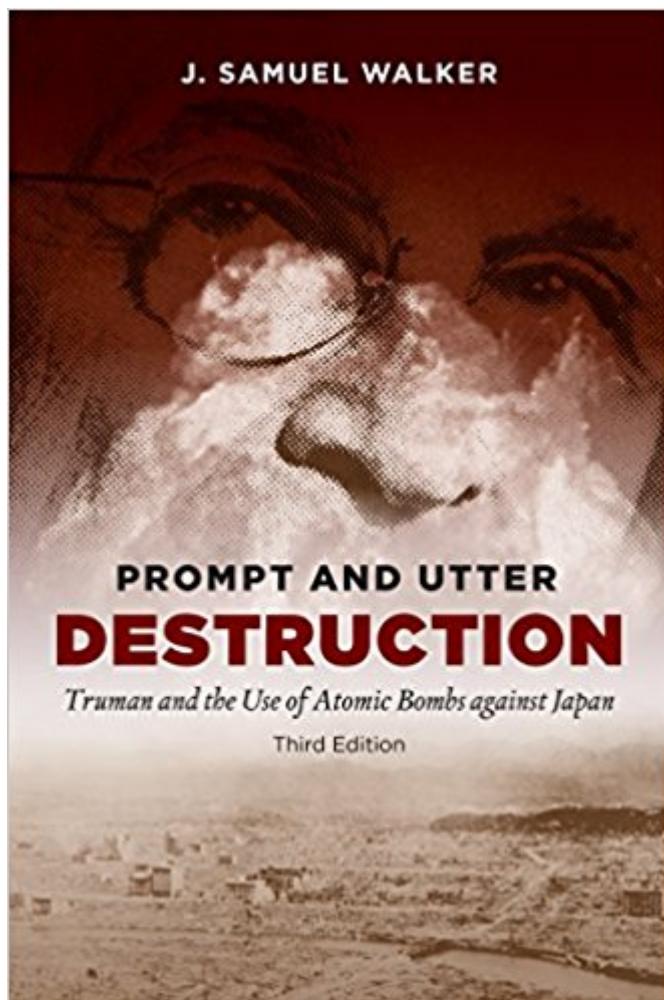


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Prompt And Utter Destruction, Third Edition: Truman And The Use Of Atomic Bombs Against Japan



Synopsis

In this concise account of why America used atomic bombs against Japan in 1945, J. Samuel Walker analyzes the reasons behind President Truman's most controversial decision. Delineating what was known and not known by American leaders at the time, Walker evaluates the options available for ending the war with Japan. In this new edition, Walker incorporates a decade of new research--mostly from Japanese archives only recently made available--that provides fresh insight on the strategic considerations that led to dropping the bomb. From the debate about whether to invade or continue the conventional bombing of Japan to Tokyo's agonizing deliberations over surrender and the effects of both low- and high-level radiation exposure, Walker continues to shed light on one of the most earthshaking moments in history. Rising above an often polemical debate, the third edition presents an accessible synthesis of previous work and new research to help make sense of the events that ushered in the atomic age.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Praise for previous editions:"Brief, lucidly written, and thoroughly documented, this book may well be the best existing report on the decision to use the bomb. Professional historians as well as undergraduates will find it fascinating.--*Isis*So intelligent is Walker's book, so balanced, economical, lucid, and deeply informed, that those reading it will never again believe that the decision to drop the bomb was uncomplicated.--*Technology & Culture*Walker's book is the most useful layman's synthesis of the debate in print.--*Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*The author's ability to cover the

most important issues with economy . . . make[s] this an excellent addition to the literature, particularly useful for beginning students.--Foreign AffairsMature, confident scholarship, this is the best synthetic study of the use of the atomic bomb.--International History Review

J. Samuel Walker is a prize-winning historian and author of books on the history of American foreign policy, nuclear energy, and college basketball.

I enjoyed reading this book (kindle version) since it was a required book for my upper-level college class. It gave me a better understand of the major decision-makers for the use of the atomic bomb. Whether you support Truman's decision or not, the impact on human history is undeniable. Read this book and make your choice on whether or not Truman needed to use atomic weapons on Japan, or if the war would have ended without the use of them.

Good book, very informative about the situations and struggles faced both by the Americans and Japanese. It also came in good condition and nice packaging.

This book gives a good overview but just that - an overview. The events and circumstances surrounding the use of the A-bomb simply must be addressed in greater depth for one who wishes to become truly knowledgable on the subject. However, its brevity is also a strength in that for one just getting into the subject it serves as a fabulous introduction and for those already familiar with the subject, it sums things up into a nice recap. Contrary to some reviews of the book, the author doesn't ever say or even imply that the bomb should not have been dropped. Quite the opposite, he provides compelling reasons why the decision to use the bomb was sound and wise militarily, politically, diplomatically, and morally. Granted, the idea of morally justifying such terrible force in any context seems paradoxical and borders on philosophical absurdity, but the author does an admirable job at least providing relatively sound coherent reasons. So while not the final say, this book would be a good addition due to its brevity, credible research, and arguments which, as a whole, are very sound.

Came on time, was in great condition and there was nothing more I could ask for! Thank you!

Really enjoyed this book. A good read if you would like to know anything around the policies that influenced America during the second world war.

good.

Walker does an excellent job of describing Truman's decision to use the atomic bomb while exploring the mythology that has surrounded the decision.

I used this monologue for a school-assigned book review, and it served its purpose well. Walker utilizes various historical lenses and methodologies to de-polarize Allied WWII-ending strategies. The minus-one-star review is in recognition of the item's price. I believe that \$20 for 160 pages, regardless of its academic standing, is too much.

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