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The A-bomb. By the summer of 1945 it was obvious to most responsible leaders in Japan that the end of the war was near. For the first time those who favored ending the war came out in the open, and in June Japan sent out peace feelers through the Soviet Union. The rejection of the Potsdam Declaration of 26 July, however, sealed the doom of Japan. On 6 August a single B-29 dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima; on 9 August the Soviet Union entered the war against Japan, attacking Japanese forces in Manchuria; and on the same day another B-29 dropped a second atomic bomb on Nagasaki. Next day, Japan sued for peace.

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