

# CHILDREN'S PEACE MONUMENT

## 原爆の子の像

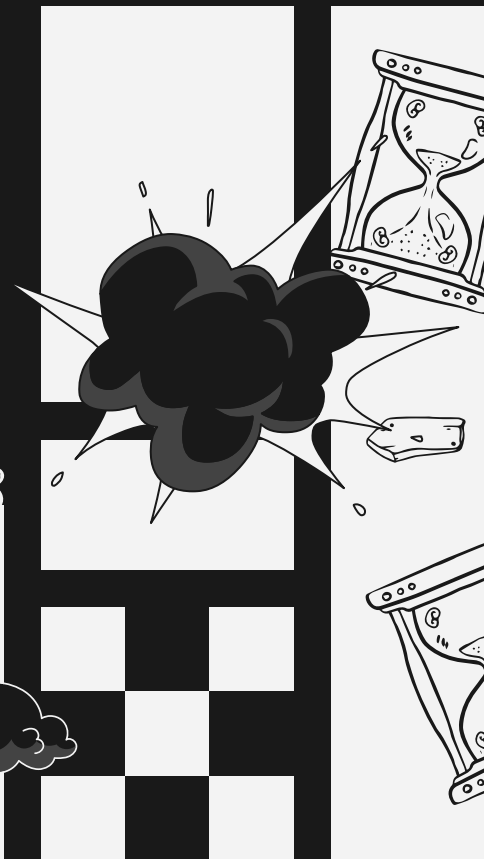
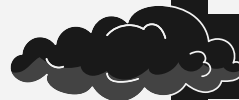
*Genbaku no Ko no Zō,*  
"Atomic Bomb Children Statue"

Alexis Ogle 2019190220

Sung Jun Han 2015190216

Vu Tran An Pho (Hemin) 2020195167

Jenny Kim 2016190234



# August 6, 1945

**Approximately 140,000**



## ***9,111 students***

*"This is our cry. This is our prayer. For building peace in the world."*

# PAPER CRANES, AND A WISH FOR LIFE



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Jenny Kim

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Pho Vu (Hemin) & Alexis Ogle

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Jenny Kim

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Alexis Ogle

# Appearance



Three-legged dome pedestal

On top is a bronze figure of young girl holding a golden paper crane

Pedestal flanked by a young boy and girl to symbolize hope and a brighter future

**Under the dome:**

Golden crane that acts as a wind chime

Bronze bell

**In the back**

Paper cranes sent from all around the world

*"This is our cry, this is our prayer, for building peace in this world"*



# STRENGTHS, SIGNIFICANCES, AND WEAKNESSES

## A CLOSER ANALYSIS





# **Strengths & Significances**



# PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY

## Public Art:

- defined by its accessibility to the public
- public space (outdoor or indoor setting)

## Children's Peace Monument:

- location: Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park
- highly interacts with the public spheres

## Access:

- no admission ticket
- full open access to the public (all walks of life)
- not confined to an enclosed space (art gallery, museum, private indoor exhibition)





# VALUE & ECONOMIC STIMULATION

## **Adding value:**

- physical environment of the park

## **Adding economic catalyst:**

- generates huge revenue from tourists
- stimulates the economic activity
- global paper-crane donations
- 10 tons of origami cranes
- Hiroshima City government decides to distribute them to companies that want to associate the symbol of peace with their products.



# HISTORY, MEMORIALIZATION, & CULTURE

## History:

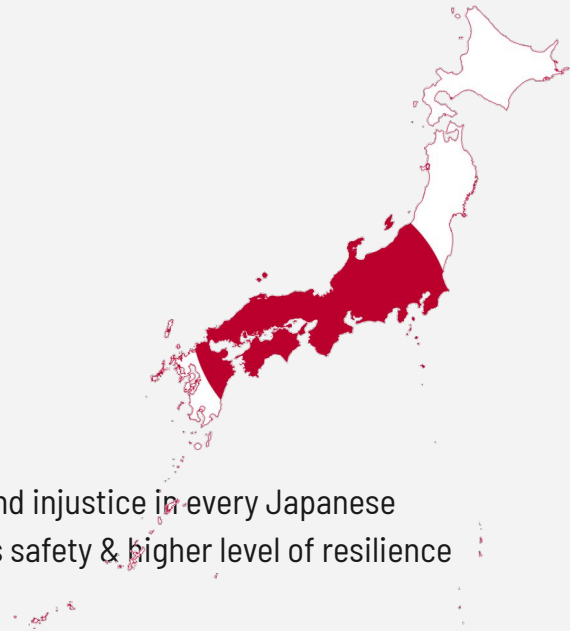
- most painful and agonizing history

## Culture:

- places a bold emphasis on Japanese paper folding culture.

