

# Carter Brehm - History Project

For my history project, I'm choosing to document the effects of the American atom bombs on Japan and specifically why these effects were so devastating to the Japanese people. I am choosing this topic because in prior US history classes, the atom bomb was covered in detail but the devastating effects it had on Japanese society are glossed over. I feel like that is a crucial detail that is missing from WW2 that causes some bias in American education. The Americans are seen as heroes while Japan is seen as suicide bombers that deserved to be blown up.

This is not the case. The bomb detonated over Hiroshima had an explosive power of 15,000 tons of TNT. It burned 70% of the buildings in the area and killed about 150,000 people. The Nagasaki bomb killed another 50,000 people, but in both cases the long-term effects were more deadly than the bombing itself. The radiation released by the bombs spread for miles and increased cancer rates and genetic defects for the next decade. The radiation affected women more than men and younger rather than older women. Even those that experienced 1 Gray of radiation had a 44% higher chance for cancer, reducing lifespan by an average of 1.3 years.

I feel like we don't focus on the wellbeing of the Japanese people after the bombing enough and I want to learn more about it so I can better understand their struggle and show my classmates what we don't learn about in our US history classes.