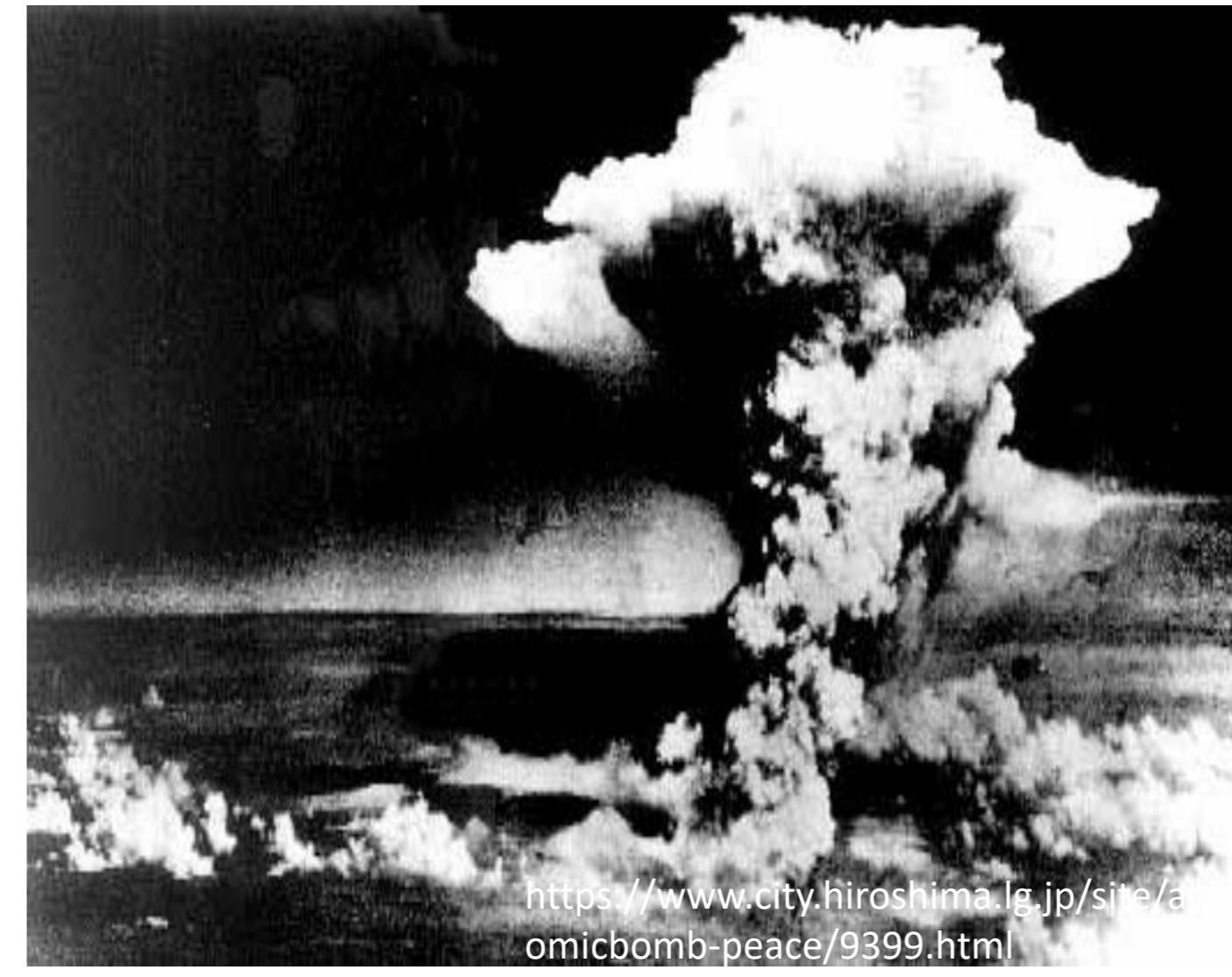


# Recognition of War Heritage as a hope for the future

## Recognition of War Heritage to date

They are the legacy of World War II and other disastrous events committed by us humans, and are sometimes referred to as "Negative Heritage" in Japan. They are often recognized as a reminder not to repeat those tragic events again.



A-bomb dropped on Hiroshima



Burnt-out Tokyo

## War Heritage of Japan



A-bomb Dome, Hiroshima



Peace Memorial Elephant of Nagasaki



Military Heritage of Okinawa

Japan has experienced several wars in its history and has heritages that tell of the tragic events of World War II in particular. There are air-raid shelters and bunkers that were

used during the war near my parents' home. The most famous of these are the sites of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the only two cities in the world to have been bombed with atomic bombs.

## War Heritage Steps Toward Hope

The heritage of war shows not only the tragic history of the war years, but also the hope that adults have built upon it. It is true that the sad memories will never disappear, and that there are many people in Japan and around the world who still suffer. However, we should know the efforts for peace that have been made on top of it.

### -The Hope of Japan and the U.S.



In 2016, Mr.Obama became the first sitting U.S. president to visit Japan. That same year, former Prime Minister Mr.Abe visited Pearl Harbor and spoke about the importance of hope and peace between the two countries, built on the scars of a former war.

### -World Chose a Path to Peace



In May 2023, G7 leaders and bureaucrats laid flowers at the site of the atomic bombing and pledged the importance of justice and peacekeeping. They don't say much, but the heads of state attested to their kinship.

## New Interpretation of War Heritage

Obama said, "Living voices will eventually go unheard." What should the war heritage be in an age when generations like ours, who have never experienced war, will be responsible for the world? As a testament to a painful history, but not only that. I hope that the efforts and wishes for peace that have been accumulated there will be given a new voice. To this end, I believe it is necessary to ensure a place of learning with words and experiences from the adults to us and from us to our children in our efforts for peace.

