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Treaty of Justice or Vengeance?

Of all the brutal wars throughout the history of mankind, World War I is seen by many as one of the most cruel and pointless conflicts ever fought. From the new strategy of a “War of Attrition,” to the naval blockades, to the use of poison gas the leaders of WWI seemed bent on doing whatever they believed was necessary regardless of the costs. Of all the failures of the European leaders, the most significant seems to be the Treaty of Versailles. While the Allied leaders claimed the Treaty was a fair punishment for German crimes, in reality it was Treaty of Revenge. The evidence shows that instead of giving Germany what they deserved, the Treaty sought to permanently weaken Germany economically and militarily. In addition, the terms of the Treaty caused massive economic problems in the 1920’s leading to the devastation of countless German lives. While some may argue that justice was served in the Treaty of Versailles, the effects of the Treaty clearly show that the primary motive was revenge.

Historians and average citizens alike have many reasons as to why it was justified to use the atomic bomb on Japan. President Truman himself argued that Japan would not quickly surrender and as a result over 500,000 lives might be lost if the U.S. invaded Japan (“Truman Telegram to General MacArthur.”). As a result of this Truman argued that he had no choice but to use the bomb to save American lives (Schmoe, 35). In addition, Professor Hot Shot states, “The Japanese were trained in the military never to surrender- in fact the Japanese language has no word for surrender..” (Schmoe, 36). This led many people to believe at the time that the only way to force the Japanese to surrender is by using the Atomic Bomb to frighten them into submission.

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