

have an effect on what we deem good, as well as bad, bacteria in agriculture. We exterminate diseases for ourselves and our animal friends. We plant new forests, drain swamps and marshes, create new water sources, and bring rivers to deserts to transform them into fertile meadows.

Man tames the wildness of nature to create a place for a better peace of mind. Mankind uplifts all living things on this planet to a more important significance by his use of them, and brings life one

step closer to its goal: spreading life beyond this planet.

Look to the Future

The place to truly begin the study of human history, is from the future: What will the human species be doing in 100 years? 1,000 years? 10,000 years? As there has not been a limit to the habitation of man in any realm of the Earth so far, which has included short forays into nearby "space," is there any limit on the potential of man to ferry civilization to other planets? To mine the Moon and to

harvest the asteroids for our resources? To use those refined materials to manage a solar economy? To use that as a basis from which mankind begins to colonize the galaxy? And then beyond?

No, there is no limit to the creative potentials of mankind! There is no limit to the evolution of the biosphere which man shall bring with him as he develops; and, therefore, there is no Second Law of Thermodynamics, and no need to continue to tolerate the religion of environmentalism.

Ignoring the Truth about the Bomb

by L. Wolfe

The Most Controversial Decision: Truman, the Atomic Bomb and the Defeat of Japan

by Wilson D. Miscamble, C.S.C.
New York: Cambridge University Press,
2011
Paperback, 174 pp., \$24.99

It is easy to prove a point when you choose to ignore the truth. What is perhaps most annoying about Wilson Miscamble's apology for the use of atomic weapons on Japan is that it purports to present unbiased scholarship, claiming to have calmly reached the cold-blooded, but, as he says, unpopular "fact" that the atomic slaughter of Japanese civilians was necessary to end the war and prevent American and Allied high casualties, in what would have otherwise been a terribly bloody invasion of the Japanese homeland.

Miscamble's work ignores whatever truth might inconveniently get in the way of his clearly prejudged opinion of the validity of the "decision" to drop the atomic bombs on Japan. Here I will make a few relevant points that indicate the extent of his scholarly lying.

Miscamble asserts at one point in his account of the decision-making process that resulted in the bombing, that Truman and others involved were merely carrying out what the dead Franklin Roosevelt had "intended" in using the bomb as a weapon against Japan. There is not one shred of evidence to support this assertion, and none is presented.

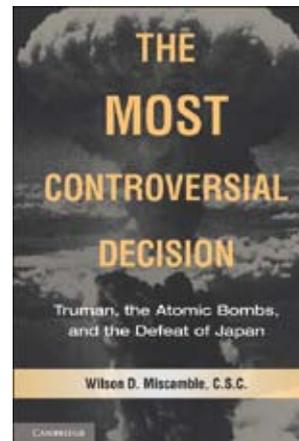
Instead, there is much evidence that FDR had only agreed to develop atomic

weapons as a possible counter to a Nazi effort to do the same, and that he had never seriously considered using them in Europe, especially when it was clear that the Nazis were already on the road to defeat and that their atomic program was unsuccessful.

Miscamble's lying assertion about FDR's intent is further weakened by the mountains of evidence of Roosevelt's pursuit of a backchannel peace agreement with the Japanese, mediated through the Vatican, to which effort he deployed trusted assets from American intelligence circles.

Those familiar with FDR's thinking on this matter—including some people whom I spoke to who were personally involved—say that if anything, FDR might have agreed to a demonstration of the power of the new weapon, without using it on Japan, to help strengthen factions in the imperial household and government who were seeking peace with honor. Miscamble somehow overlooked this backchannel.

The author makes much of the fact that secret code intercepts made it apparently clear that the Japanese would not surrender without assurances that the Emperor could stay on in some role. He correctly attributes to Truman advisor Jimmy Byrnes the demand for the continuation of the unconditional surrender policy. But Miscamble claims that because Byrnes had been an advisor to FDR, he somehow channeled the late President and knew that he would have not given in on a future role for the Emperor in a defeated Japan.



