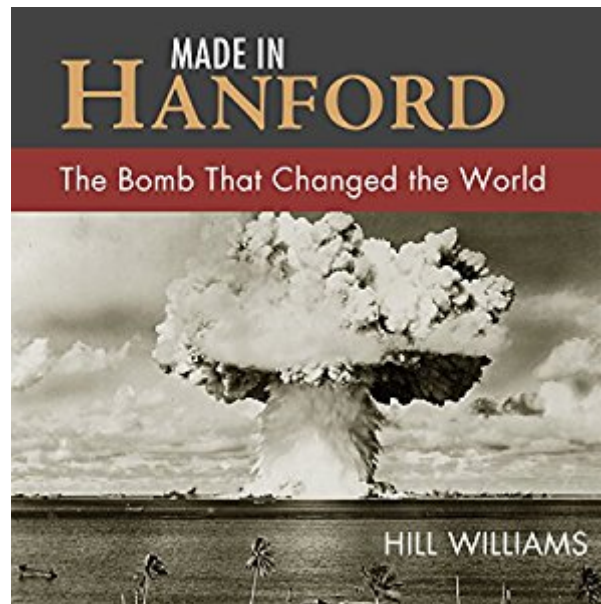




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Made In Hanford



Synopsis

At an isolated location along the Columbia River in 1944, the world's first plutonium factory became operational, producing fuel for the atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan, during World War II. Former Seattle Times science writer Hill Williams traces the amazing, tragic story - from the dawn of nuclear science to Cold War testing in the Marshall Islands. The book is published by Washington State University Press.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Made in Hanford, the Bomb that Changed the World. I purchased this book hoping to learn more about Hanford. I am an environmental engineer and although this area is not my specialty, in recent years I have been reading everything I can about the various bomb and nuclear power developments, in the hopes of obtaining a better understanding of their overall environmental impact. Of the various sites related to the Manhattan Project, it seems that less is written about Hanford than any other even though Hanford must be the worst of all the sites in terms of environmental problems. This book is only a little more about Hanford than other Manhattan project books. The first seven chapters describe physics and how the various scientists came to the conclusion that fission was possible and had actually been observed in laboratories. Chapter 8 describes Hanford's B reactor and the problems that were overcome to develop it. There is some new material for me regarding Hanford - the preparations for secrecy prior to the site's construction, the various gag orders and some detail on the processes. The last chapters describe the test site in the Pacific and some of the problems that the tests created. I had not understood our poor treatment

of the Marshal Islanders - which seems very shabby given the amounts of money we have spent in recent years on much less deserving people and projects. I did learn something new from this book, but I think this is a good book for a newcomer to this topic to read first. It is much less to read than Rhodes' books on the making of the bombs, but provides a pretty good summary of the various aspects of the bomb development and its aftermath. It is well written and contains some human interest stories from the author's personal or family involvement.

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