
**To what extent was the creation of the Manhattan
Project a product of Germany's desire to expand between
1932 and 1942?**

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Word Count:

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1 Plan of Investigation

The task of this investigation is to analyze to what extent the creation of the Manhattan project was a product of Germany's desire to expand between 1932 and 1942.

The primary method of this investigation is to analyze accounts of the objectives of the Manhattan Project in the years before its inception to understand possible reasons behind its founding. This investigation will also analyze accounts of the interaction of the German and American propaganda machines to understand the influence Germany had on the global populace. Additionally, accounts of German expansion by Americans will be analyzed to understand to what extent the German expansion was viewed as a direct threat to America.

This investigation will focus on two organizations: the Nazis of Germany, and the office of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The scope of this investigation will be limited to sources pertaining to these organizations.

2 Summary of Evidence

- Fear of Germans and the Manhattan Project:
 - American leadership perceived Germany as the only enemy with the capacity to take advantage of information taken from the Americans (Groves 141)
 - Security from Germany was one of the founding objectives of the Manhattan Project (Groves 140)
 - Leo Szilard—a physicist and refugee—brings information about German atomic weapons development, which led President Roosevelt to begin atomic weapons research (Norris 12)
 - The US began atomic weapons development out of fear that the Germans would produce a similar weapon (Steinberg 88)
- Competition to produce weapons:
 - German scientists went to Germany to contribute to atomic development against America (Powers 6)
 - America feared that Germany would produce an atomic weapon (Stoff 136)
 - Rockets could replace and outclass long-range guns, and constituted a loophole in the Versailles treaty (Neufeld 2)
 - Rockets could be used to attack America, thus making them appealing to Germans and fear-inducing to Americans (Neufeld 157)
- Propaganda:
 - American:
 - * The American government controlled media outlets to spread propaganda against Nazi Germany (Laurie 2)
 - Nazi:

- * Nazi Germany had “a distorted vision of national grandeur” (Kallis 37)
- * Expansion into Europe made Americans fearful because of the image portrayed by the “distorted vision” (Kallis 37)
- * Increasing German global influence (e.g. Argentina, Austria) (Pyenson 2)
- * Increasing German focus on cultural and territorial spread pre-WWII (Pyenson 17)
- * The Germans were looking to create a Nordic Europe (Guettel 192)
- * The Germans, among other regions, had extensive propaganda distribution in Latin America, which it planned to use as leverage against the United States (Kris 59)
- * The German government employed self-victimization to get popular support for expansion into areas populated by Germans (Bergen 1)

3 Evaluation of Sources

The author of the article *Dividing the Indivisible: The Fissured Story of the Manhattan Project*, Margot Norris, is a professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of California, Irvine. Norris’ purpose in writing this article is to separate the facts of the Manhattan Project from the myths, her thesis being that the actual ambitions of the Manhattan Project were hidden from the public as political policy, with stated ambitions feeding misinformation to the public as part of propaganda.