



Staged History

Active Learning

- Returning your Active Learning Reports
- Feedback, marks and questions.
- Reminder about your end-of-term timed essay.

Topics for Today

- What exactly was democratic about the Taisho democracy?
- History on stage and in musicals: Kabuki, Takarazuka Revue, Regional Theatre.
- Proletariat Literature and the *Crab Cannery Ship*.
- Why do the 1930s resonate particularly with us now?

Taisho Period: 1912-26

- 1914: World War I begins
- 1915: The Twenty-One Demands
- 1918: World War I ends; Rice Riots
- 1919: Versailles Treaty, founding of the League of Nations; Protests on 1 March (Korea) and 4 May (China)
- 1923: End of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance; Great Kanto Earthquake
- 1924: US Immigration Act (Asian Exclusion Act)
- 1925: Suffrage extended to males over 25; Public Security Preservation Law
- 1926: Death of Emperor Taisho

Was it the Taisho democracy or "Taisho militarism" (Benesch & Zwigenberg, *Japan's Castles*, pp.98-99)?

History in the Theatre

- How might the format of live theatre affect the representation, consumption, identities, production and regulation of history?
- Have you ever seen historical theatre?
- What kind of theatrical performances are there in Japan and how might they represent history?

Chushingura

- The story of Chushingura as told in the *Japan Times*.
- Let's watch a little of an NHK World documentary (esp. from 6:40).
- And of course, the 47 Ronin lends its name to Hollywood "adaptations", too.

Takarazuka Revue

- Let's see a little about the history and structure of the Takarazuka Revue.
- Its founder, Ichizo Kobayashi.
- A history of the Takarazuka Revue as given on its website.
- Introduction to their stage shows.
- The Takarazuka Revue and their troupes.

Musical Histories

- What ways can history be represented in musicals (as opposed to straight plays)?
- Examples of historical musicals performed by Takarazuka Revue, The Sun in the Last Days of the Shogunate (from around 00:02:30)
- Botchan Gekijo in Matsuyama. They have put on various plays, particularly relating to local history. Chikai no Coin is about the Russo Japanese War, and I went and saw 52 Days about the friendship between Natsume Soseki and Masaoka Shiki.

The Crab Cannery Ship

- Kobayashi Takiji: Proletarian author (1903-1933).
- Why was there a "Takiji boom" around 2008? Norma Field's article: "Commercial Appetite and Human Need"
- What does this say about modern Japanese society and its comparability with the 1920s-1930s? Why are some journalists comparing our era now to then?
- Let's read short extracts from the novel and manga *Kani Kosen*.
- It has also been made into various films (e.g. 1953 and 2009)