## Urge for Memorialization:

- deep root in a real historical event
- amidst seemingly fast-moving industrialized Society of Japan
- huge role in social reconstruction and transitional justice
- promotes social recovery and creates a sense of victimization and injustice in every Japanese
- a more close-knit community: higher awareness about children's safety & higher level of resilience



The art of the Children's Peace Monument is **user-friendly** in a complicated sense.

It embraces the role of viewers and enhances their power of making decisions without confusing them about what sort of actions they can take.

# CULTURAL HERITAGE (ORIGAMI)

## **Famous belief:**

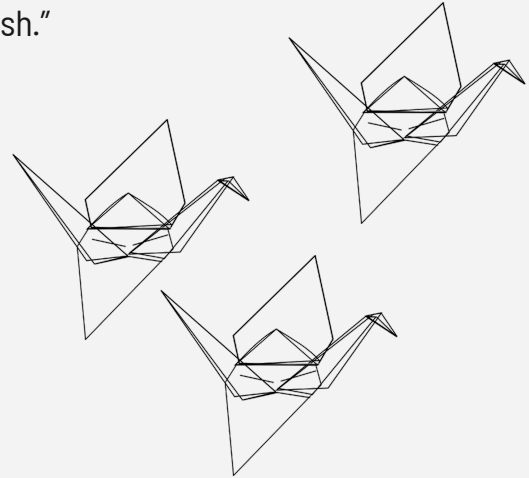
- “the one who creates a thousand origami cranes will earn one wish.”
- Sadako Sasaki

## **Paper cranes:**

- long and healthy life (initially)
- transitions into world peace (later)
- raises public awareness about an important community issue.
- peace in this world and a brighter future for children.

## **Significance:**

- promotes origami as an indispensable part of Japanese culture and makes cultural heritage a tangible community asset.



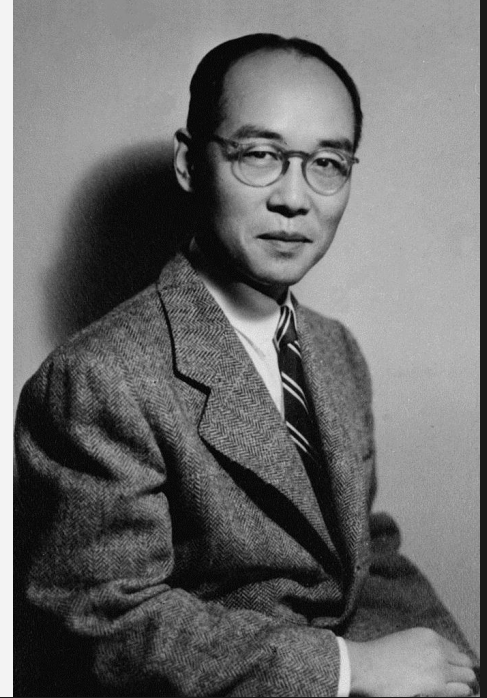
# SUPPORT FROM KEY FIGURE

## **Bronze Crane & Peace Bell:**

- beneath the main structure of the monument
- donated by Nobel Prize laureate, Hideki Yukawa

## **Significance:**

- helps spread the message to more Japanese and people all around the world



# MOVEMENT BY THE CHILDREN

## Origin:

- Speaks for the movement of children
- Did not stem from government's initiation
- Sadako's elementary classmates (shock of losing Sadako)

## Development of the idea:

- To commemorate Sadako (initially)
- To represent all children losing lives from the atomic bombing
- 3,100 schools from Japan and other 9 countries

