with co-counsel Christopher Darden, who was black, was believed by some observers to have been alienating to the black women on the jury. The jury itself—sequestered in isolation for the duration of the trial—was paralyzed by infighting, some of which involved racial issues, even during the rest of the case phase.

The announcement of the final verdict polarized the country along clear racial lines. Blacks cheered for what they regarded as the punishment of a racially driven police misconduct; whites were stunned to silence over what they regarded as the exoneration of a brutal killer.

In a civil trial for wrongful death brought by the families of the two victims, Simpson was found liable in February 1997 and ordered to pay $35.5 million in damages. The reversal of outcome was widely explained by the lower standard of proof required to find against the defendant in a civil case ("preponderance of the evidence") than in a criminal case ("beyond a reasonable doubt") and by differences in nuance, if not substance, in witness testimony.

A new controversy erupted in late 2006 after ReganBooks announced that it would publish a book by Simpson—purportedly titled If I Did It—in which he offered "my account of what has happened" and "what I have done." It was a media sensation, but the book was not published. In 1996, the New York Times reported that Simpson had attempted to secure a pardon from Governor George Pataki, but the attempt was unsuccessful.


Further Reading

Oppenheimer, Robert
The American nuclear physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer directed the Los Alamos National Laboratory for the Manhattan Project during World War II and oversaw the production of the atomic bombs that dropped on Japan in August 1945. During the Cold War in the early 1950s, in response to Oppenheimer's prior communist affiliation, his open opposition to development of the thermonuclear weapon (hydrogen bomb), and his support for international controls of atomic weapons, a federal "loyalty" board stripped him of his security clearance. Julian Robert Oppenheimer, born on April 22, 1904, in New York City, graduated from Harvard University (1925), did postgraduate work at the Cavendish Laboratories in Cambridge, England, and received his PhD in physics from the University of Gottingen (1927) in Germany. There, he studied under the prominent physicist Max Born and met Werner Heisenberg, later the director of the Nazis' short-lived nuclear weapons program at the Kaiser-Wilhelm Institute. Oppenheimer taught at the University of California, Berkeley, and the California Institute of Technology (1929-1935). He later served as director at Los Alamos in New Mexico (1943-1945). After the war, Oppenheimer served as director of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University (1947-1966). For his role in developing the weapons that forced the Japanese surrender, Oppenheimer was given the Army-Navy Excellence Award (1945) and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

A director of the Manhattan Project during the war, Oppenheimer was decisive in recruiting scientists and engineers, acquiring materials, and developing the neutron-splitting fission weapons that would dramatically escalate the destructive capacity of America's weapons. Despite his postwar antinuclear activism, while at Los Alamos he believed scientists should govern government directives and avoid influencing policy. He disallowed the circulation of physicist Leo Szilard's petition recommending vaguely defined conditional-surrender terms prior to using uranium- or plutonium-based weapons in the Pacific War. Within months of the end of the war, however, Oppenheimer acknowledged the "sin" of the physicists who had developed the atomic bomb.

In 1965 television broadcast, Oppenheimer repeated the lamentation from the Hindu Bhagavad Gita that he had uttered after the initial atomic-test explosion: "Now I am alone. There is nothing left to do, nothing left to be done.

During the McCarthy era, Oppenheimer became a target of national security elites advocating modernization of America's nuclear arsenal and a confrontational containment policy. Oppenheimer was serving as chair of the General Advisory Committee of the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) in October 1949 when he advocated against development of the hydrogen bomb. That recommendation, as well as previous associations with the Popular Front and Communist Party (though he was never a member), led to speculation—stoked by FBI director J. Edgar Hoover—that he was a security risk. When President Dwight D. Eisenhower asked him to resign, Oppenheimer requested a formal hearing. Based in part on the testimony of physicist Edward Teller, a chief advocate of the AEC, the Atomic Energy Security Board ruled in 1954 to revoke Oppenheimer's security clearance, despite finding him "a loyal citizen" who had violated no laws. A catalyst of the nuclear age, as well as one of its most controversial figures, Oppenheimer died of throat cancer on February 18, 1967.

Peter N. Knight
See also Cold War; Communists and Communist; Enola Gay Exhibit; Hiroshima and Nagasaki; LeMay, Curtis; McCarthyism; Nuclear Age; Science Wars; Teller, Edward.