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Subject: Re: Germans and WW2

Posted by [Nukelt15](#) on Fri, 08 May 2009 05:34:45 GMT

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There was another consideration, actually, besides the projected casualty counts- if the Allies had undertaken an amphibious invasion of the Japanese home islands, the Soviet Union would have become heavily involved. By the time August rolled around, Germany had already been occupied and sliced up- and the USSR claimed a pretty big chunk of territory (while West Germany eventually regained its independence, East Germany remained a de facto Soviet colony until the Berlin Wall came down... not to mention most of Eastern Europe). There's no question that Stalin would have done the same in Japan- so the war had to be brought to a close before the USSR could make any such claim.

Look at former Warsaw Pact member states today, and compare them to NATO's sphere of influence. Stalin and his successors would have sucked dry any part of Japan they'd gotten their hands on- the country owes its present-day prosperity to having not been invaded.

Additionally, may cities were spared which might not have otherwise been. Hiroshima and Nagasaki were not unique- I don't know how many people are aware of this, but Nagasaki was actually one of the secondary targets for the August 9th mission ("Bock's Car," the B-29 assigned to the Fat Man mission, was diverted from Kokura as the weather over that city was overcast). The cities chosen for the target list were chosen because they were either of high strategic value or were poorly suited for other attacks (i.e. incendiary bombs, as were used against Tokyo). While additional atomic bombs were in the final stages of production, odds are they would not have been widely used in support of an invasion- incendiaries, however, might have been (and, as has already been mentioned, the casualties from the firebomb raids were much, much higher than those from even both of the atomic raids combined- even factoring in later casualties from radiation sickness).

In short, the decision was not so simple as "we have an awesome new weapon, let's use it and shock the enemy into surrendering."

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