

## Manhattan Project

The Manhattan project led to the creation of the world's very first atomic bomb. In fear that Nazi Germany would create such a device the United States was keen on building one first. This project cost the USA \$2 billion and involved 130,000 thousand workers spread across massive sites like Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Los Alamos, New Mexico, Hanford Washington and Chicago Illinois. From 1942-1945 the government employed the country's brightest scientists and engineers. The effort took total mobilization; the government poured resources, man power, and scientific talent all into one military industrial goal. After the war the project left atomic bombs as well as the foundations factories and laboratories used to build the weapons. When the cold war started however the Atomic Energy Commission took over the military and started managing nuclear weapons and production. Even though World War II ended the economy did not demobilize because of the cold war. Some sectors including the ones producing the atomic bombs stayed mobilized for Cold War defense. Voters in 1948 weren't debating the project directly but its impact led to concerns about military spending, Cold War mobilization and whether resources should go abroad. It didn't matter that the Manhattan Project was over because its legacy symbolized the uncontrollable power held by those in government.

Harry Truman (Democrat) was the one who authorized the nuclear bombs use on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. The effects of those bombs are still present today decades later. By 1948 the US monopolized the Atomic bomb because it consolidated power during the Cold War. Thomas Dewey (Republican) wasn't against the creation or use of Atomic bombs during this time period. His policies were not concerned with the nuclear uses of the weapon but how Truman's administration handled the situation. He was against the secrecy of the Manhattan project. While Dewey was against sharing how the nuclear weapons were made with other countries he believed that Truman's administration should have been tougher with the soviet union and to aid his argument he mentioned the US current nuclear strength in the late 40s. He believed republicans would be more efficient in handling nuclear weapons than the democrats.