

[1] Yakama Swan Dancers by Columbia River.



Photo by Evan Abell/Yakima Herald-Republic

[2] Japanese Students - Firearm Training



[3] “We call upon the government of Japan to proclaim now the unconditional surrender of all Japanese armed forces, and to provide proper and adequate assurances of their good faith in such action. The alternative for Japan is prompt and utter destruction.” -July 26, 1945

Potsdam Declaration, signed by US President Harry Truman, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, Chinese Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek



[4] Hiroshima Aftermath



[5] Death tolls at the Battle of Iwo Jima and Okinawa, the last two Pacific Theater battles before the atomic bombs were used.

Iwo Jima February 19-March 26, 1945: The US landing forces suffered around 6,800 killed and over 19,000 wounded. Although most in the 20,000-strong Japanese garrison were draftees, they refused to surrender, fighting tenaciously until only a few hundred remained alive to be taken prisoner. There were no civilian casualties, as they were evacuated.



Okinawa April 1-June 21, 1945: Both sides suffered enormous losses in the Battle of Okinawa. The Americans bore over 12,000 deaths and another estimated over 33,000 wounded. Japanese losses were even greater—about 110,000 Japanese soldiers lost their lives. It's estimated between 30,000 and 100,000 Okinawa civilians were also killed.

[6] Excerpt from the **Szilárd petition**, a document signed by over 70 scientists who work on the Atomic Bomb, petition never reached Truman’s office before he made the decision:

“The development of atomic power will provide the nations with new means of destruction. The atomic bombs at our disposal represent only the first step in this direction, and there is almost no limit to the destructive power which will become available in the course of their future development. Thus a nation which sets the **precedent** of using these newly **liberated** forces of nature for purposes of destruction may have to bear the responsibility of opening the door to an era of devastation on an unimaginable scale.

If after the war a situation is allowed to develop in the world which permits **rival** powers to be in uncontrolled possession of these new means of destruction, the cities of the United States as well as the cities of other nations will be in continuous danger of sudden annihilation. All the resources of the United States, moral and material, may have to be **mobilized** to prevent the **advent** of such a world situation. Its prevention is at present the **solemn** responsibility of the United States—singled out by **virtue** of her lead in the field of atomic power.” -July 1945

Vocabulary Words

Precedent: an earlier event or action that is regarded as an example or guide to be considered in similar circumstances.

Liberated: set free

Rival: people or organizations competing for the same thing

Mobilized: prepared and organized; ready to move

Advent: the arrival of a very important thing or person

Solemn: serious, very important

Virtue: behavior that shows what is right



[7] Hanford Clean-Up



[8]

United States War Department provided a **worst-case scenario** estimate that Operation Downfall could cause between 1.7 to 4 million U.S. killed, wounded, and missing, and between 5 to 10 million Japanese dead.