My sources told me that if it were required to end the war, FDR would have found a way to accommodate that Japanese request (the which request was ultimately given in a private assurance after the bombs had been dropped. And, these sources said, that if that assurance had been given earlier, it might have yielded a peace without Hiroshima, negotiated through the Vatican backchannel).

Preventing a U.S.-Soviet Alliance

Miscamble also chooses to claim that because the simple but evil Truman was not capable of conceiving a grand strategy versus the Soviet Union, involving the atomic bombing of Japan, that no considerations to that effect were involved in the decision. That is palpable nonsense, as several other authors have pointed out (Gar Alperowitz, *The Decision To Use the Atomic Bomb*, New York: Vintage Books, 1996, for example).

Churchill and the British, as well as many of their counterparts on the U.S. side, were more concerned ultimately about the effect of the bombing on the Soviet Union than they were about its effect on Japan.

Such factions were interested in break-



President Truman (third from left) and Secretary of State James F. Byrnes (second from right) saw the bombing of Japan as a geopolitical move directed at the Soviet Union. Here they pose at Potsdam in 1945, with Josef Stalin (second from left) and others at the conference.

ing apart the alliance that FDR had envisioned between the United States and the Soviet Union against the British Empire—an Empire, which FDR once told a trusted aide, would give the U.S. more trouble than the Nazis. This created an environment in which the decision to drop the bomb was made, and it is absurd to claim that Truman and Byrnes (who Miscamble claims wanted to drop the bomb to justify to American taxpayers the billions that had been spent on the project!) were impervious to this.

Perhaps the most ridiculous assertion by Miscamble is that he has finally put to rest the argument that the dropping of the bomb was militarily unnecessary. He reports on Japanese troop movements in preparation for a possible Allied invasion of the main islands, and then states: So much for the claim that Japan was on the verge of military collapse.

The esteemed professor misses the point entirely: Japan was a *defeated* nation prior to the dropping of the bomb. General MacArthur, and others who thought like him, did not believe that a military invasion was necessary, as Japan no longer represented a military threat to anyone. Its supply lines to Korea and Manchuria were cut off, and it did not have on its home islands sufficient fuel for those factories still left standing from the withering Allied bombing attacks.

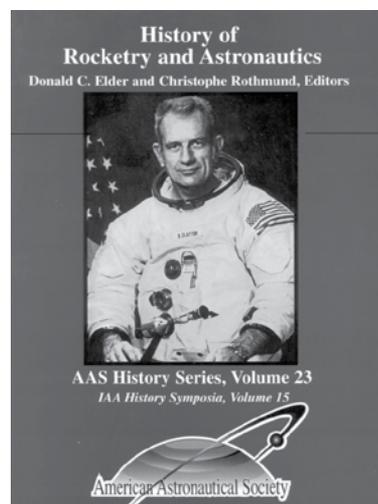
(It had been a mistake, in the eyes of

many people, to have misdirected bombing away from military targets into a form of terror attacks on populations. In the end, these had no effect on ending the war, while the attacks on military and production facilities cut into Japan's ability to fight on, a fact that weighed heavily on saner military leaders and members of the imperial family, including the Emperor, who did not want to see his people slaughtered.)

The fallacy-of-composition argument of Miscamble, that the dropping of the bomb was necessary to prevent high levels of Allied casualties, assumes that an invasion of Japan was necessary to defeat the country. It was not: A blockade of its ports and continued bombing of its war-making capacity, would have eventually driven Japan to surrender on the same terms as those that took place after the atomic bombing.

Such a strategy, as I have presented previously ("A Tragedy in Three Acts: The Beast Men Behind the Dropping of the Atomic Bomb," *21st Century*, Summer 2005) was consistent with MacArthur's successful plan for bypassing and isolating Japanese strong points. The U.S. invasion plan was an exercise in military and strategic foolishness.

In sum: Miscamble has presented a nice story, all neatly tied together with abundant research and citations. The only trouble is that it is an historical fiction.



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