

2019 Research Week Proposal

Title – Voices of the Hibakusha: The Impact of their Struggle

Program of Study – History

Presentation Type – PowerPoint

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Category – Textual or Investigative

Abstract: This paper delves in the various struggles of the survivors of the atomic bombs in the wake of the destruction in the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Despite censorship and personal reluctance to reveal their testimony of their experiences, many have decided to share and thus impact the global conversation on the usage of nuclear weapons. Diaries, medical research, books of Japanese history, journal articles, newspapers, videos and art are all consulted in this paper. Dr. Michihiko Hachiya's diary, *Hiroshima Diary*, was published in 1955 and recounts his experiences from the moment he regained consciousness after impact through his work as a doctor tending to other hibakusha. Of the struggle in Nagasaki, the diaries *Masako Does Not Fall* and *Bells of Nagasaki* also offer valuable input. The Nagasaki National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims has released videos of interviews held with hibakusha and various Japanese museums hold the art of the Hibakusha spanning decades. Medical articles have also been consulted to gain a broader understanding of the experiences of the Hibakusha such as Bertrand R. Jordan's "The Hiroshima/Nagasaki Survivor Studies: Discrepancies Between Results and General Perception." in *Genetics* and William J. Hall's "Hibakusha" in *Annals of Internal Medicine*. Ultimately, the evidence yielded by the research has pointed to the conclusion that despite the personal misgivings of some and the censorship projected onto them by their

government, many hibakusha have still presented, in various modes, their stories and have thus contributed to the global conversation of the effects of nuclear weapons.