

陕西出版集团
陕西人民出版社

历史上的今天
DATES WITH HISTORY

1945年8月6日
广岛核爆

6 August 1945
The Bombing
of Hiroshima

1918年11月11日
一战休战协定

11 November 1918
The World War I Armistice

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图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

广岛核爆1945年8月6日 一战休战协定1918年11月11
日: 汉英对照/ (英) 马兰 (Malam, J.) 著; 张维译. —西
安: 陕西人民出版社, 2011
(历史上的今天)
ISBN 978-7-224-09684-2

I. ①广… II. ①马… ②张… III. ①英语—汉语—对
照读物 IV. ①H319.4

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字 (2011) 第044248号

First published in the United Kingdom by Cherrytree Press, part of the Evans
Publishing Group.

2A Portman Mansions, Chiltern Street, London W1U 6NR, United Kingdom.

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This edition is only available for sale in mainland China.

著作权合同登记号: 陕版出图字 25—2009—070号

广岛核爆1945年8月6日

一战休战协定1918年11月11日

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出版发行: 陕西出版集团 陕西人民出版社

地 址: 西安北大街147号 邮编: 710003

印 刷: 陕西金和印务有限公司

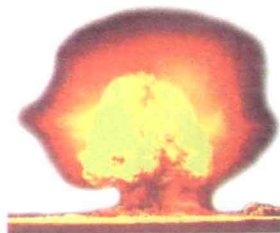
开 本: 889mm×1194mm 32开 3.375印张

字 数: 77千字

版 次: 2011年6月第1版 2011年6月第1次印刷

书 号: ISBN 978-7-224-09684-2

定 价: 12.00元



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The World War I Armistice

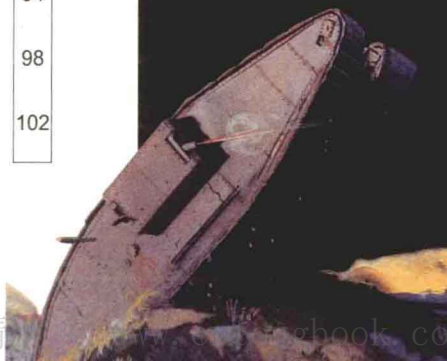
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A black and white photograph of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. A massive, billowing mushroom cloud rises from the city, with a bright, glowing core at its base. The cloud's stem is thick and dark, while the top spreads out into a large, white, cauliflower-like head. The surrounding sky is filled with smaller, wispy clouds.

6 August 1945

The
Bombing
of Hiroshima

1945年8月6日

広島核爆



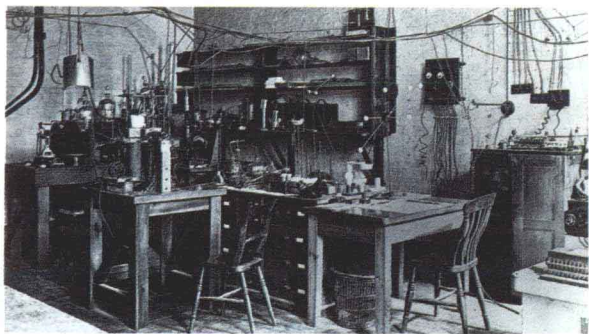
The search for a super-bomb 探寻超级炸弹

The story of how the world's most terrible weapon was invented began many years before it was used in the Second World War in 1945. In 1896, the French scientist Henri Becquerel discovered that atoms - the tiny particles of solid matter from which everything is made - give off energy.

The world's scientists were fascinated by Bec-

这个世界上最为骇人的武器，1945年第二次世界大战中使用过的原子弹，是如何发明出来的，其故事始于多年以前。1896年，法国科学家亨利·贝克勒尔发现了原子——构成万物的微小固体粒子——能释放出能量。

世界上的科学家们被贝克勒尔的发现强烈地吸



Much of the early work on splitting the atom would have been done in a science laboratory similar to this one.

大量初期的原子裂解工作可能就是在这样的科学实验室里完成的。

querel's discovery, and they soon realised that atoms contained huge amounts of stored-up energy. In 1904 a British scientist, Frederick Soddy, wondered if energy from atoms could be used to make a weapon.

So, scientists in Europe and Scandinavia began the search to find a way to “**split the atom**”. Whoever succeeded would know how to force atoms to release their energy: they would have the secret for making an **atomic bomb**.

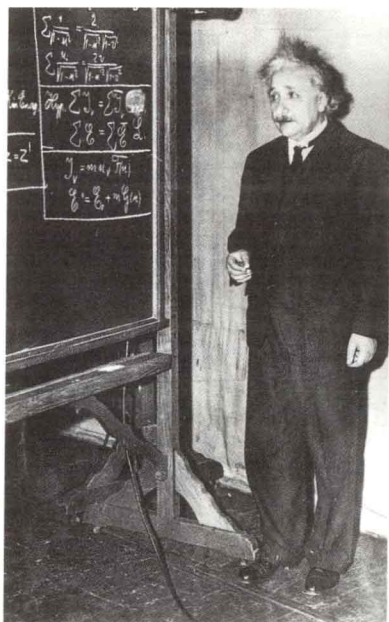
In August 1939, **Albert Einstein**, one of the

引了，他们很快就认识到，原子内具有大量积聚的能量。

1904年，英国科学家弗里德里克·索迪想到也许原子释放出的能量可以用来制造武器。

于是，欧洲以及斯堪的纳维亚半岛上的科学家们开始试图找出一种“裂解原子”的办法。任何人一旦知晓迫使原子释放能量的途径，也就获得了制造原子弹的秘诀。

1939年8月，世界上最聪明的科学家之一，阿尔伯



World-famous scientist, Albert Einstein, talking about his ideas in 1935.

