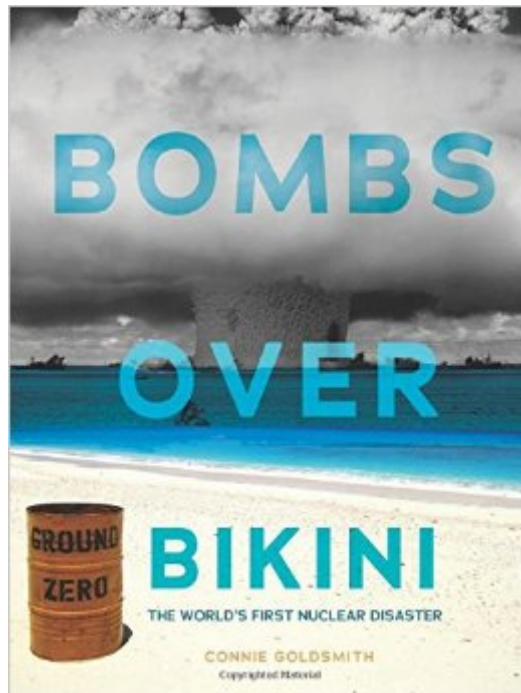


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Bombs Over Bikini: The World's First Nuclear Disaster (Nonfiction - Young Adult)



Synopsis

In 1946, as part of the Cold War arms race, the US military launched a program to test nuclear bombs in the Marshall Islands of the Pacific Ocean. From 1946 until 1958, the military detonated sixty-seven nuclear bombs over the region's Bikini and Enewetak Atolls. The twelfth bomb, called Bravo, became the world's first nuclear disaster. It sent a toxic cloud of radiation over Rongelap Atoll and other nearby inhabited islands. The testing was intended to advance scientific knowledge about nuclear bombs and radiation, but it had much more far-reaching effects. Some of the islanders suffered burns, cancers, birth defects, and other medical tragedies as a result of radiation poisoning. Many of the Marshallese were resettled on other Pacific islands or in the United States. They and their descendants cannot yet return to Bikini, which remains contaminated by radiation. And while the United States claims it is now safe to resettle Rongelap, only a few construction workers live there on a temporary basis. For *Bombs over Bikini*, author Connie Goldsmith researched government documents, military film footage, and other primary source documents to tell the story of the world's first nuclear disaster. You'll meet the people who planned the test operations, the Marshall Islanders who lost their homes and suffered from radiation illnesses, and those who have worked to hold the US government accountable for catastrophically poor planning. Was the new knowledge about nuclear bombs and radiation worth the cost in human suffering? You decide.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (12 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 6 - 12

Customer Reviews

Connie Goldsmith brings to life the chilling consequences of the US nuclear bomb testing program in the Marshall Islands in the mid-20th century. We watch the military strategize before the testing begins. We're there for the countdown of the first bomb and for its dramatic aftermath. We hear the voices of the displaced Bikini islanders, all of whom lost their ancestral homes and some of whom lost their health or their lives to radioactive fallout. This is an important book, meticulously researched and beautifully written. One chapter begins, "From space Rongelap Atoll looks like a puzzle piece waiting to be slipped into the blue and white jigsaw of the Pacific Ocean." All these decades after the testing was terminated, the lands are still contaminated and the injustice has yet to be redressed. Perhaps this book will be a catalyst, awakening readers to the moral obligation our country owes to the people of the affected islands.

A brilliantly written true story behind the nuclear disaster in the Marshall Islands. Peaceful islands weren't bombed by an enemy--but their own country. And Connie Goldsmith brings this shocking story to life. BOMBS OVER BIKINI is jam-packed with fascinating information from factual resources including; accounts from survivors, military records, film footage and government documents. Readers will be amazed at the facts behind this little-known tragedy. Bikini Island is still contaminated by radiation over 50 years later. Island descendants await the day they may return. Librarians, teachers and parents--this book is a must-have resource for young readers. ORDER IT NOW!!! Don't miss this AMAZING true account of the world's first nuclear disaster.

This book is like reading a suspenseful novel, except tragically everything in it is a true, tragic event in history. Connie Goldsmith does an excellent job of presenting the facts leading up to the countdown that set off the nuclear bombs in the Marshall Islands after World War II. I was saddened by the suffering of the islanders and the loss of their beloved homes. The deadly radiation fallout was a lesson for the world, but at a great cost to the Marshall Islanders who to this day cannot return to Bikini which is still contaminated with radiation. The photos in the book provide a chilling view of these bombs.

Way before the Fukushima, Chernobyl and Three Mile Island nuclear disasters there was America's

nuclear bomb testing program in the Marshall Islands. Connie Goldsmith gives young readers a balanced, detailed, and engrossing account of both the political background of the testing program and its military goals as well as the impact of the testing on the local islanders, who are still suffering from the aftermath of the nuclear testing. The well-chosen period photos bring it all home. A wonderfully written, thought-provoking book.

Connie Goldsmith's newest book delves into a seldom-studied period of U.S. history for middle and high school students. Goldsmith's impeccable research skills take center stage as the story unfolds. A must on U.S. history reading lists: a perfect complement to units on world affairs and a thought-provoking selection to provide perspective on current events.

Bombs over Bikini is a beautifully-written, impeccably-researched NF book about our first nuclear disaster. Through Connie Goldsmith's clear and gripping text and her selection of stunning photographs and newspaper articles, we learn why and how this occurred, and its lasting effect on the people whose homeland was destroyed. It's also a cautionary tale that we must learn from, so it never happens again. Plentiful source notes, a glossary and bibliography will be of great help to teachers, librarians, students. This book is a must read.

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