

Dare desu ka (Who is it?)

The following is a starter list for historical figures in 19th and 20th century Japanese history. Some of these people are more well-known than others, but all have potential as seeds for an interesting historical fiction. Choose one of these persons (or someone else you might come across) for the Preliminary Biography in Phase 1 of your Historical Production. The *Kodansha Encyclopedia of Japan* (REF DS805.K633.1983), *Concise Dictionary of Modern Japanese History*, and in some case the Web would be good places to start. As you find out about your "character" you will undoubtedly discover events, issues, institutions, movements and so on in which s/he was directly or indirectly implicated. Begin tracking down books and/or articles that will help you flesh out such instances of historical context surrounding your character. In a few cases you might find entire books or articles dedicated to your character, but don't count on it. Make good use of the research resources in the library, including on-line searches of material. DON'T rely solely on Web sources! I want you to find some good old-fashioned books and articles. The entries in *Kodansha Encyclopedia of Japan* are often followed by a few references that could be of help. Remember: your final "Historical Production" need not be biographical in nature or even include your initial character; this preliminary exercise may lead you to something else around which to form your historical fiction, which you will lay out in your Project Pitch of Phase 1. Also, your production may be drawn around a "nameless" person such as a day-laborer, sweat shop worker, prostitute, coal miner, student protester, infantryman, etc. Here are a few "named" people:

Ôshio Heihachirô	Ogata Kôan	Commodore Perry
Townsend Harris	Isabella Bird	Saigo Takamori
Joseph Heco	James Hepburn	Henry Heusken
Sakamoto Ryôma	Iwakura Tomomi	Itô Hirobumi
Ôkuma Shigenobu	Itagaki Taisuke	Yamagata Aritomo
Kiyochika	Tanaka Shôzô	Okakura Tenshin
Nitobe Inazô	General Nogi	Lafcadio Hearn
Takahashi O-den	Uchimura Kanzô	Shibusawa Eiichi
Fukuzawa Yukichi	Deguchi Nao	Tanizaki Jun'ichiro
Fukuda Hideko	Kanno Sugako	Kaneko Fumiko
Itô Noe	Hiratsuka Raichô	Yosano Akiko
Kôtoku Shûsui	Ôsugi Sakae	Konoe Fumimaro
Gotô Shinpei	Edward Morse	Araki Sadao
Nagai Kafû	Tôjô Hideki	Matsuoka Yôsuke
Ishiwara Kanji	Kita Ikki	"Tokyo Rose"
Yamamoto Isoroku	Emperor Shôwa (Hirohito)	General MacArthur

These are not necessarily the best or most interesting people to form your Historical Production around, so feel free to browse through your readings, *Kodansha Encyclopedia of Japan* and other references for more possibilities.