

# Crimes Against Humanity

Turn to page 152 of your textbook...

- Did only the Axis commit crimes against humanity?
- What is a crime against humanity?
- Who judges crimes against humanity?

# Nuremberg Definition:

“murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation, and other inhumane acts committed against any civilian population, before or during the war...”



# Can victors commit crimes against humanity?

1. Japanese internment in Canada (and in the United States)
2. Allied bombing of Germany & Japan
3. United States' use of atomic bombs

# Japanese Internment

- In 1942, Canada's federal government ordered "all residents of Japanese racial origin and enemy aliens" from their homes in B.C. and forced them into internment camps





- About 22,000 people were forced from their homes on B.C.'s west coast





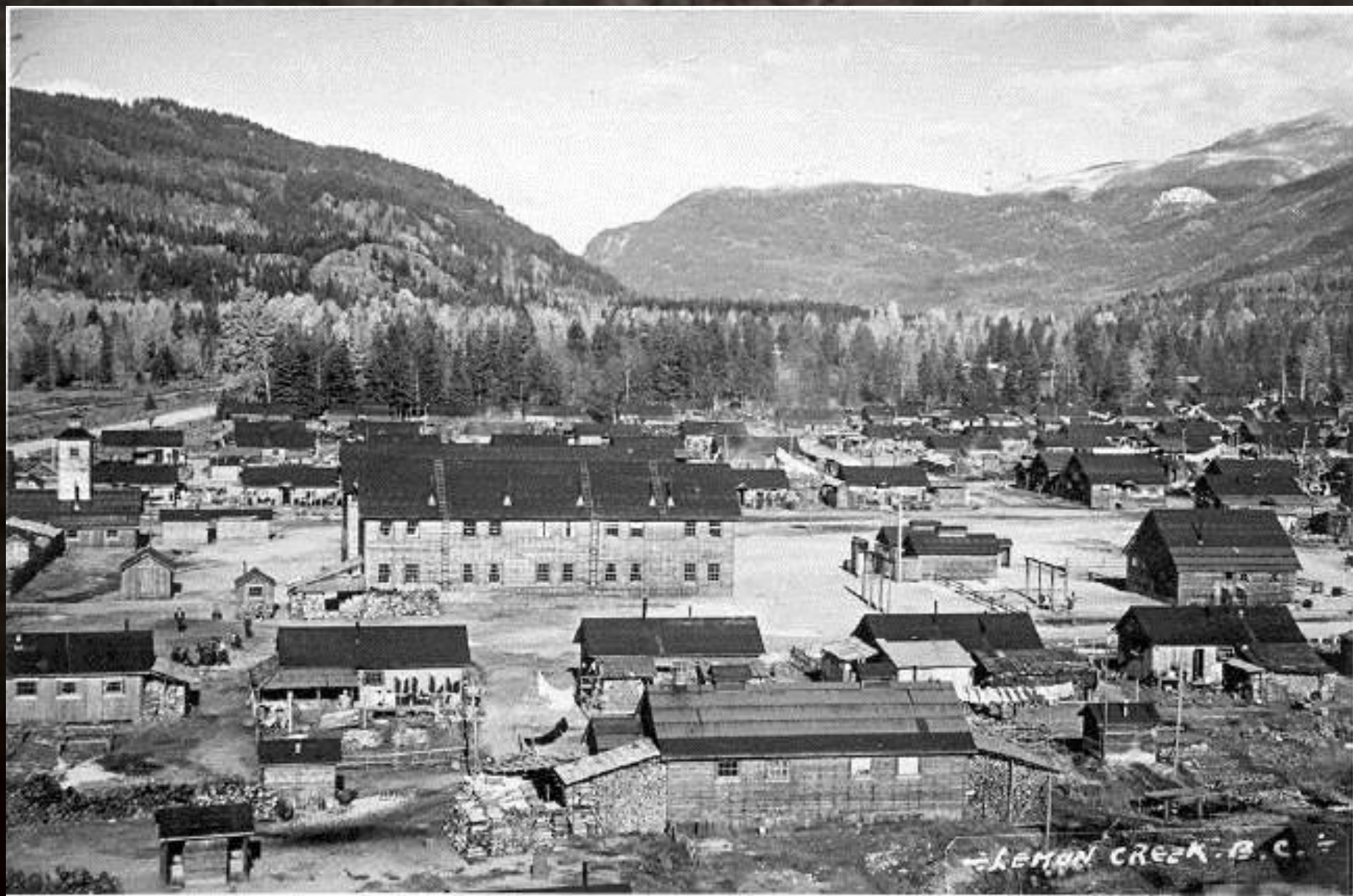
- Beginning in 1943, they were also stripped of their property, homes, fishing boats, etc.

