

Lecture 03:
“Atomic Politics:
The Bomb, the Emperor, and the Beginning of the Postwar
Condition”

1) The bombings and the bombed

- a) Hiroshima/Nagasaki, August 1945
- b) The physical effects
- c) The psychological effects
- d) The political effects

2) The heroic narrative

- a) “Unconditional Surrender”
- b) Truman and Hirohito as saviors
- c) The conditional “unconditional surrender”

3) The bomb and the emperor

- a) Shocked to death, shocked to life
- b) Exoneration and condemnation
- c) “Enduring the unendurable” (see Doc 03, “Imperial Rescript”)

4) Hibakusha and the emperor

- a) I feel your pain
- b) Atomic peace

(See Documents: **Potsdam Declaration**, **Bombing Order**, and **Imperial Rescript Announcing End of War**; and Links: **02**, **03**, **04**)