1935年，世界著名科学家阿尔伯特·爱因斯坦正在讲述自己的观点。

world's cleverest scientists, wrote to the President of the United States of America, **Franklin D Roosevelt**. Einstein said: "Sir ... the element **uranium** may be turned into a new and important source of energy in the immediate future ... This new phenomenon would also lead to the construction of bombs, and it is conceivable that extremely powerful bombs of a new type may thus be constructed."

One month after Einstein wrote to the President, the Second World War began. It ended six years later, in August 1945, when two bombs destroyed the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The bombs were atomic bombs, the deadliest weapon ever invented.

特·爱因斯坦，写信给美国总统富兰克林·德·罗斯福道：“总统阁下……不久的将来，铀元素将会成为一种新的、重要的能量之源……这种新生事物可以用作炸弹的制造。可以想见，一种新型且威力非凡的炸弹或可因此而产生。”

爱因斯坦致信美国总统1个月后，第二次世界大战就爆发了。战争持续了6年，直至1945年8月，两颗炸弹摧毁了日本的城市广岛和长崎。这些炸弹就是原子弹，是史上发明的最致命的武器。

Splitting the atom 裂解原子



The 1930s were a time of great change in Germany because the Nazi Party, led by Adolf Hitler, had come to power. Under the Nazis, certain groups of people in Germany were persecuted, especially the Jewish community, many of whom sought refuge in the United States of America.

20世纪30年代是德国重大变革的时期，因为阿道夫·希特勒领导的纳粹党开始上台掌权。在纳粹的统治下，居住于德国的一些人群遭到了迫害，特别是犹太人。他们中很多人托庇于美国。



Nazi soldiers place notices on Jewish shops, urging German people not to buy Jewish goods.

纳粹士兵将告示贴在犹太人商店的橱窗上，敦促德国人不要买犹太人的商品。

Amongst the Jews who fled from Nazi Germany were many scientists. They knew that German scientists were experimenting with a substance called uranium, and they feared that Germany was very close to building an atomic bomb.

In 1938, scientists in Germany did succeed in splitting the atom of uranium, a silvery-white metallic element. They worked out that if uranium atoms could be split over and over again, in a **chain reaction** over a very short period of time, the result would be a massive atomic explosion.

On 1 September 1939, the German army invaded Poland. Two days later, on 3 September, Britain and France declared war on Germany and

那些逃离纳粹德国的犹太人中有许多科学家，他们知道德国科学家们正在用一种叫“铀”的物质做试验，并担心德国很可能会制造出原子弹。

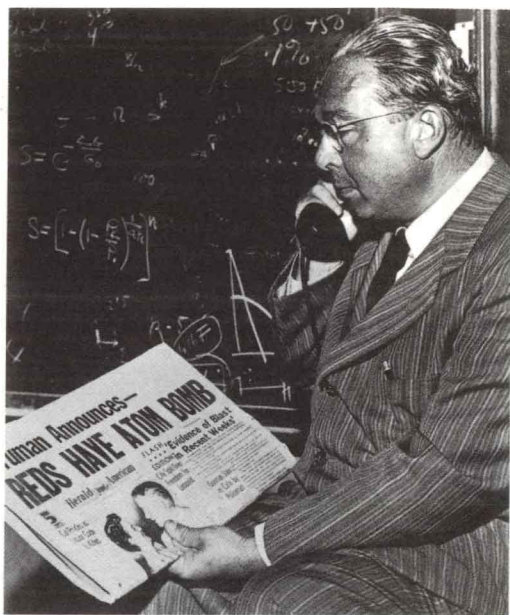
1938年，德国的科学家们确实成功裂解了铀原子——一种银白色的金属元素，他们推算出：如果铀原子反复不断地被裂解，在短时间内发生链式反应，就会产生剧烈的原子爆炸。

1939年9月1日，德国军队入侵波兰。两天后，亦即9月3日，英法两国对德宣战，第二次世界大战爆发。

the Second World War began.

One month before the start of the war, three of the scientists who had fled to America, Leo Szilard, Eugene Wigner and Edward Teller, told Albert Einstein to write his letter to President Roosevelt. Einstein had also fled Nazi Germany and because he was world-famous the scientists hoped the President would be interested in what Einstein had to say. He was.

大战爆发前的1个月，三名科学家避难来到美国，他们是利奥·齐拉德、尤金·魏格纳和爱德华·泰勒。正是他们请求阿尔伯特·爱因斯坦给罗斯福总统写了那封信。爱因斯坦也是躲避德国纳粹来到美国的，由于他举世闻名，科学家们希望总统会对他说的话产生兴趣。事实确实如此。



Leo Szilard reads a newspaper warning that the Russians might have made an atomic bomb.