- Many people were separated from their families during internment



- The United States followed a similar policy, where 110,000 were forcibly relocated









- Did Canada and the United States follow a similar policy with Germans and Italians?

# Allied bombing of Germany & Japan

- The RCAF participated in the British Bomber Command's night bombing of German cities





# Three main objectives:

1. Retaliation for German bombings of English cities
2. Diminish German morale
3. Destabilize German industrial centres





# In Germany...

- Firebombing of Hamburg in July 1943 killed more than 40,000 men, women, and children, and wounded almost 40,000 more.





- 1 million German civilians fled the city, and 250,000 homes were destroyed.



- A similar raid occurred on Dresden in February 1945, killing roughly 25,000 men, women, and children.



As for Japan...



Robert McNamara

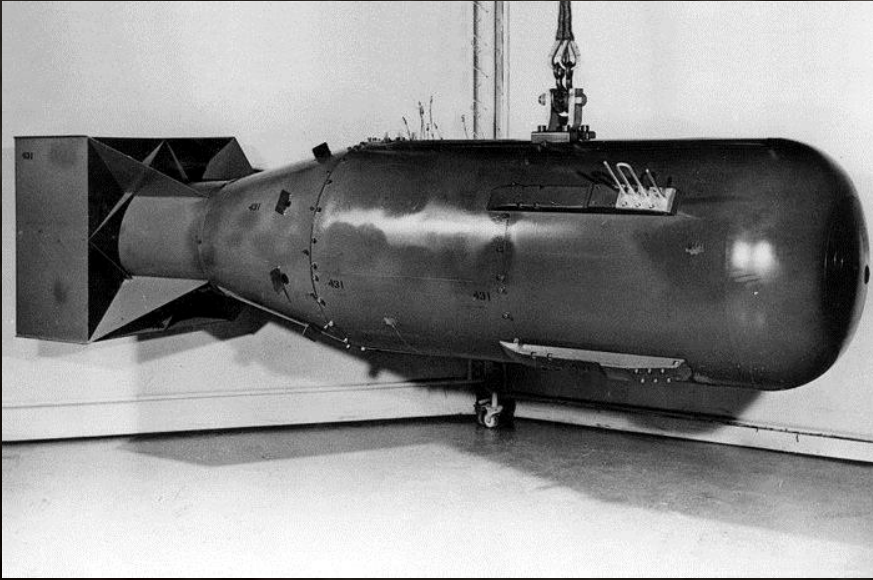
U.S. Secretary of Defence, 1961-1968



# The Bomb



# “Little Boy”



- On 6 August 1945, the United States dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima





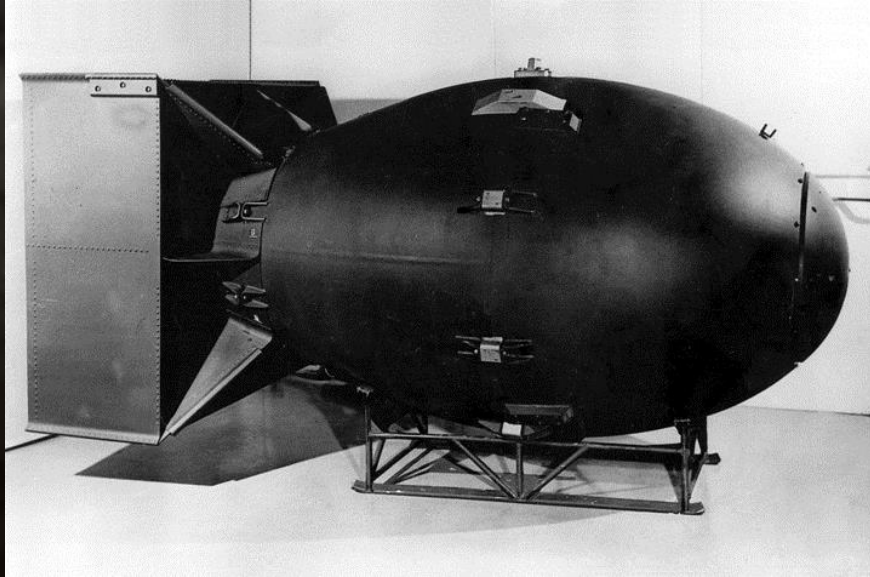
ENOLA  
GAY

82

U.S. ARMY AIR FORCE  
SERIAL NO. 44-8614



# “Fat Man”



- On 9 August 1945, the United States followed up on its attack of

Hiroshima by dropping a second nuclear bomb on the Japanese city of Nagasaki.

