began a campaign of persecution against WikiLeaks and those it accuses of allowing people to know about these crimes. But this is how America fights for “its way of life”—mowing down anyone who gets in its way, refusing to even count the dead, and declaring these human beings to be “collateral damage.” And for what? To ensure the continued functioning of the empire that provides the “goodies” of the “American way of life.” To hell with all that!

STOP THINKING LIKE AMERICANS! START THINKING ABOUT HUMANITY!