Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and Atomic Diplomacy

1. Significance of the Problem
   Three interpretations: Orthodoxy, Revisionist (Apperovitz), New-Orthodoxy
   Why is this issue important?
   Relevant to the origins of the Cold War
   Memory of War

2. US and the Yalta Conference
   US position in the beginning of 1945
   Yalta Conference, February 1945

3. Changing Situations: April-May 1945
   (a) US position: FDR’s death/Truman’s presidency, military situation, Soviet conduct in EE,
       anticipated sacrifices of homeland invasion, significance of the atomic bomb
   (b) Soviet motivations: abrogation of the Neutrality Pact (April)
       Stalin’s fear: the war might be over before Soviet entry into the war
   (c) Japanese factor
       Division of the government (war party and peace party)
       Importance of preservation of the Emperor system
       US demand for unconditional surrender
       Stimson, Grew, Forrestal, Leahy vs James Byrnes
       Japan’s reliance on Soviet mediation

4. Potsdam Conference (July-August)
   Truman received the news about atomic bomb test at Alamogordo
   Truman’s revelation of the bomb to Stalin
   July 26, Potsdam Proclamation (unconditional surrender/who signed the proclamation?)
   Japan’s reaction: Prime Minister Suzuki’s announcement to “ignore”
   Did Truman order the use of the atomic bomb?

5. Atomic Bombs, Soviet Entry into the War, Japan’s Surrender
   Stalin changed the date of attack to August 11
   August 6, A-bomb dropped on Hiroshima
   August 7, Foreign Minister Togo’s urgent telegram to Ambassador Sato
   August 8, Stalin changed the date of attack to August 9
       Molotov, handed the declaration of war
   August 9, Soviet entry into the war
       Japan’s War Council divided (3-3 split)
       Nagasaki bomb (no discernible impact)
   August 9-10, Imperial Council, Emperor’s decision to accept the Potsdam Proclamation with
       one condition
   August 11, Byrnes’ reply
   August 14, Second Imperial Council, Emperor’s decision to accept the Potsdam Proclamation
   August 15, Imperial Rescript
       US ordered cease fire
       Soviets launched the Kuril operation

6. Conclusion