**Documents That Support the Use of the Atomic Bomb**

**Document 1: Recommendations on the Immediate Use of Nuclear Weapons to the President of the United States**

June 16, 1945

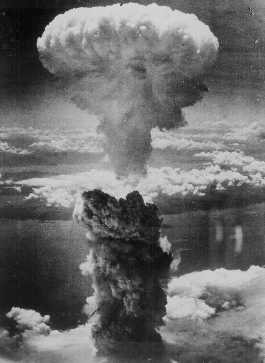
You have asked us to comment on the use of the new weapon. We feel that using this weapon will make us the strongest country in the world. Also, we think using the atomic bomb will help save American lives in the Japanese war.

Some scientists do not agree with us. They think that using the atomic bomb in war will kill thousands of innocent people. They think that our government should demonstrate the use of the weapon to show other countries how powerful it is, but we should not use it on other humans. They fear that in the future our enemies could create an atomic bomb and use it against us so we should outlaw all atomic weapons. We do not agree with this view. We think the only way to end the war is to use the atomic bomb.

[signature]

J. R. Oppenheimer

For the Panel



**Documents That Oppose the Use of the Atomic Bomb**

**Document 1: PETITION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES** **by LEO SZILARD**

**July 3, 1945**

July 3, 1945

You have the power to decide whether or not to use atomic bombs against Japan.

We have been working in the field of atomic power for a number of years. Until recently we thought that one day the United States might be attacked by atomic weapons and the only way to defend ourselves would be with our own atomic weapons. Since this danger does not exist now we feel the need to say the following.

The war has to end quickly and destroying Japanese cities with atomic bombs may be very effective. However, we do not think the United States should use atomic bombs to destroy Japanese cities at this time. If the United States is going to use atomic bombs they should first warn Japan.

Atomic bombs are designed to ruthlessly destroy cities. Once they are used in war for the first time, it will be difficult for any country to resist the temptation of using them again. There is no limit to how deadly or destructive atomic bombs can become. Any nation that uses atomic bombs must take the responsibility for the devastation that may result.

Leo Szilard and 58 co-signers



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