

[Author's Name]

[Institution's Name]

[Course Title]

[Date]

Atomic Age America

On August 6, 1945, the first atomic bomb was dropped on the Japanese city called Hiroshima. Destroyed in the initial nuclear attack, the Japanese still refused to give up. The United States then strategically managed to drop another nuclear atomic bomb on another Japanese city named Nagasaki in broad daylight.

To date, a wealth of literature has been produced defining the logic of the United States' decision to drop the atomic bombs in Japan back in 1995. Many leading theorists and authors justify the lamentable actions based on the domestic pressures, as well as the racial influences seen during that period. In contrast, some theories highlight many factors that made American drop the nuclear bombs, such as the significance of the fight against the Japanese and the prime reason of asserting the dominance over the Soviet Union. The Paradigms International Relations serves the various explanations to categorize and then assess their validity.

In his through provoking book named 'Atomic Age America', Martin V. Melosi (2012) highlights numerous points that help us understand the logic behind using atomic bombs against Japan. Melosi believes Nuclear bombs have by "treated as anomalies more than integral features of the central thrust of history" (p. 3) This is mostly because the major portion of modern war history has been written by the American historians who have intentionally omitted this major nuclear factor to bring a quite positive image of US during the war.

It is clear on the assessment of these dominant theories about their respective paradigms that some statements hold more merit than others do. The revisionist statement, which emphasizes the showcase of American dominance of the Soviet Union, obviously is the best checked when examined by a realist paradigm.

Theories emphasize the construction of ideas and the domestic factors commonly circulated in scientific groups and scholarly circles. The most famous explanation given by the patriotic American theorists about the justification of dropping a series of atomic bombs in Japan relates to the widespread and prevailing racial elements of the war.

So racist notions of the Japanese inferiority are socially constructed at the individual level. Indubitably, the United States should be held responsible for the decision. The fact that the selected targets were military cities with smaller civilian populations suggests that the United States did not attack civilians intentionally. This perspective clearly has significant shortcomings.

Melosi raises a very logical point, as the same thing is being done by the modern America-born historians who are depicting a very positive picture of United States who has killed millions of people in the name of war on terror with allied forces. However, not a single person thinks about such cruelties being inflicted in such a modern and so-called civilized age. Melosi believes that nuclear technologies revealed the “hope, promise, and risk” that dominated the postwar world (p. 4) Though, the risk always remains higher for those of the nations and groups who stood against the United States.

Works Cited

Melosi., Martin V. Atomic Age America. Boston: Pearson, 2012. xvii + 366 pp.