## Significance:

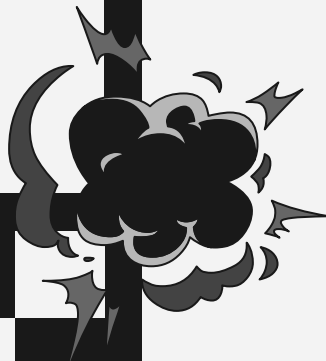
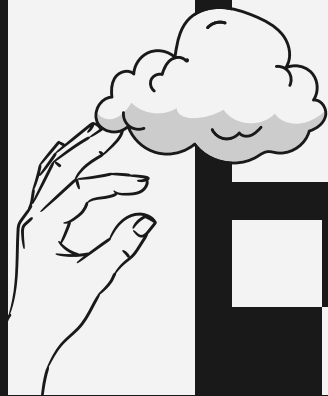
- "This is our cry. This is our prayer. For building peace in this world."



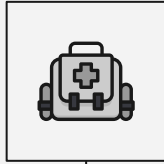




# **Strengths and Weaknesses from Inspiration**



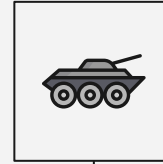
# The Two Objectives



Memorial for the  
Fallen

To make sure we don't forget  
the loss from Hiroshima

Success or not?



A lesson to be  
Learned

Peace and Denuclearization

Success or not?

# Memorial For the Fallen



<https://www.city.hiroshima.lg.jp/site/english/158105.htm>

!

## Sending Paper Cranes

Anyone may place paper cranes to the Children's Peace Monument in Peace Memorial Park. However, if you are unable to come to the park, we will be happy to offer your cranes to the monument on your behalf. Please send your cranes to the following address. In addition, we would like to enter your name and message for peace into the Paper Crane Database. In this way, your desire for peace will be recorded for posterity. For this purpose, please fill out the registration form below and send it back to us with your paper cranes.

Peace Promotion Division

The City of Hiroshima

1-5 Nakajima-cho, Naka-ku,

Hiroshima 730-0811 Japan

[Where to Send Paper Cranes](#)

[How to Bundle Paper Cranes](#)

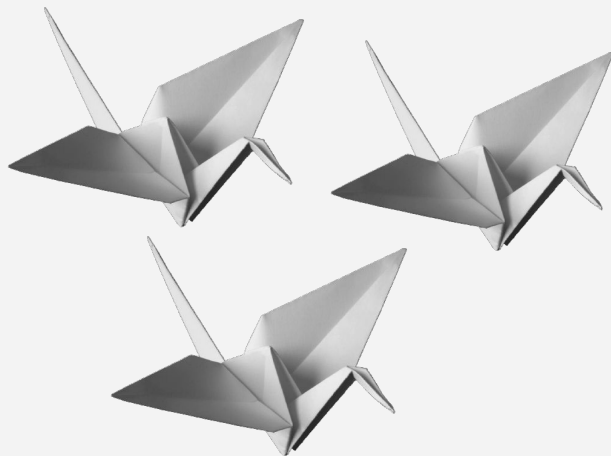
[Paper Crane Database](#)

[Sadako and the Paper Cranes --Message of Life Transcending Time](#) 

Click here for detailed information from the special exhibit about Sadako Sasaki that was on display in the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum from July to December 2001.

## Downloads

 [Registration form\(7KB\)\(PDF文書\)](#)



Longevity, Happiness, Peace

# A lesson to be learned



Contributing paper cranes as a symbol of peace



One of the glass cases filled with origami paper cranes

A continuing  
classroom of peace

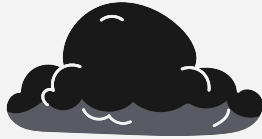
Picture from  
<https://quiltripping.com/the-hiroshima-memorial-peace-park-a-continuing-classroom-for-peace/>



