The Assassination of Sakamoto Ryoma

Today’s Class

- Discussion: Representation of history in film.
- NHK’s Taiga Dramas
- The assassination of Sakamoto Ryoma in the gakushu manga, in Ryomaden, and in history.
- Traveling Ryoma (Kyoto, Kochi, Nagasaki, Hakodate)
- Final Discussion

Discussion

- How is history represented in mainstream film?
- How is it different from documentaries, which we discussed last week?
- Reading Robert A. Rosenstone in Oliver Stone’s USA.
- Taiga Dramas and their viewing figures

Ryoma’s Assassination

- Let’s compare representation in three works of popular culture.
  1. The manga we read last week.
  2. The key scene from Ryomaden (from 00:50:00).
  3. Romulus Hillsborough’s account in Samurai Revolution.

Sakamoto Ryoma and Nakasaka Shintaro push for the Satcho Alliance.

Satsuma agrees not to be part of any future expeditions against Choshu.

The Satcho Alliance confirmed.

1867: Sakamoto Ryoma ... writes the “Eight Policies on a Ship”, his blueprint for post-Tokugawa Japan. But he is assassinated shortly afterwards.
Taiga Dramas and Tourism

Kyoto 2012

Kyoto 2012

Kochi 2014

Kochi 2014
History as Tourism Resource

- Tourist sites as mediatized sites and as sites of popular culture.
- Historical figures as tourism resources and “contents”.
- Taiga dramas have large tourism impacts: see my paper “Taiga Dramas and Tourism”.

Homework

- Homework for next time.
- Read the educational manga about life in silk mills in the Meiji Period, and excerpts from Tomioka Diary and Modern Japan (by Elise Tipton).
- Visit the website of the Tomioka Silk Mill (link available from the class homepage). What do you make of its representation of women’s experiences working in the silk industry in Meiji Japan?