

HIST 392: Paper #4 Japan's Modern Transformation

Use the following terms to come up with an original thesis statement about Japanese modernity:

Nation/state/emperor/sovereignty

Making specific references to our readings, write a 4-6 page paper exploring your thesis statement. Last paper you were given a specific event, the Ako vendetta, as a way to explore violence in warrior society. Since this is the last paper this year, it is now your job to search for an event that will let you explore the organization of power known as the nation-state form and Japanese modernity. There is no right answer on which event or events to use—spend some time on this and use it to help form your thesis statement.

As always, a good thesis should be specific and strong enough to exert control over the rest of the essay. In other words, if you have words like “very important” or “many ways” in your statement, you need to further refine them. (There should be many things in Totman that can support a well-crafted thesis statement, even if he uses them to demonstrate a different point—skim other parts of Totman if you think it will help, but this is not required.)

Last chance to get your footnotes correct as well.

Possible, but not all readings:

Totman
Imperial Rescript on Education (in Totman)
Watanabe Kazan
Fukuda Hideko
The Pacific War
Charter Oath (handout)
Kokoro
Class lectures: Imperial Progresses; Great Treason Incident; 2/26 Incident;
Cosmopolitanism; fascism
Etc., etc....

Due at start of class Monday 19 November 2007