

## Two Historical Narratives

Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Source: Excerpts from "Three Narratives of our Humanity" by John W. Dower, 1996. The following is from a book written by a historian about how people remember wars. John W. Dower explains the two different ways that the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki is remembered.*

### ***Hiroshima as Victimization***

Japanese still recall the war experience primarily in terms of their own victimization. For them, World War II calls to mind the deaths of family and acquaintances on distant battlefields, and, more vividly, the prolonged, systematic bombings of their cities.

If it is argued that the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima was necessary to shock the Japanese to surrender, how does one justify the hasty bombing of Nagasaki only three days later, before the Japanese had time to investigate Hiroshima and formulate a response?

### ***Hiroshima as Triumph***

To most Americans, Hiroshima—the shattered, atomized, irradiated city—remains largely a symbol of triumph—marking the end of a horrendous global conflict and the effective demonstration of a weapon that has prevented another world war.

It is hard to imagine that the Japanese would have surrendered without the atomic bomb. Japanese battle plans that were in place when the bombs were dropped called for a massive, suicidal defense of the home islands, in which the imperial government would mobilize not only several million fighting men but also millions of ordinary citizens who had been trained and indoctrinated to resist to the end with primitive makeshift weapons. For Japanese to even discuss capitulation (surrender) was seditious (against the law).

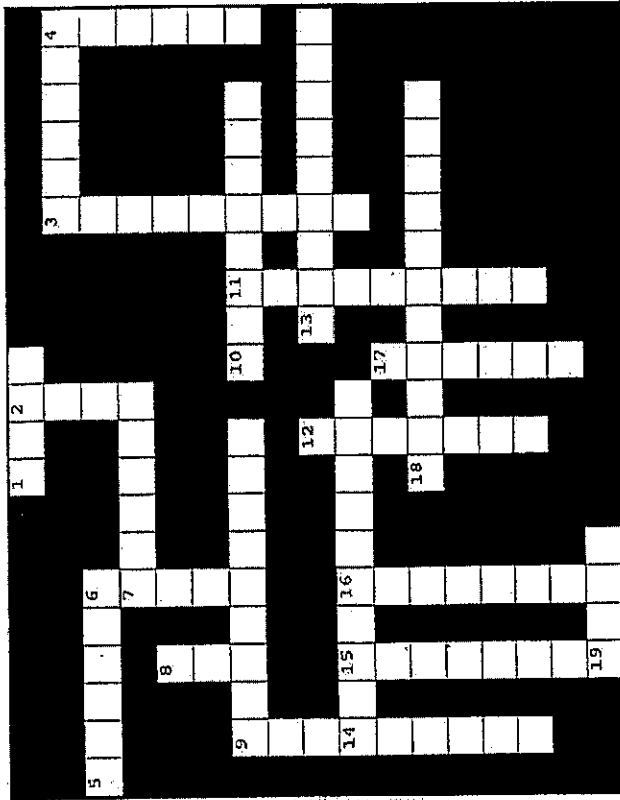
### **Guiding Questions**

1. In 1-2 sentences each, explain the two narratives (stories) about Hiroshima.
  
2. Which narrative do you agree with more? Why?

*V is for Victory*

# World War II

Directions: Use *V is for Victory* and other reference books to determine the answers to the clues. Then fill in the puzzle.



**Across**

- 1. Military leader in control of Japan during the war
- 3. Dictator of Germany during the war
- 5. Ruthless leader of the Soviet Union during the war
- 7. Countries fighting against the Axis powers
- 9. City in Japan on which the first atomic bomb was dropped
- 10. A person who has complete power and authority over a country
- 13. Dictator of Italy during the war
- 14. Supreme commander of the Allied Forces during the war
- 18. American base in Hawaii that was bombed by Japan
- 19. The alliance of Germany, Italy, and Japan

**Down**

- 2. People persecuted by the Nazis because of their religion
- 3. The mass murder of European Jews
- 4. To allow each person only certain amounts of foods, gasoline, and other goods
- 6. German political party in power during the war
- 8. Initials of the 32nd president of the United States
- 9. Term given to the United States mainland during the war
- 11. Prime minister of Great Britain during the war
- 12. A soldier who returns home from war
- 15. Emblem on the Nazi flag
- 16. Japanese city on which the second atomic bomb was dropped
- 17. Became the 33rd president of the United States

#581 Thematic Unit—World War II

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Use the following words to complete the puzzle:

- Stalin
- Tojo
- Jews
- Allies
- Nazis
- Hiroshima
- Homefront
- Eisenhower
- Swastika
- Axis
- Nagasaki
- Veteran
- Pearl Harbor
- Truman
- Churchill
- Mussolini
- Dictator
- Hitler
- Holocaust
- Railton
- FDR

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