

Colonel Paul Tibbets

'We knew it was going to kill people right and left. But my one driving interest was to do the best job I could so that we could end the killing as quickly as possible.'

Who: Colonel Paul Tibbets, pilot of the *Enola Gay*, the B-29 Superfortress which dropped the nuclear bomb on Hiroshima.

Right or wrong: Paul Tibbets remained convinced that dropping the bomb was necessary to end the war. He said the above in 2005, aged 90.



Hisatsune Sakomizu

'The atomic bomb was a golden opportunity given by heaven for Japan to end the war.'

Who: Minister Hisatsune Sakomizu, Japanese chief cabinet secretary during World War Two and a member of the peace faction in the Japanese government.

Right or wrong: Hisatsune Sakomizu accepted that dropping the bomb was necessary as he believed the war was already lost and Japan would suffer by letting it continue.



Herbert Hoover

'The use of the atomic bomb, with its indiscriminate killing of women and children, revolts my soul.'

Who: Herbert Hoover, Republican President (1929-1933).

Right or wrong: Hoover was critical of the decision to drop the bomb. He wrote the above in an open letter in 1951.



Akihiro Takahashi

'There was no need to drop the bomb on cities, because it was an experiment [...] It's apparent that the U.S. had created the atomic bomb after a huge expense, and they wanted to test it.'

Who: Hiroshima survivor Akihiro Takahashi, later director of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.

Right or wrong: Akihiro Takahashi campaigned to end the use of nuclear weapons, and made the above claim in a 1995 interview.

