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## Advanced Study Guide

### Epilogue: The Decision and the Consequences

1. Summarize the debate within the Japanese government over the Potsdam Declaration. Do you think that a fuller description of the atomic bomb's power in the declaration would have influenced Japan's decision? Explain your answer.
  
2. Although the number of deaths resulting from the attack on Hiroshima was comparable to the death tolls resulting from the firebombings of Hamburg, Dresden, and Tokyo, the death rate was much higher. Why was the atomic bomb deadlier than conventional bombs?
  
3. The eyewitness accounts by survivors of Hiroshima tell of horrible death and suffering. How would their recollections have differed from those of the survivors of bombing attacks on Warsaw, London, Hamburg, or Dresden?
  
4. How was the decision made to drop the atomic bomb on Nagasaki? Why did the people of Nagasaki fail to evacuate the city after the United States warned them of the attack?
  
5. If the Japanese had not surrendered on August 14, 1945, should the United States have continued to drop atomic bombs on Japan? Explain your reasoning.
  
6. Assess the following statement: "The primary purpose of the atomic bomb was neither to cause damage or to kill Japanese, but to shock the Japanese government into realizing the futility of continuing the war. The bomb was successful in achieving its purpose, and many Japanese lives were saved as a result."