

The Nuclear Legacy of The Manhattan Project [B2]

Tra il 1942 e il 1946, circa 600.000 persone contribuirono alla creazione di un'arma di distruzione di massa. Il Manhattan Project National Historical Park ne racconta l'intera storia.

Around £2.2 billion — about \$24 billion in today's currency — was [channelled into](#) the Manhattan Project, a huge research and development project that produced the world's first nuclear weapons in 1945. It centred on three main production sites: Los Alamos, New Mexico; Oak Ridge, Tennessee; and Hanford, Washington. Around each, secret communities [sprang up](#) that evolved into today's cities of Los Alamos, Oak Ridge and the Tri-Cities, the collective name given to Kennewick, Pasco and Richland in Washington. Today, they all form part of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park, established in 2015 to "improve understanding of the Manhattan Project and its legacy."

ATOMIC SCIENCE

In fact, the Manhattan Project has multiple legacies, each as complex as the technology it developed. Immense wartime investment in scientific research led to the establishment of a network of National Laboratories in the US, which serve as the country's leading institutions for scientific innovation. World War Two ended with the atomic bombings of Japan. However, in 1949 the Soviet Union's successful testing of an atomic weapon brought on a forty-year Cold War and a nuclear arms race. Advancements in nuclear science and medicine brought with them [radioactive waste](#) and accompanying [health hazards](#).

NATIONAL LABS

Today, the seventeen National Laboratories [run](#) by the US Department of Energy dedicate themselves to critical issues, including investigating clean

technology to combat the climate crisis. While the labs are **fenced off**, you can **roam** the surrounding rural and urban areas and learn about the project that made their work possible. The three sites of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park offer a range of visitor experiences, including tours led by a ranger or self-guided through the National Park Service (NPS) app. They tell stories of scientific **breakthroughs** and human endeavour, but also explore the serious **ethical issues** that **arose out of** a project that changed our world. If you want to know more about this topic, read the article **An Explosive History: The Manhattan Project National Historical Park**

Glossary

- **sprang up** = sorgere, spuntare
- **run** = gestire, dirigere
- **ethical issues** = questioni etiche
- **channelled into** = destinare a
- **radioactive waste** = rifiuti radioattivi
- **health hazards** = rischi per la salute
- **fenced off** = recintare
- **roam** = vagare per, passeggiare
- **breakthroughs** = scoperte, innovazioni
- **arose out of** = sorgere da