

# Watch the movie "Oppenheimer"

—Breaking away from the false justification for the atomic bomb—

Kazuhiko KASAYA

I saw the movie "Oppenheimer". It was an excellent result. No wonder it won 13 Academy Awards. The film skillfully interweaves an intellectual commentary on the development of nuclear physics with a drama of political conflict over the handling of the monster called the atomic bomb, while moving back and forth in time and space. It develops into a climax.

Bohr of Denmark, who discovered the phenomenon of nuclear fission in uranium; Heisenberg, the master of quantum mechanics and the theoretical leader of Germany's atomic bomb development; and Einstein, the proponent of the Manhattan Project, kept his distance from the development of the atomic bomb.

This movie provides an overview of the history of the development of nuclear physics through a diverse group of figures. The story depicts the flourishing world of science in the first half of the 20th century.

Furthermore, in order to penetrate into the inner personality of Oppenheimer, the main character of this story, he intensively introduces the methods of deep psychology such as Freud and Jung (which itself is an important piece of the modern scientific world).

This work, which was carefully produced based on a thorough study of the history of science and international politics in the original book, is an outstanding work of cinematic art and represents the highest intellectual achievement regarding the atomic bomb issue in modern America.

For this reason, there is nothing more suitable as a subject for discussion regarding the issue of dropping the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

[Debate over the pros and cons of dropping the atomic bomb in movies]

First, how was this issue expressed in the movie of all, as for Oppenheimer, we cannot hear him talking about his sinfulness. When he talks about the ethical sin of producing the atomic

bomb, he considers it a blasphemy against God, like Prometheus, who said that it was the same as stealing fire from Heaven. Second, it created a world of fear through exchanges of nuclear bombs with countries such as the Soviet Union.

As for the mass murder of the Japanese people, there is no reason to reflect on the fact that it was probably around 20,000 people at most. And, as usual, it ends with the necessity to stop the war in order to bring it to an early end (in the movie, at the post-war Communist Inquiry Committee, Oppenheimer is criticized by citing the devastation of Hiroshima).

The tone of the government, from President Truman on down, is similar, and there is nothing but discussion about where and how to drop nuclear weapons on Japan. However, if we look at the reality of history, within the U.S. government, Undersecretary of State J. C. Grew strongly opposed the dropping of the atomic bomb. Secretary of Army H. L. Stimson made the comment in the film, ``Please leave Kyoto out, it's my honeymoon place," which caused bitter smile from Japanese audiences, but in reality, along with Grew, he was an opponent of the bombing.

President H. S. Truman, and especially Secretary of State J. F. Burns, are the people Japan must accuse. While Grew and others insisted that the atomic bomb was unnecessary because Japan would surrender if it guaranteed the imperial form, Burns, who was aiming to ensure unconditional surrender, deleted the clause guaranteeing the imperial form that was in the original draft of the Potsdam Declaration. .

As is clear from this, dropping the atomic bomb was not meant to end the war. This means that it was a means to fulfill the devil's demands for unconditional surrender.

[Trends in Japan]

By 1945, B-29 air attacks on all of Japan had become a regular occurrence, and in May of the same year, Germany surrendered, making it impossible to continue the war. The Tojo Cabinet was overthrown, and a way to end the war was being sought. Then, in July, efforts to end the war began in earnest, led by former Prime Minister Fumimaro Konoe and others, and with Emperor Showa also taking active action, Konoe was appointed as a special peace envoy.

The contents of the peace treaty were to fully accept the demands of the American and British sides, with the only condition being the guarantee of the Emperor Form, and to cede the Kuril Islands and other islands to the American and British sides.

The Soviet Union (Russia), with whom Japan had concluded a neutrality pact at the time, was to act as a mediator in the peace negotiations. If the Soviet Union refused, direct negotiations would be held with the American and British sides.

It was then officially decided that special envoy Konoe Fumimaro would travel to Moscow bearing Correspondence from Emperor Showa. This took place on July 12th.

What a coincidence, this was almost the same day as the successful atomic bomb test in New Mexico, USA, on July 16th (US time).

[The outcome of the Japanese efforts to end the war]

After deciding to send special envoy Konoe, the Japanese government sent a telegram to the Japanese ambassador in Moscow to that effect, asking for a response from the Soviet government regarding the acceptance of the special envoy.

However, the Soviet Union had already concluded a secret agreement with the United States and Britain at the Yalta Conference on the Crimean Peninsula in February of the same year (the Yalta Secret Agreement), which stated that if the Soviet Union violated the Japan-Soviet Neutrality Pact and invaded Japan, it would be given the Kuril Islands.

For this reason, the Soviet side tried to delay the Japanese offer to send a special envoy, making repeated excuses such as not knowing the content of the peace negotiations and not giving a clear answer.

[Wireless interception by the US military and the dropping of the atomic bomb]

The exchange of telegrams between Japan and the Soviet Union regarding the dispatch of Konoe's special envoy was intercepted by the US military, and President Truman was informed that Japan was sending a special envoy to Moscow to begin peace negotiations mediated by the Soviet Union. However, this crucial information was suppressed.

On July 18, at a meeting in Potsdam, Germany, Truman was informed by Stalin of the Soviet Union that "a telegram has arrived from the Emperor of Japan requesting peace," but Truman ignored the request ("Truman Diary"). He was ecstatic at the news of the successful atomic bomb test. The atomic bomb will solve everything.

Firstly, to make Japan accept unconditional surrender. Secondly, to instill fear in the Soviet communist forces.

This is the true history of the atomic bombings. How hollow is discourse like "it was unavoidable in order to end the war"?

I have decided to write this essay in order to break away from such discourse.