# NOTE:

These were the only two times in human history that nuclear weapons have been used against an enemy target!!!



# The results:

- Complete and utter destruction of both cities







At Hiroshima, 80,000 people were killed immediately, and another 80,000 would die within 5 years from injuries/radiation poisoning



In Nagasaki, 40,000 people were killed outright, with tens of thousands more later dying from injuries and exposure to radiation



# Was it worth it?

You decide....





# Reasons in favour:

- Japan surrendered less than one week after the bombing of Nagasaki
- This prevented countless U.S. military casualties from an invasion of Japan



- The bombings served warning to the Soviet Union



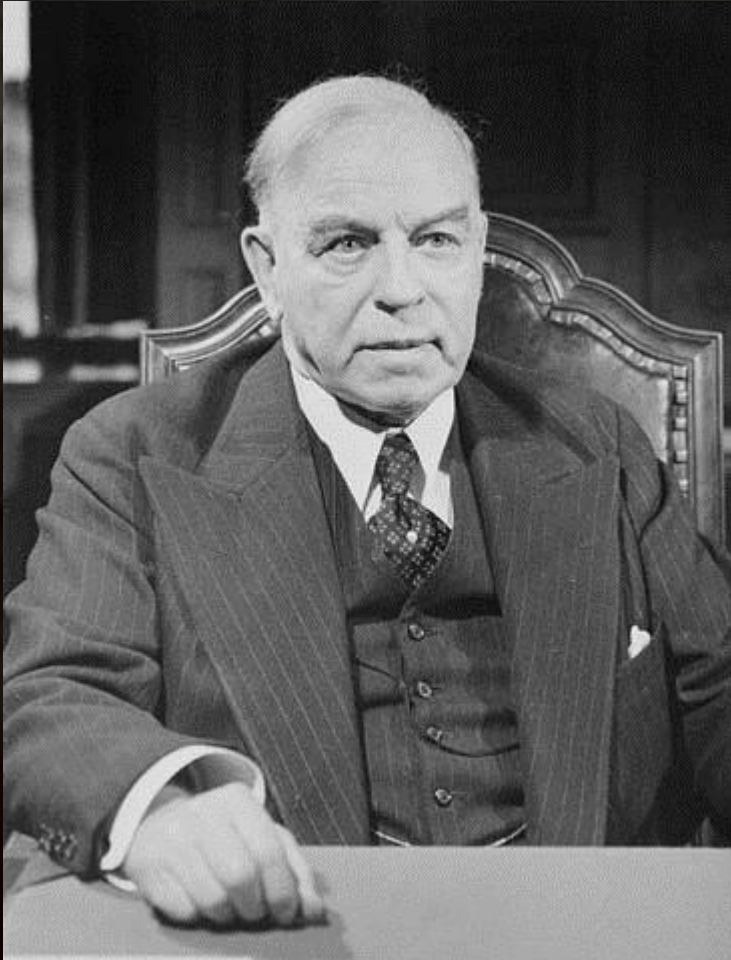
# Reasons against:

- Violates ethics and principles of humanity
- Led to a nuclear arms race that threatens to destroy our entire planet





# Canadian Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King



Monday, August 6, 1945 741

- 3 -

to as the greatest achievement in science. I think it was an equally great achievement in secrecy - a tremendous secret to have kept over four years. It shows what control by a government of publicity can effect.

Howe had handed my on Friday, Churchill's statement which I had with me in the country and read on Sunday. I brought it with me Sunday night and it was in my library over the night. Almost itself like a secretive bomb. It is quite remarkable that it should have been given to me to be the first in Canada to inform my own colleagues and the premiers of the several provinces and their ministers of this most amazing of all scientific discoveries and of what certainly presages the early close of the Japanese war. We now see what might have come to the British race had German scientists won the race. It is fortunate that the use of the bomb should have been upon the Japanese rather than upon the white races of Europe. I am a little concerned about how Russia may feel, not having been told anything of this invention or at what the British and the U.S. were doing in the way of exploring and perfecting the process.

# Canadian Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King



“It is fortunate that the use of the bomb should have been upon the Japanese rather than the white races of Europe.”

# It begs the question...

Would the Western Allies ever have decided to use nuclear weapons against German targets?





“What makes it immoral if you lose and not immoral if you win?” -Robert S. McNamara

