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AP Euro
Period C
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Historical Essay Analysis

Title: Atomic Holocaust, Nazi Holocaust

Author: Richard H. Minear

Author's thesis: It is justifiable to compare the Nazi Holocaust and the Atomic Holocaust as a immoral disregard for human life on a mass scale.

Author's evidence:

- a) Most US memorials of the atomic bombings were from victimizer's perspective
- b) Most countries fail to memorialize their own failures, which is why the Holocaust is widely remembered, but not Hiroshima
- c) The term 'Holocaust' should not only refer to the Nazi Holocaust
- d) People find it easier to sympathize with Jewish victims than Japanese victims
- e) No educated student of the bombings can say they are entirely justified
- f) Even several Nazi Holocaust survivors likened the two holocausts as related events

Author's conclusion of the topic's significance:

The author concludes that the Atomic Holocaust should be memorialized in the US just as much as, if not more so, than the Nazi Holocaust. It was a devastating event that had numerous implications on the morality of America, and it deserves far more scrutiny than it receives today.

What questions you have about the reading:

1. Is the terminology used to refer to the events really as important as the author makes them out to be?
2. When did the term Holocaust come to be widely used in its present incarnation?
3. What other 'holocausts' have there been?

To what extent does your knowledge of the period support or conflict the author's thesis?

My knowledge of the period of World War II, the Nazi Holocaust, and the detonation and implications of the atomic bomb support the author's theory that, on some scale, the two events are comparable. In addition, as my own experience has shown, the Atomic Holocaust gets little attention in our modern world.

Explain the gist of the article, the nature of the evidence, and the significance of the topic:

The Atomic Holocaust is the term the author uses to refer to the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as they were both mass destructions of innocent human life as the Nazi Holocaust was. The moral impetus for the atomic bombing of Japan during WWII is virtually nonexistent, as is the political reasons for doing so. As the atomic bombings cannot be justified for the amount of human lives they cost, it is rightly termed as being a Holocaust. The author goes on to state that the Atomic Holocaust receives little attention, whereas it should be receiving far more attention than the Nazi Holocaust, which, while having great implications for the human race, was not directly related to the actions of the US. In addition, the author takes issues with the term Holocaust being used to only refer to the Nazi Holocaust, when the term should be considered as being representative of similar events.