

Remembrances of the Decision to Drop the Bomb



"Japan was defeated and... dropping the bomb was completely unnecessary... Japan was, at that very moment, seeking some way to surrender with a minimum loss of 'face.'"

— General Dwight Eisenhower, 1963

"it was unnecessary... Japan was already prepared to surrender."

General Douglas MacArthur, 1961

"The atomic bomb had nothing to do with the end of the war at all."

Major General Curtis LeMay, 1945

"No effort was made, and none was seriously considered, to achieve surrender merely in order not to have to use the bomb."

Secretary of War Henry Stimson

It was a political decision, not a military one.

Gen. George C. Marshall



"The Japanese were prepared to negotiate all the way from February 1945... up to and before the time the atomic bombs were dropped."

Herbert Hoover

"We are now secretly giving consideration to the termination of the war because of the pressing situation which confronts Japan both at home and abroad."

intercepted Japanese cable, July 12, 1945, from Japanese Foreign Minister Togo to Ambassador Sato in Moscow



"The Japanese were already defeated and ready to surrender"

— Fleet Admiral William D. Leahy, Chief of Staff to President Truman, 1950

"Japan would have surrendered even if the atomic bombs had not been dropped"

— U.S. Strategic Bombing Survey, 1946

"The Japanese had, in fact, already sued for peace. The atomic bomb played no decisive part, from a purely military point of view, in the defeat of Japan."

— Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander in Chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet



"President, Leahy and JFB agreed Japan looking for peace."

3 days before bombing of Hiroshima; notes from Walter Brown, aide to Secretary of State James F. Byrnes (JFB), Aug 3, 1945.



Russia's entry into the Japanese war was the decisive factor in speeding its end and would have been so even if no atomic bombs had been dropped. . . .

Air Force General Claire Chennault, the founder of the "Flying Tigers"

Is it still

"historical revisionism"

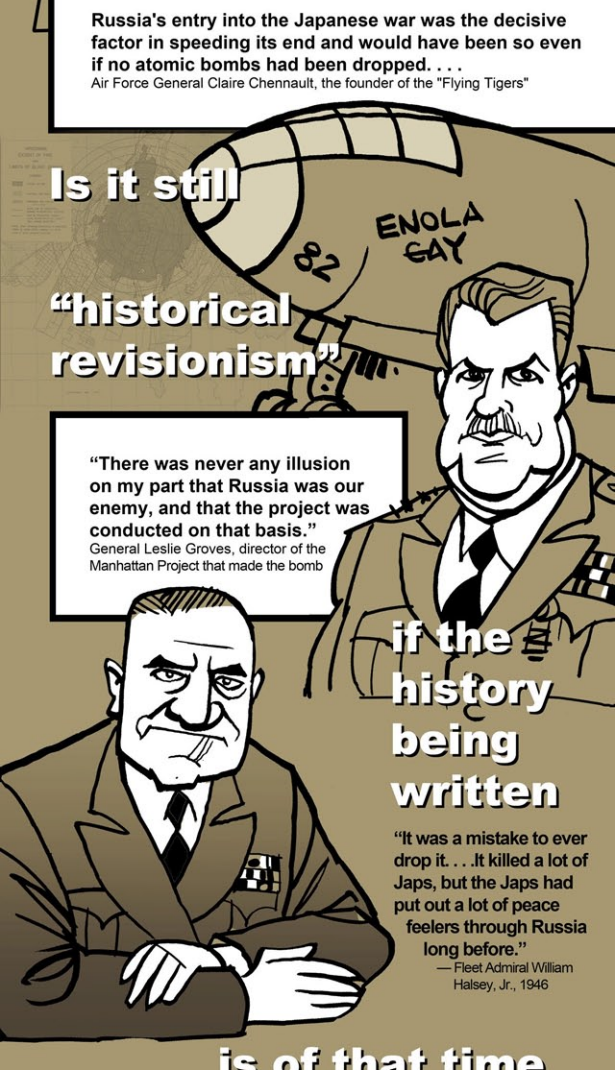
"There was never any illusion on my part that Russia was our enemy, and that the project was conducted on that basis."

General Leslie Groves, director of the Manhattan Project that made the bomb

if the history being written

"It was a mistake to ever drop it. . . . It killed a lot of Japs, but the Japs had put out a lot of peace feelers through Russia long before."

— Fleet Admiral William Halsey, Jr., 1946



is of that time

"...when we didn't need to do it, and we knew we didn't need to do it, and they knew that we knew we didn't need to do it, we used them as an experiment for two atomic bombs."

— Brigadier General Carter Clarke, military intelligence officer, 1959

and of the Establishment?

