The Bomb

Video Guide

## Segments: Fission and Manhattan

1. What scientific discovery begins the race to build an atomic bomb? Where was the discovery made?
2. What is the US project to build the bomb called? Who helped to get it started?
3. Why was the project developed?
4. What are the names of the general and scientist who lead the project?

## Segments: Trinity and Decision

1. Why was the atomic bomb used against Japan?
2. Who made the decision to drop the bomb?
3. What two cities in Japan were bombed? What was the result?

## Segments: Consequences and Turning Points

1. How did Russia respond to the bombing of Japan?
2. What does the US suggest at the UN? How does the Soviet Union respond?
3. What is Operation Crossroads? What it successful?

## Segments: Fallout and Atomic World

1. What issue does the New Yorker magazine raise?
2. How do American leaders respond to the magazine?
3. What event shocks America?
4. What decision begins the arms race?

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## Segments: Fission and Manhattan

1. What scientific discovery begins the race to build an atomic bomb? Where was the discovery made?

German scientists split an atom, called “fission”, which physicists understood would release enormous energy.

1. What is the US project to build the bomb called? Who helped to get it started?

Leo Szilard and Albert Einstein wrote a letter to President Roosevelt suggesting that the US begin a program to develop an atomic bomb. This program was called the Manhattan Project after the headquarters located in New York.

1. Why was the project developed?

The project was developed because there was concern the Germans may have begun an atomic program and the US must beat them to it.

1. What are the names of the general and scientist who lead the project?

Leslie Groves and Robert Oppenheimer led the Manhattan project.

## Segments: Trinity and Decision

1. Why was the atomic bomb used against Japan?

The reason the US gave for using the bomb was to prevent further loss of US lives in the Pacific Theater.

1. Who made the decision to drop the bomb?

It appears the plan set in place beforehand was carried through without a direct decision by President Truman.

1. What two cities in Japan were bombed? What was the result?

The bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki brought the surrender of Japan and the end of the war.

## Segments: Consequences and Turning Points

1. How did Russia respond to the bombing of Japan?

The images from the destruction of Hiroshima, prompted Stalin to begin his own program for building the bomb with

1. What does the US suggest at the UN? How does the Soviet Union respond?

The US suggests at the UN that all programs for building the bomb should be stopped and dismantled. The USSR did not agree because they wanted the US to act first in dismantling their program.

1. What is Operation Crossroads? What it successful?

Operation Crossroads was a war games test in the Bikini Islands to see whether the US navy could withstand a nuclear attack. The operation was stopped after the Baker test when radioactive contamination made the ships unusable.

## Segments: Fallout and Atomic World

1. What issue does the New Yorker magazine raise?

The New Yorker magazine described the impact of the bomb upon the lives of people from Hiroshima. This raised the frightening prospect of how this could impact American lives if it was used on the US and began a discussion of the moral and ethical implications of its use.

1. How do American leaders respond to the magazine?

The American leadership were beginning to establish a policy of diplomacy from a position of strength and so they were concerned that American public opinion might turn away from its use. A response was written arguing for its use.

1. What event shocks America?

The USSR developed its own atomic bomb with the support of espionage.

1. What decision begins the arms race?

Truman makes the decision to develop a hydrogen bomb, which begins to escalate the conflict.