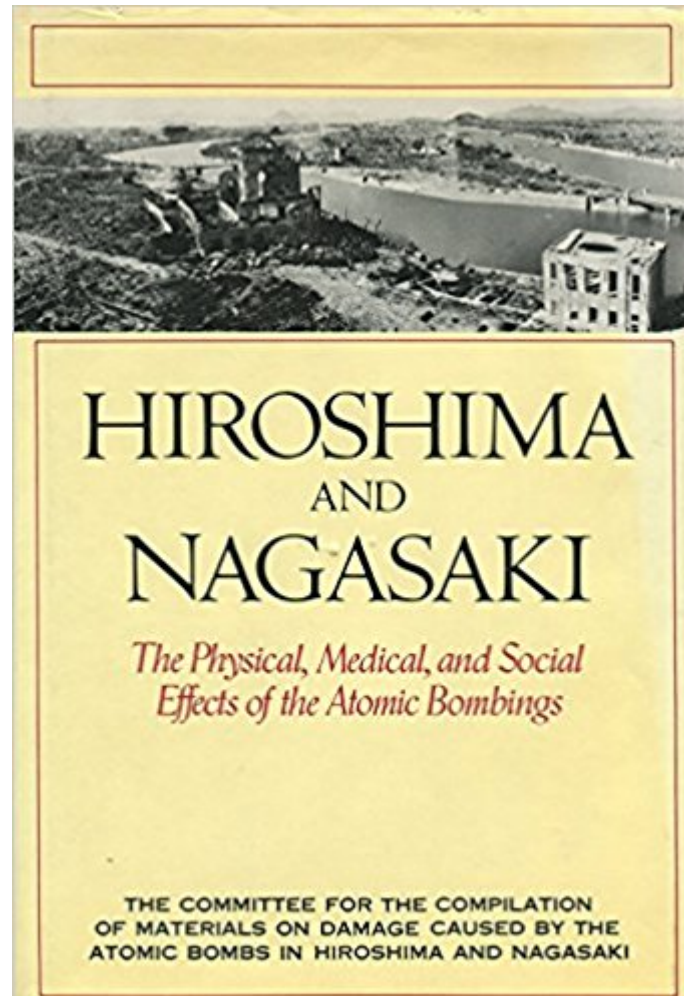




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Hiroshima & Nagasaki



Synopsis

Written 36 years after the event, here is the definitive scientific report on the only experience to date with nuclear warfare. The short- and the long-range effects of the most portentous and terrifying event of the 20th century. Compiled by Japanese authorities, it combines physical, psychological and social consequences of the two events.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Text: English, Japanese (translation)

great book

I'd like to start this review with a quote from the testimony of a second-grade girl in the Genbaku no ko by Arata Osada as quoted in Hiroshima and Nagasaki the Physical Medical and Social Effects of the Atomic Bombings on page 436: My older brother went off to do compulsory labor and was never seen again. My younger brother was burned all over his body and died the following day at Koi Primary School.... Mother said she was going into town, as there was no good doctor in the country; the day after she got there, she suddenly became much worse. By evening word came from Uncle for us to come, so Father and I and my younger sister set out for town early the next morning. "At last we made it," I thought when we got there, only to find out that Mother had breathed her last a little earlier. Mother's body was burned in an open field by the river. That evening, just as we reached Uncle's house in the country, my older sister died. The day after her funeral, my lovable

younger sister also passed away. Father managed to attend my older sister's funeral, but he just didn't have the strength to go to my younger sister's funeral. The temple priest who conducted my sister's rites must have breathed some poison, for he wasn't present at Father's funeral.... Father left this world on the morning of 10 September, worrying all the while about leaving me alone. Before dying, he often said, "I don't want to die. The bomb may have burned our home and our clothes; but even if we have to wear rags, let's stay in the country, just the two of us, and farm for a living." I have to give this book 5 stars, not because I adored it, but because I feel it is an extremely important and indispensable compilation on the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The amount of information in this book is staggering. It is the work of exhaustive research and resource collecting to create a comprehensive tome on the subject with the hope that this knowledge will help prevent further use of nuclear weapons. I think it should be necessary reading for anyone in high military and government positions with the authority to oversee weapons manufacturing and use and those that work in weapons research and manufacturing laboratories. I don't know much about the science of the atomic bombs, so there were a few chapters in this book that I did not fully comprehend (mainly Chapter 5, "Radiation from the Atomic Bomb") and other chapters that I had less interest in (Chapter 13, "Relief and Medical Care for A-bomb Victims," more of a comprehensive list of movements than anecdotal information), but the chapters on the damages, medical effects, and psychological effects of the bombings deeply disturbed and depressed me. Other information that is not widely known is the sheer numbers of non-Japanese A-bomb victims. Thousands of Koreans were killed and injured by both bombs as well as workers and students from other Asian countries. Allied POWs were also killed and injured. This is information that I was shocked has not been more emphatically discussed. Read this book.

This book is an excellent follow up to Masuki Ibuse's "Black Rain" - a must read for anyone interested in the effects of atomic warfare on people.

If you are interested in learning the actual human effects of a nuclear explosion then this is the book to have. It is a clinical record of one of the atrocities of WWII written honestly and from a detached point of view. This book is not for the squeemish.

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