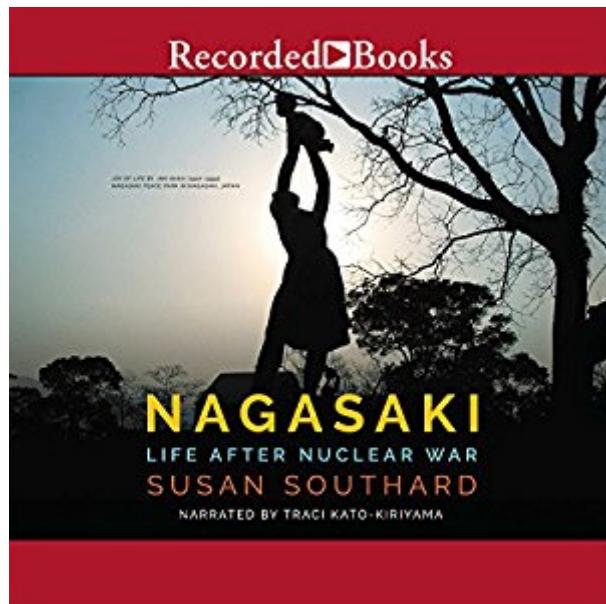


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Nagasaki: Life After Nuclear War



Synopsis

A powerful and unflinching account of the enduring impact of nuclear war, told through the stories of those who survived. On August 9, 1945, three days after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, the United States dropped a second atomic bomb on Nagasaki, a small port city on Japan's southernmost island. An estimated 74,000 people died within the first five months, and another 75,000 were injured. Published on the 70th anniversary of the bombing, Nagasaki takes listeners from the morning of the bombing to the city today, telling the firsthand experiences of five survivors, all of whom were teenagers at the time of the devastation. Susan Southard has spent years interviewing hibakusha ("bomb-affected people") and researching the physical, emotional, and social challenges of postatomic life. She weaves together dramatic eyewitness accounts with searing analysis of the policies of censorship and denial that colored much of what was reported about the bombing in both the United States and Japan. A gripping narrative of human resilience, Nagasaki will help shape public discussion and debate over one of the most controversial wartime acts in history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This was probably one of the most difficult and challenging books I've ever read. Having just finished "109 East Palace" about Los Alamos and the Manhattan Project, I wanted to follow it with something about the effects of the bombing, and the aftermath of the war on Japan. "Nagasaki: Life After Nuclear War" provided me with exactly what I was looking for. It begins with the status of the negotiations that were occurring between the US and Japan prior to the bombings

and what life was like for the average Japanese citizen. Life was bleak and riddled with severe shortages of food, clothing and general supplies but the citizenry was kept in the dark as far as the progress of the war and they were charged with being loyal to Emperor Hirohito. Absolutely everything was going into the war effort and Japan realized that its days were numbered but there were some sticking points in the negotiations. Then the bombs hit Hiroshima and a few days later, Nagasaki. The first-hand accounts of some of the survivors are threaded through the entire book and vividly describe what geographically happened when the bomb exploded as well as the excruciating physical injuries that occurred to both those that died and those who survived. The social, economic and political environment of the US occupation after the war is presented. The book continues to nearly modern day and the effects that nuclear war has had on Japan's nuclear and political policies.

"Nagasaki" content is so current that it includes the Fukushima Reactor disaster and its resulting ongoing effects and damage after the tsunami in 2011. This book was very thoroughly researched and has an extensive bibliography in the back of the book. It is not for the faint at heart. The physical descriptions of the physical injuries brought me to tears and it made me (once again) challenge my belief that this was a prudent thing to do to Japanese citizens.

This book follows survivors to the present day which makes it very interesting. Very difficult to believe the continuing pain for all these years.

Great detail, describes the horror of the bomb and the after effects on people over the years

This book should be required reading for every member of Congress. I was in high school when the war ended but I knew very little about the results of the bombing. The Japanese people had been so propagandized by their government. Until the bombs dropped, they had been told they were winning and that Japan would never surrender. I wonder how our political life would have changed if they and we had been given the details about the war in this book. I also read "1941" which discussed the military's influence on the Japanese government to convince them to bomb Pearl Harbor. Many governmental officials were opposed to starting a war with America and said it would be impossible to win, but the military leaders prevailed. These two books made me aware that a handful of men can make life and death decisions for the rest of us.

Well written. Excellent detail and research. Something for all the world's citizens to better understand what nuclear weapons, in fact, any weapons, can inflict on innocent people.

A very good book on the topic! It covers ALL the information that was for so long hidden to the world.

Most people of my generation (I was born in 1951) are familiar with what happened in Hiroshima from John Hersey's book of the same name. After all, that city was the first to be attacked with an atomic bomb. But I think people tend to forget that Nagasaki was also bombed with a nuclear weapon. By introducing readers to the people the author was chronicling in the days prior to the attack, following them not only through the events of August 9, 1945, but also through the years afterward brought this compelling story into my own lifetime. While tragic in many ways, I came away from the book reminded of the infinite capacity of human beings for compassion, forgiveness, and finding the strength to endure unimaginable injuries and hardships.

This was a very detailed account of the bombing of Nagasaki and the impact on individual survivors and on the beautiful city of Nagasaki. It is written tastefully and with compassion. Although heart breaking it should be a must read for anyone interested in history or the Japanese culture. It should be read by everyone before they make a decision for the upcoming election. It makes the horror real and raises many moral questions about the decision to use nuclear warfare.

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