Denuclearization

Picture from Military.com

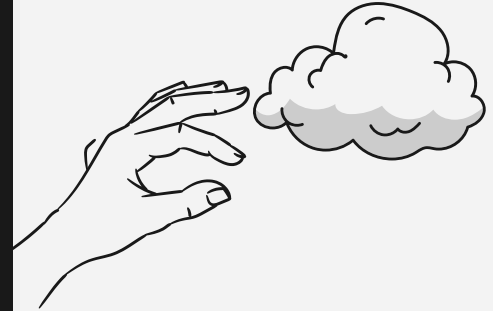
# Proposed Weaknesses



**Dull Color &  
Representation**

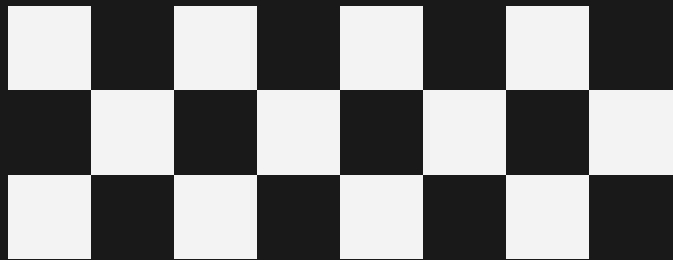


**Popularity**



**Disconnect Between  
The People, The  
Cause, & The Artwork  
itself.**





# Historical Monuments: A Comparison

MONUMENT AGAINST FASCISM

# Monument Against Fascism



"We invite the citizens of Harburg, and visitors to the city, to add their names here to ours. In doing so we commit ourselves to remain vigilant. As more and more names cover this 12-metre tall lead column, it will gradually be lowered into the ground. One day it will have disappeared completely, and the site of the Harburg Monument against Fascism will be empty. In the end it is only we ourselves who can stand up against injustice."

# Historical Monuments & Desecration

- Desecration of 'outdated' monuments
  - Graffiti by locals, politically charged motivations, etc.
- Monument Against Fascism embraced desecration as a means of reflecting the political society
- What factors might have contributed to the universal and continuous positive reception of the Children's Peace Monument?

\*This is not to demean monuments that were desecrated, as polarizing audience receptions to public art is not always a testament to its effectiveness at the time of its creation

# Comparing: APPEARANCE

Children's  
Peace  
Monument



Monument Against  
Fascism



# Comparing: BACKGROUND

## Children's Peace Monument

Location: Hiroshima

Tragedy faced by children following the atomic bomb following WWII

Erected by the people

## Monument Against Fascism

Location: Hamburg (Germany)

Rise of neo-fascism and anti-fascist movements in Hamburg

Erected by the government



# Comparing: AUDIENCE (reception, participation)

## Children's Peace Monument

1000 paper cranes

Stands as a testament against nuclear weapons, which still exist today

## Monument Against Fascism

Invited inscriptions of any form

Empty space left today shows a look into the past

# Comparison: CONCLUSION

Ongoing relevance:

The children's cry for peace has yet to be heard

# Concluding Ideas

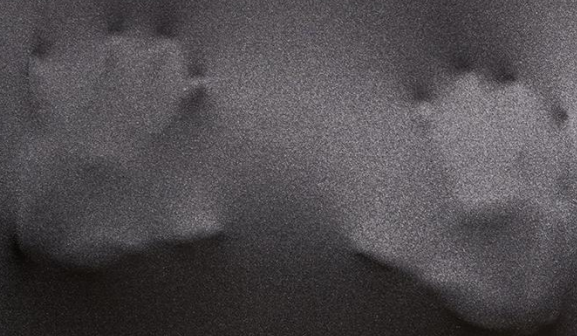


This is our cry. This is our prayer. For building peace in this world.

# **Discussion Forum**

# Discussion Forum QnAs

## Question #01



Recently, the paper-crane donation has been paused by the government of Hiroshima city due to the worsening situation of COVID-19. Before, the city provides the business and people with the donated paper crane free of charge. Due to this unexpected halt, many companies with products that rely on paper cranes for their brand struggles.

