A-Bomb Notes

1. Why did FDR build the bomb?
   1. Fear of Germans building it
2. Why did Truman drop it?
   1. Why did a committee insist on not demonstrating it first?
      1. Japanese may move
      2. Japan may
      3. Committee did not know about radioactivity
      4. Less concern about human life by the end of the war
      5. America public would demand it
         1. Scientists wanted to share the bomb with the Soviets
   2. Truman insisted on
      1. For that, A-Bomb was necessary
      2. Despite sea blockade, Japan was not surrendering soon enough
      3. By now, the U.S. was trying to avoid the U.S.S.R. coming in against Japan
      4. Japan ignored U.S. warnings
         1. Even after two A-Bombs were dropped, Japan still wanted assurances about their Emperor
   3. Why was Nagasaki bombed so soon after Hiroshima?
      1. Order was: Hiroshima, Kokura, Niigata, Nagasaki
      2. Dates were to be August 6 and August 11
3. Who was for and against the bomb?
   1. Navy
      1. Admiral William Leahy did not think it would work
      2. Upset Army (Air Force) was getting the credit
   2. Army (Air Force) –
   3. State Department was divided
      1. Acting Secretary Grew was against unconditional surrender
         1. Knew the Emperor was too important
      2. Acheson and MacLeigh (Assistant Secretary of State)
      3. New Secretary of State, James Byrnes, concerned more with