
Clink Ink!

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75th Anniversary of the Birth of the Atomic Age

Book an Expert Interview!

Award-winning author ROBERT J. SAWYER has over 800 radio and TV interviews under his belt

The atomic age was born 75 years ago. Commemorate these important anniversaries with an expert interview subject:

- **Thursday, July 16, 2020:** 75 years since the first atomic bomb exploded in the **Trinity test** in Alamogordo, New Mexico.
- **Thursday, August 6, 2020:** 75 years since the first use of an atomic bomb, devastating the Japanese city of Hiroshima.
- **Sunday, August 9, 2020:** 75 years since the last use of an atomic bomb in war, devastating the Japanese city of Nagasaki.

Bestselling author **Robert J. Sawyer's** new book ***The Oppenheimer Alternative*** will be published **Tuesday, June 2, 2020**, in paper, ebook, and audiobook worldwide, specifically to coincide with the above anniversaries.

Perimeter Institute physicist **Lee Smolin**, the author of *The Trouble with Physics*, says, "I know the history of this period well and I'm one or two degrees of separation from many of these people. Sawyer's portrayals ring true to me."

Gregory Benford, physicist at UC Irvine, agrees: "The feel and detail of the Manhattan Project figures is deep and well done. I knew many of these physicists, and Sawyer nails them accurately."

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Based on the **latest research** and **recently declassified documents**, Sawyer will enthrall your audience with stunning revelations about the dawn of the atomic age.

DID YOU KNOW THAT:

- **Following Hitler's suicide, many Manhattan Project scientists did not want to continue the atomic bomb.** Their initial fear had been that the Nazis would get it before the Allies did, and, with the war in Europe over, they saw no reason to continue.
- **The Japanese had been making overtures to surrender through diplomatic back channels for over a year** before the US dropped the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Had their *one* demand been accepted, the war in Japan would have ended in 1944.
- **Franklin Roosevelt shocked the hell out of Winston Churchill by deviating from their agreed script and demanding "unconditional" surrender** from Japan in a live radio broadcast. Churchill only subsequently backed that demand so as not to be seen as contradicting the American leader.
- In the end, despite the posturing about "unconditional" surrender, **the Allies gave the Japanese the one and only thing they'd wanted a year earlier, namely letting their divine emperor Hirohito retain his throne** (which he did until his death in 1989).
- **Leo Szilard**, who got Einstein to write to FDR urging the creation of an atomic weapon, **circulated a petition calling for a demonstration of the bomb** for Japanese experts, rather than its use on Japanese cities. **General Leslie Groves had the petition branded Top Secret** and hidden away — **so that the bomb could be dropped** to end World War II, **establishing a post-war order with America as the only superpower.**
- As an outgrowth of the Manhattan Project, **the US was developing an atomic-bomb-propelled rocket called *Orion* that could have put humans on Mars by 1965.** The Limited Test Ban Treaty of 1963, which banned nuclear explosions in space, scuttled the project.

More About Sawyer's book:

Every character in *The Oppenheimer Alternative* is a real and famous historical figure, portrayed with Sawyer's usual meticulous attention to accuracy. Besides **J. Robert Oppenheimer**, the book features the powerful and quirky personalities of **Edward Teller**, **Richard Feynman**, **Enrico Fermi**, **Leo Szilard**, and German rocket pioneer **Wernher von Braun**.

"Incredibly realistic: the characters, locations, the era, and the science. I felt like I was back in Los Alamos — and I should know: I worked there! Breathlessly riveting; Sawyer pulls it off masterfully." —**Doug Beason**, former Associate Laboratory Director, **Los Alamos National Laboratory**

"Sawyer portrays brilliantly and poignantly the struggles of the scientists who started it all and were consequently obliged to bear an unbearable burden." —**James Christie**, Chair, Project Ploughshares, member organization of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning **International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons**

Robert J. Sawyer is a member of the **Order of Canada**, the highest honor given by the Canadian government, and is past president of the **Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America**.

The Toronto Star calls him "Canada's answer to Michael Crichton" and *The New York Times* says he's a writer of "boundless confidence and bold scientific extrapolation." *The Oppenheimer Alternative*, coming June 2, is his 24th novel.

For interviews, please contact publicist Carolyn Clink:

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