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Title: Yuriko Furubayashi Interview  
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Interviewer: Naoko Wake  
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**<Begin Segment 18>**

NW: Now, do you think that, you know, you lost your uncle to the bomb and your, you were made into a survivor because of the bomb and do you think that because of your experience during wartime and afterwards, your image of America might have changed in any way? I'm not saying, you know, either for better or for worse, I'm just saying that . . .

YF: My image?

NW: Yeah. Because you were originally from Hawai'i and then you had a connection, right?

YF: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

NW: Personal family connection and then suddenly you were in Japan and your father's and mother's country, which is America was fighting against Japan and you were victimized by the bomb. I just wondered what image of America you might have had at that time.

YF: You know, I never thought of it like, you know, America is good or Japan is good or anything like that. It's, you know, to me, well, both country had faults, they just didn't get along, that's why the people, you know, had to sacrifice so much. But I don't have grudge against any country. America was good to me and also I'm proud to be Japanese. I think Japan is a very nice, good country. Except the war that they started, I think because, you know, in Japan they had the *shōgun* era, you know, and they were kinda closed, like the communists, you know, closed too long. And sooner one day, the *shōgun* period disappeared and Westernized a little bit, but still Japan is, just, the people in Japan, born and raised, you know, and the culture. And they still have the *shōgun*-ish kind of thinking. They weren't, I don't want to stay broadminded, but they didn't know the world. They're still too, too obsessed with them being so superior because they had little wars in China, and my father went to a war, a Russian war when he was young. Hh, they won the war, you know, small kinds. That's how they got Karafuto, Okinawa, or whatever. So they thought, well, this you can, you know, if you know the world, you know how big America is. And then European world. How can you think that you can conquer a big contry like America, it's ridiculous to think that way. But some of the people still had the old, like Tojō or what. I think they thought they can conquer. That's the thing that's really bad because, you know that time, Konoe was the Prime Minister, I think, and also was trying to deal with America.

NW: Huh. How about America? After the bomb was dropped, um, do you think your image or idea about America might have changed?

YF: The bomb was dropped . . . um . . .

NW: You know, America made a decision to drop the bomb.

YF: Well, I thought that was another thing, you know, but it got to be done, I guess. In a way, you know, Japan got saved, the bomb was only isolated, what you call, the war ended, right? The war had to end somehow and they had a long war. When I went to Japan, they were fighting already, you know? They were at war.

NW: So do you think that it was a necessary, right decision to drop the bomb?

YF: I wouldn't say right, but I wouldn't say that Japan really got the shock. And of course, they attacked what you call, so they've got blame for it, I think. Their [?] casualty and that was wrong. So, but you can't say that atomic bomb totally destroyed Japan. I think it did, well in a small talk, if you're gonna talk to a kid, well, you deserve what you, you know, got, I mean . . .

NW: So, you are saying that the Japanese people deserved to be killed by the bomb? In the way that they were?

YF: Well, some sacrifice, you can't help it, you know?

NW: Uh-huh.

YF: But the majority of them got saved because the war ended.

NW: Majority of Japanese.

YF: Did you know, it was really a relief? I would say all the Japanese people thought, oh, they wouldn't say it out loud but they were relieved, of course, you know, Hiroshima got, you know, big, we got to do, we had to sacrifice, we had to sacrifice hundreds of, thousands of people died.

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