

Asia: Biographies and Personal Stories—Part 1

JAPAN

Emperor Hirohito Biography (video)

URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8LDU33-SzQQ>

Produced by the BBC, the almost-50-minute video focuses on the life of Hirohito during the years of World War II. The cinematic footage is interspersed with comments by scholars and others, including Professor Carol Gluck and the granddaughter of Tōjō.

Andō Hiroshige Biography

URL: <http://www.hiroshige.org.uk/hiroshige/main/biography.htm>

In this brief biography of Hiroshige, the essential facts of his life are described. There are several links to many images of his works, such as the series *100 Famous Views of Edo* and *69 Stations of the Kisokaidō*.

Yasunari Kawabata—Biography

URL: http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1968/kawabata-bio.html

Kawabata received the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1968. This page provides a brief biography of Kawabata. On the left-side pane are links to his Nobel Lecture, the Banquet Speech, and a video documentary showing the moment he received notice of the awarding of the Nobel Prize.

Oda Nobunaga

URL: <http://www.samurai-archives.com/nobunaga.html>

This lengthy biography of Oda Nobunaga begins with a look at the Oda family at the time of his birth in 1534 and during his early years. In addition, there are details of his battles, military exploits, and his attempts to unify Japan.

CHINA

The Last Emperor of China (video)

URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ImZ4zBScFDE>

A video biography of Pu-yi, the last emperor of China, traces his life in old photographs and film footage, beginning with his ascension to the throne at the age of two. It is a fascinating look at the last years of the Qing Empire after 258 years of power. The documentary lasts about one hour and forty minutes. For those interested in a dramatized version, directed by Bernardo Bertolucci in 1987 and running for almost three hours and forty minutes, it is also on YouTube at this URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wJcofQrFuHE>.

China Biographical Database Project

URL: <http://isites.harvard.edu/icb/icb.do?keyword=k16229>

There are more than 300,000 biographical entries in this database that originated with Professor Robert M. Hartwell. Most of the biographical data is from the seventh through the nineteenth centuries and is available online or for download free of charge. The instructions for logging in are on the right side of the page and are explained clearly.

Biographical Index of Missionaries—China

URL: <http://www.phcmontreat.org/bios/Bios-Missionaries-China.htm>

These are short biographies of nineteenth-century missionaries to China and additional biographies of missionaries from the years 1900–20. Most of the biographies depict the years of service and role played by each missionary. A few photographs accompany some biographies.

Wang Tao

URL: <http://tinyurl.com/kv3whfk>

This page is dedicated to Wang Tao, a writer and translator born in the nineteenth century. He found a job with the London Missionary Society Press and worked on a Chinese translation of the New Testament. Wang later translated the classics of Chinese literature. The biography on this site describes his travels outside of China, including Hong Kong and Scotland.

Mao Zedong

URL: http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/special/china_1900_mao_early.htm

This biographical piece on Mao is from the Asia Society's *Focus on Asian Studies* and is reprinted here on Columbia University's *Asia for Educators*. There are two sections: "The Early Years" and "Leader of the Chinese Revolution." It is comprised solely of text with no images included. There are several discussion questions at the end of the biography.

The Father of Modern China

URL: <http://www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/1999/china.50/inside.china/profiles/sun.yatsen/>

CNN produced *Inside China*, a special collection of articles, opinions, and profiles. One of the profile articles is about Sun Yat-sen, "The Father of Modern China."

INDIA

The Mughals of India (video)

URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WX1ZWVuY84Q>

Produced in conjunction with the History Channel, this film of one hour and forty minutes in length covers the history of Mughal rule in India. In addition to biographical facts of the leaders, there is commentary on weaponry; war battles, and architecture, including the construction of the Taj Mahal, built by Shah Jahan in the seventeenth century.

One Family's Tryst with Destiny

URL: <http://www.historytoday.com/jad-adams/one-family%E2%80%99s-tryst-destiny>

Motilal Nehru, born into poverty but later a wealthy man, was head

RESOURCES

WEB GLEANINGS

of the Nehru family, who dominated the political life of India for more than 40 years. The two most prominent leaders were Jawaharlal Nehru and his daughter Indira Gandhi, both of whom became Prime Minister of India.

