

Values in Time of War

1. Imagine you represent the leadership of a democracy fighting a war that has dragged on for several years. Your goals are to win the war quickly and to save the lives of your soldiers. At the same time, you want to conduct the war in a manner that is morally responsible and consistent with the values of your democratic society.

Below is a list of potential bombing targets for our air force. Your assignment is to consider each of the targets in terms of its military significance and moral implications. In short, you are deciding whether the means of aerial bombardment are justified by the ends, or goals, stated above. With your partners, use the following scale for your ratings:

1=Completely Unjustified, 2=Somewhat Unjustified, 3=Somewhat Justified, 4=Completely Justified.
Explain your reasoning for each rating and be able to explain why someone might say the opposite.

Potential Target	Rating
1. Enemy troops in the field <i>reason for rating:</i>	
2. Military training camps <i>reason for rating:</i>	
3. Factories producing military supplies <i>reason for rating:</i>	
4. Homes of civilians working in military factories <i>reason for rating:</i>	
5. Food supplies for the military <i>reason for rating:</i>	
6. Food supplies for civilians <i>reason for rating:</i>	
7. Military hospitals <i>reason for rating:</i>	
8. Residential neighborhoods of major cities <i>reason for rating:</i>	
9. Trains and ships carrying troops <i>reason for rating:</i>	
10. Trains and ships carrying both civilians and troops <i>reason for rating:</i>	
11. High schools <i>reason for rating:</i>	
12. Universities involved in military-related research <i>reason for rating:</i>	

2. Video Notes (Before you begin, review your notes from [Anatomy of the Pacific War](#) (Blog post from March 11), then watch the linked clips and fill in the chart.

	Notes	How do these influence decisions on whether to drop the bomb?
P.O.W.'s		
Firebombing of Tokyo		
Battle for Okinawa		

3. With your partner, refer back to last night's reading (111-114) and review the 6 factors that influenced U.S. decision-making regarding the use of the atomic bomb and then discuss and rank them in order from the most important factor to least. Use your notes and readings to justify your ranking:

- American military casualties,
- the policy of unconditional surrender,
- emerging problems with the Soviet Union,
- the destructive power of the atomic bomb
- the preservation of American values
- the possibility of Japanese surrender

Next, answer the following question:

- How do you think the American public in late July 1945 would have ranked the six factors. Is that ranking similar or different to yours, why?

4. As an advisor to President Truman, you've been given three options to consider when dropping the bomb (Binder Page 115 OR this electronic copy. Read the first page only unless you want more information about each option-[Atomic Bomb Options](#)):
 - Make Time for Peace (Don't drop the bomb)
 - Take Responsibility for a New Era (Drop the bomb as a demonstration on a deserted island)
 - Push Ahead to Final Victory (Drop the bomb on Japan)

Decide which option you would advocate. Base your decision on the evidence from the readings and films you've watched. Then respond by writing a few sentences identifying then explaining your decision. *Why did you select the option that you did?*

5. Next, watch this video describing the dropping of the bomb. [The Century: Civilians at War \(59:21-1:01:59 only\)](#)

Notes:

6. Relook at your response from #4. Does the information from the video change your decision? Why or why not? Be sure to use a specific piece of evidence from the video to support your decision.
7. Finally, write a short-talk about the decision to drop the atomic bomb. Be sure to consider all of the information above in order to identify the focus of your short talk.