

The Life and Times of J. Robert Oppenheimer

Link: <https://www.amphilsoc.org/museum/exhibitions/great-talks-american-philosophical-society/life-and-times-j-robert-oppenheimer>

Length: 54:42

Date: December 10th, 2018

Description: Robert Oppenheimer, Father of the Atomic Bomb, was first respected and later vilified for his role of running the Manhattan Project. Martin Sherman, co-author of the Pulitzer Prize winning biography of Oppenheimer, discusses Oppenheimer's struggles with the ethics of nuclear weaponry and the challenges of a post-nuclear bomb world.

Guiding Questions:

- What were the ethical views among both scientists and politicians about the atomic bomb during the 1940s?
- How do you think that Oppenheimer's early life shaped how he treated his career?
- How did Oppenheimer's view of the bomb shift during his life?
- How did scientists' involvement and influence in public policy change after the arms race?

Great for: Grade 7-12

Keywords: US History, World War II, atomic bomb, history