利奥·齐拉德读着一份报纸。该报纸警示说俄国人可能已经拥有了原子弹。



America enters the war 美国参战

At first, the war was a war between the powers of Europe and there seemed no reason why the United States should become involved. However,

开始，战争只是在欧洲的强国间进行，美国似乎并没有理由介入其中。但在1939年10月19日，罗斯福总统对爱因斯坦的来信作了回复，他希望由美



Even though the United States was at peace in 1939, President Roosevelt instructed his officials to look into Einstein's suggestions.

尽管1939年美国尚处于和平之中，罗斯福总统依然指示其官员对爱因斯坦所提出的种种建议作以研究。

on 19 October 1939, President Roosevelt replied to Einstein. He wanted the USA to be first to develop an atomic bomb, not Germany. The letter said:

“My dear Professor, I want to thank you for your recent letter ... I found this data of such import that I have convened a Board ... to thoroughly investigate the possibilities of your suggestion regarding the element of uranium.”

The American effort to build an atomic bomb got off to a slow start, mainly because the USA was not involved in the war and there was no urgency to develop it. This changed on 7 December 1941 when, without warning, Japanese war planes attacked US Navy ships at their Pearl Harbor base, on 国而不是德国最先研制出原子弹。回信内容如下：

“尊敬的教授：非常感谢您不久前的来信……我已看明这一数据意义重大，并已召集成立专门的委员会……对您建议中所提到的关于铀元素的诸多可能性进行彻底研究。”

美国对原子弹的研制起步缓慢，但渐有起色。主要是因为美国并未卷入战事，没有研发的紧迫感。1941年12月7日，形势得到转变。日本战机毫无预兆地对位于太平洋夏威夷群岛的美国海军基地珍珠港舰艇发动了攻击，约有2400名美国军人和平民丧生。

the Pacific island of Hawaii. Some 2,400 American servicemen and civilians were killed.

Japan was already fighting a war with China, and to keep its army supplied it had been buying scrap metal and oil from America. In 1940, Japan declared its support for Germany. So in July 1941, America stopped sending war supplies to Japan.

日本早已对中国发动了战争，为保障军队的补给，一直从美国购买废铁和石油。1940年，日本宣布支持德国。1941年7月，美国停止对日本供应军用

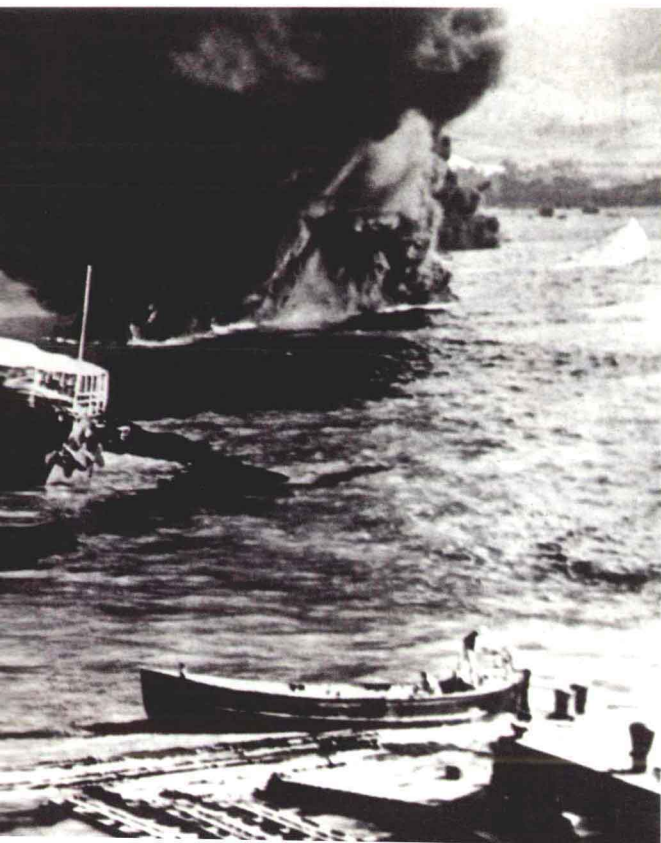


This angered the Japanese government, who began to plan the raid on Pearl Harbor. When the attack came, it brought the USA into the Second World War.

物资，这一事件令日本政府大为恼怒，开始计划对珍珠港发动空袭。这次袭击将美国卷入了第二次世界大战。

US Navy ships are bombed during the attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

在夏威夷珍珠港空袭中遭轰炸的美军舰只。





The Manhattan Project 曼哈顿计划

At about the same time as the Pearl Harbor attack, a top-secret project began in the USA. It was code-named the Manhattan Project, after the district

差不多在珍珠港遇袭的同时，一项绝密计划在
美国启动，代号为“曼哈顿计划”。该计划得名于



The high-security, top-secret laboratory at Los Alamos opened in April 1943.

受到高度保护的最高机密——洛斯阿拉莫斯实验室于1943年4月启用。