

The Atomic Bomb: A Violent Means of Peacemaking

By Jack Cashion



Wartime Transition

- Communication between Roosevelt and Truman
- Communication between Roosevelt and scientists
- Continuation of Roosevelt's policies
- Nature of the Atomic Bomb



Invasion of Kyushu

- Prior casualties in the Pacific
- Necessity of Russian involvement
- Projected Casualties
- “THERE ARE NO CIVILIANS IN JAPAN” – 5th Air Force Intelligence Report¹



Conditions for Surrender

- Commitment to the Emperor
- Justifiable use of the bomb
- Potsdam Conference
- Japanese Counteroffer



Truman's Desired Effect

- The Russell Telegram
- Truman's response
- Usage solely against military targets
- Targeting criteria and weather



Stimson's "Trump Card"

- Deciding factor in future diplomacy
- Desire to impress the USSR
- Psychological significance of proposed targets
- Truman's counterargument



Conclusion

- Subordinates looking for diplomatic edge
- Truman looking to preserve life
- Potential fourth option



Notes

¹ Frank, Richard B. *Downfall: The End of the Imperial Japanese Empire*. New York: Random House, 1999.

