

Overall Position: The United States was justified in using atomic bombs against Japan in World War II.

<p>Argumentative Claim</p>	<p>The use of atomic bombs on Japan shortened World War II by months or years, saving tens of thousands of lives.</p>	<p>Japan started the war by attacking Pearl Harbor, which justified a full U.S. military response.</p>	<p>The U.S. had to try to intimidate the Soviet Union, which was working on its own nuclear weapons, and became an enemy of America immediately after World War II.</p>
<p>Evidence A (Summary or Quotation of Text)</p>	<p>"According to a consensus among my Joint Chiefs, the Japanese political leaders, and the Japanese military men, shall never surrender, will never surrender, until they are utterly defeated in the field of battle. And in this they are backed up by the Japanese people" (Truman, World War II Papers, July, 1945).</p>	<p>Japan lost its moral case against the U.S. use of its most powerful weapons when it attacked Pearl Harbor in December, 1941. This attack killed 2,500 Americans (Secretary of State John F. Dulles, World War II Papers, October, 1945).</p>	<p>The Soviet Union threatened the U. S. throughout the Cold War and acquired nuclear weapons by 1950 (Shawn Weyrich, prof of history, Stanford U., The Founding of the Cold War, 2007).</p>
<p>Reasoning (How the Evidence Proves the Claim)</p>	<p>If the Japanese were determined to fight until they were utterly and completely defeated, the option not to use atomic weapons means that the U.S. would have had to extend the war much longer, using conventional means.</p>	<p>Since Japan attacked the U.S. first, and was unprovoked, it lost the moral high ground. In most moral or legal contexts, when someone initiates physical violence without cause, the other party is allowed to respond and retaliate to the best of their ability.</p>	<p>The rivalry with the Soviet Union began before the end of World War II and it quickly became clear that they were a very dangerous adversary. The U.S. understandably felt the need to express their dominance over nuclear weapons early in the Cold War.</p>
<p>Evidence B (Summary or Quotation of Text)</p>	<p>There were credible estimates at the time of the war that an invasion of Japan by ground in the summer, 1945, that from 150,000 - 500,000 Americans would have been killed, and several times that number of Japanese would have died (Journal of American Military History, 2011).</p>	<p>"Japan conducted its raid on Pearl Harbor in a clandestine manner, in the pre-dawn hours, leaving the American navy and fighter bombers completely unawares" (William Singleton, Pearl Harbor: The Definitive History, 2010).</p>	
<p>Reasoning (How the Evidence Proves the Claim)</p>	<p>A land invasion was by far the most likely alternative to atomic weapons in the summer of 1945. Only an invasion of the Japan mainland would have inflicted sufficient damage on Japan to force them to resign. An invasion would have killed tens of thousands of more people than atomic bombs did.</p>	<p>It appears that Japan timed and executed the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941 in order to inflict maximum carnage and damage to the U.S., which further undermines Japan's moral position.</p>	