**What alternative solutions can you come up with to help the government of Hiroshima safely collect enough paper cranes for distribution to both the private and public sectors?**

**Or are there any other possible activities to compensate for the loss of paper cranes?**



# Discussion Forum QnAs

## Question #02

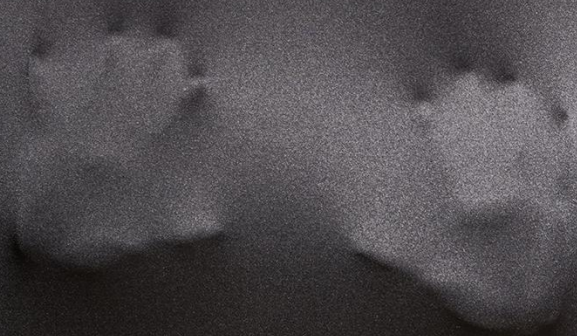


It is said that the ghost from the Ring series Sadako originates from the Sadako we talked about today.

**While there aren't credible sources, do you believe this is a weakness of the monument? Are the monument and fame responsible for creating an innocent girl to a ghost who murders?**

# Discussion Forum QnAs

## Question #03



**What improvements we can make to the present monument so that it can better convey its message while maintaining its aesthetic/artistic quality?**

**In other words, are there any details or different symbols of peace that you think can add to the monuments so that they can translate the notion of peace more thoroughly? Or do you think it is already flawless the way it originally is?**

# Discussion Forum QnAs

## Question #04



Is the monument high  
art or decorative art?

Why?

# Discussion Forum QnAs

## Question #05



**Are there any other monuments in the world that share the same vision with Children's Peace Monument?**



# Other Peace Monuments



World Peace Bell (Newport, Kentucky)  
1998



Wall for Peace (Paris, France)  
2015

# Discussion Forum QnAs

## Question #06

**When might the Children's Peace Monument become prone to 'outdatedness' as many historical monuments are eventually critiqued for?**

# REFERENCES (PT.1)

Below are sources that we've utilized for this presentation:

- *After a holiday hiatus, we're back with ISEP staff's must see Monday. Steve Lim, program officer for Asia, recommends visiting the children's peace monument at ...* Pinterest. (n.d.). Retrieved December 9, 2021, from <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/451767406340475736/>.
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- *Monument against fascism*. Jochen Gerz. (n.d.). Retrieved December 9, 2021, from <https://jochengerz.eu/works/monument-against-fascism>.

# REFERENCES (PT.2)

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- *Remembering Sadako Sasaki: The enduring controversy of why America used atomic weapons on Japan*. The Milwaukee Independent. (2020, August 5). Retrieved December 9, 2021, from <http://www.milwaukeeindependent.com/syndicated/remembering-sadako-sasaki-the-enduring-controversy-of-why-america-used-atomic-weapons-on-japan/%C2%A0>.
- *Sadako Sasaki and the Children's Peace Monument*. 中国新聞ヒロシマ平和メディアセンター . (n.d.). Retrieved December 9, 2021, from [https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?page\\_id=84761%C2%A0](https://www.hiroshimapeacemedia.jp/?page_id=84761%C2%A0).
- *The atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki*. Total Casualties | The Atomic Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki | Historical Documents. (n.d.). Retrieved December 9, 2021, from [https://www.atomicarchive.com/resources/documents/med/med\\_chp10.html](https://www.atomicarchive.com/resources/documents/med/med_chp10.html).
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- 原爆・平和サイト (top). 広島市公式ホームページ . (n.d.). Retrieved December 9, 2021, from <https://www.city.hiroshima.lg.jp/site/atomicbomb-peace/>.



# FURTHER RESOURCES

- **Hiroshima Witness (The Voice of Hibakusha):**

Atomic Archive (n.d.). *Hiroshima Witness (The Voice of Hibakusha)*.

<https://www.atomicarchive.com/resources/documents/hibakusha/index.html>

- **Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes:**

George L. (Director). (1991). *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* [Film]. Informed Democracy

- **Sudako (And The Paper Cranes):**

The Orchard Enterprises [Tommy Sands - Topic]. (2015, February 22). *Sudako (And The Paper Cranes)* [Video]. Sudako (And The Paper Cranes).

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nWQfIIMIA\\_k&ab\\_channel=TommySands-Topic](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nWQfIIMIA_k&ab_channel=TommySands-Topic)