Mohandas Gandhi

URL: <http://www.history.com/topics/mahatma-gandhi>

The History Channel has published this concise biography of Gandhi. The links to videos and pictures near the top of the page do not provide much valuable additional information. For a more detailed biography, (in six parts), one can go to this site:

<http://www.progress.org/biographies/biography-of-gandhi-part-1-a-child-groom/>.

Mother India: A Political Biography of Indira Gandhi

URL: <http://tinyurl.com/m9jca46>

This is an almost-600-page book about Indira Gandhi. Several pages appear on this Google Books site. While it is far from the complete book, there is sufficient coverage for the reader to gain information and insights about the life of Indira Gandhi, especially from the introductory pages.

MONGOLIA

Kublai Khan (video)

URL: <http://tinyurl.com/ljyh5fo>

The life of Kublai Khan is depicted in this video, produced in association with the History Channel. Even as a young man, he was recognized as an enlightened ruler, in part because of the influence of his mother. His exploits, battles, and conquests are shown through dramatizations, paintings, and commentaries by British scholars. Eventually, Khan became Emperor of China; his policies and rulings are related here as well.

THE PHILIPPINES

From the Life Stories of Filipino Women

URL: http://www.smc.org.ph/administrator/uploads/apmj_pdf/APMJ2002N1ART4.pdf

These are the stories of ten women from the Philippines who chose to migrate alone, without their families, in order to gain employment and obtain funds in other countries. Often the major reason for leaving was to facilitate the education of their children. The author looks at the impact of this migration on relationships between mothers and children and the changes in the women themselves, both positive and negative.

KOREA

King Sejong the Great

URL: <http://asiasociety.org/countries/traditions/king-sejong-great>

The Asia Society site provides a large number of educational resources. This article on King Sejong is part of their Korean section. King Sejong was born in 1397, and during his reign and thereafter, he was considered one of the most enlightened leaders in Korean history. His creation of *hangul*, the Korean alphabet, is viewed as his most remarkable achievement.

Korean War Stories (video)

URL: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V59r1tC0RQ0&feature=youtube_gdata

Photos and video clips, interspersed with the remarks (years later) of veterans on the Korean War, comprise this video produced by PBS. PBS has several other programs on the Korean War that can be accessed on their site www.pbs.org.

PAKISTAN

Mr. Jinnah: The Making of Pakistan (video)

URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-tWIE9aYgE>

The film begins with comments upon the death of Muhammed Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan. The speakers express their reverence, admiration, and awe of the man and his accomplishments. The movie proceeds with the relinquishing of Pakistan by the British and the ceremonies associated with the formation of a new state in 1947.

INDONESIA

Sukarno

URL: <http://www.cnn.com/ASIANOW/time/asia/magazine/1999/990823/sukarno1.html>

Written in 1999, this look at Sukarno summarizes his life and his activities, especially as the leader of a movement to seek independence for Indonesia. The article is part of *Time* magazine's series "The Most Influential Asians of the Century."

VIỆT NAM

Whispers from Việt Nam War (video)

URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BOe4F5xdOZ8>



These are the war stories of Yang Vue, a Hmong fighter from Laos during the Việt Nam War. The film is approximately ten minutes long and is subtitled in English. It was posted on YouTube in 2006.

Reflections on a War

URL: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/vietnam/reflect/>

The PBS series "American Experience" produced a six-year project about the war in Việt Nam. Part of the project is this group of essays written by people who were connected with the war, including writers, service veterans and medical workers.

THAILAND

Soul of a Nation: The Royal Family of Thailand (video)

URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y263zmpfziY>

The BBC compiled the segments of this video in 1979. This is part one of two parts. The head of the Royal Family is King Bhumibol, who became king in 1946 and is the longest-reigning king of Thailand. This is the story of his family. Part two of this series can be found here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yuEbc_8cXjY ■

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