not compromise. The un-Americans must be crushed by military action, and the lobbying march of the bonus army was viewed as un-American. The action of the U. S. Army and President Herbert Hoover sprang from that fear.

Why did the Senate defeat the Bonus Bill? Who supported it, and who opposed it? *The March of the Bonus Army* does not give any information on these questions. Viewers need that information.

The March of the Bonus Army fails to say anything about the New Deal and its social/political changes in America. The 1944 G.I. Bill of Rights was an extension of the New Deal and not an exclusive result of the bonus march. The conclusions reached in *The March of the Bonus Army* cannot be supported without placing them in the context of the New Deal.

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Ten Days That Unexpectedly Changed America: Einstein's Letter. Dir. and prod. by Barak Goodman and John Maggio. History Channel, 2006. 60 mins. (A&E Home Video, P.O. Box 2284, South Burlington, VT 05407; 888-423-1212; http://www.store.aetv.com/)

Leo Szilard had a dream. As a boy in Budapest, reading H. G. Wells's novel about a nuclear war that destroys most of Europe's cities (*The Last War,* 1914), he concluded that the world should be governed by a group of gifted scientists. He envisioned the development of atomic energy as both a limitless power source and a weapon that might force nations into peace. Devoting his life to that end—living in hotels, doing his thinking in bathtubs—he hit on the idea of an atomic chain reaction, filing the patent in 1934.

In 1939, faced with the possibility that Adolf Hitler might develop an atomic bomb, Szilard, who had fled Germany in 1933, convinced Albert Einstein to send a letter to Franklin D. Roosevelt advising him that a nuclear bomb might be possible. In a room beneath the stadium stands at the University of Chicago, Szilard built a reactor and achieved a controlled chain reaction, proving that a bomb was feasible. He called it "a black day in the history of mankind." Shunned by the military as a suspect foreigner, he had Einstein sign a second letter to Roosevelt in which Szilard threatened to publish his results unless the project was funded. Ironically, Roosevelt approved the Manhattan Project the day before the attack on Pearl Harbor. As the project moved forward, Szilard and Einstein had a change of heart, sending a third letter to FDR pleading with him not to use the bomb. But Roosevelt died before the letter reached him.

On July 16, 1945, the first atomic bomb was detonated on a hundred-foot tower in the New Mexico desert. Those present described an enormous flash of light that filled the whole sky, the brightest light anyone had ever seen, and a blinding heat in the cold desert morning. Watching in awe, project leader Robert Oppenheimer recalled a line from the Bhagavad-Gita: "Now I am become Death, destroyer of worlds."

On August 6, 1945, a uranium bomb was dropped on Hiroshima; two days later an even more powerful plutonium bomb, dubbed Little Boy, was dropped on Nagasaki, leaving an estimated 75,000 dead and 145,000 wounded. The name seemed appropriate since a large percentage of the casualties were children. Haunted by Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Szilard abandoned physics for biology, while Einstein regarded his role in the project as "the one great mistake of my life."

The invention of the atomic bomb was inevitable. The significance of Einstein's letter lay in the timing. Had he not written it, it is possible that nuclear weapons might have developed later without the historical precedent set at Hiroshima; though even that potentiality holds less significance now that a single individual can—and likely will—destroy some future city.

Einstein's letter marked a turning point in the alliance of science and government. In the wake of the Manhattan Project there was a new sense of the power of science, which now became a Janus-faced tool of government. Those who had seen the utopian face of earlier decades would now realize the dark side foreseen by Nathaniel Hawthorne, Mary Shelley, and the romantics. While the utopian face would culminate in the image of man on the moon,

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Hermann Göring, former head of the Nazi air force and the most prominent surviving member of the Nazi elite, appeared before the Nuremberg tribunal on November 20, 1945, as one of twenty-two defendants in the first trial to put an entire national government in the dock. *Courtesy* American Experience/*Ray D'Addario.*

the defining image of the dystopian face became—and may ever remain—the bomb.

Would the scientific oligarchy Szilard envisioned have prevented the use of the bomb? Should scientists withhold or refuse to pursue certain discoveries? Such hopes are clearly unrealistic for a species still largely in its adolescent stage. As with adolescence, we can only hope that we survive to maturity.

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The Nuremberg Trials. Dir. and prod. by Michael Kloft. WGBH Educational Foundation, 2006. 60 mins. (PBS Video, 1320 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314; 800-531-4727; http://www.shoppbs.org/)

This program in the PBS series *American Experience* deals with the first set of trials of German leaders at the end of World War II, those of twenty-two surviving members of the Nazi elite charged with initiating wars of aggression, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, as well as with conspiring to do all of that. The focus is narrowed to the following: the rationale for, and legal basis of, replacing punishment and vengeance against a defeated enemy with an approximation of justice; the role played in the proceedings by the American chief prosecutor, Associate Justice Robert H. Jackson of the U.S. Supreme Court; and key elements of the trial of the highest-ranking defendant, Hermann Göring.

Thus a complicated subject involving the nature of the Third Reich, the lessons of World War II, the development of international law, and the United States' achievement of world dominance is effectively turned into a high-stakes courtroom drama. The narration is aug-

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