

The Difference Between Hiroshima and Auschwitz



When my wife, the late Dr. Betty Roger Rubenstein, and I were in Japan when I was president of the University of Bridgeport (ca 1998), somebody told the Mayor of Hiroshima that I was the author of *After Auschwitz*. The mayor invited Betty and me to visit Hiroshima, which we did. I suspect that there was some politics involved as some of the officials we met at Hiroshima saw the American nuclear attack on their city as the Japanese Auschwitz, I did not want to argue with my hosts. I saw Auschwitz as a genocidal attack on people who *had already surrendered*. In reality, the purpose of the attack on Hiroshima was to compel the Japanese to surrender. Once they surrendered, they were in no further danger from the Americans. I hope President Obama is mindful of the difference between Hiroshima and Auschwitz when he speaks at Hiroshima.