

NEWS  
ARTICLES

INTERVIEW (NEWS ARTICLE?)

3 months- 300 ARTICLES (3 articles a day)

NEW YORK TIMES

WALL STREET  
JOURNAL

2-3 ARTICLES

SHOULD NATIONS FOLLOW JAPAN'S ECONOMIC REVOLUTION?

# EMPEROR HIROHITO'S

*Vision for Post-War Resurrection 1960-1970*

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE- EXAMPLES/  
EVIDENCE



**INTERESTING PIECES OF INFORMATION- adapt to many different topics**

# Introduction

Tokyo, 1964. As the Olympic torch ignites hope in a reborn nation, Rick investigates how Japan's revolutionary economic policies under Emperor Hirohito's leadership are transforming a war-torn country into a global powerhouse. Through his exploration of the Emperor's controversial partnership with industrial giants like Toyota during the crucial Olympic year, we'll examine how imperial tradition, innovation, and cultural preservation collide in times of radical change. This story challenges students to consider multiple perspectives on national transformation while crafting persuasive arguments about economic revolutions.

**RESEARCH ASSIGNMENTS/  
TRAVELLING  
MUSEUMS**

CREATIVITY/LATERAL THINKING is required in persuasive writing

# Writing Prompt:

Topic: Should developing nations prioritise rapid economic growth or cultural preservation?

Prompt: "Should countries pursuing modernisation follow Japan's post-war economic miracle as a model, even if it means radical social and cultural changes? Argue for or against this development path, using evidence from Rick's observations of 1964 Olympic-era Tokyo and the perspectives of both Emperor Hirohito and local community members. Consider how Hirohito's vision of merging tradition with progress demonstrates the complex relationship between economic advancement and cultural identity."

Bangkok  
(No 1 most travelled city- tourism, expense of cultural preservation?)

JAPAN  
SHANGHAI 90s  
INDIA  
SINGAPORE 80s



3rd world countries  
Poverty  
Impoverished  
North Korea  
Africa  
South EAST ASIA-  
Cambodia,  
Vietnam, Laos,  
Thailand

# RAPID GROWTH

1. Benefits the economic wellbeing of the local people (Thailand 2000s Phuket Bangkok- TOURISM, Indonesia- BALI and Vietnam- copied China (EVS- cleared up pollution- Real estate, EVs)

2. Rapid economic growth can actually support the cultural preservation of nations (Museums, cultural centres- Vietnam (memorial museums, Bali - preserve local culture and traditions (monuments, museums, cultural experiences, Thailand- tourism actually supports the tradition- Muay Thai - bring tourists in to practise ancient arts (600,000), tourism drives the cultural preservation of ancient/local cuisine and food

3. COUNTRY'S FUTURE - GDP leads to greater healthcare, educational outcomes, overall prosperity- wellbeing of its people, university, higher education, privileges, talent, clean food and water, build better infrastructure, better political stability, life quality

QUICK SCHOLAR RESEARCH

Some factors that contributed to the growth of the Four Asian Tigers include:

- **Governmental support:** Low interest rates on bank loans, low taxes, and minimal welfare states
- **Educated and skilled populations:** Cultural traditions that valued education and achievement
- **Beneficial geographical locations:** The countries are close to each other and to areas with lower labor costs

However, growth in the Four Asian Tigers has slowed since the 2000s. Factors that have contributed to this include: Aging populations, Increasing input costs, The anti-globalization movement, The complicated relationship between the US and China, and The transfer of supply chains to China and other developing Asian countries.

## Writing Focus:

Primary Category: Historical Change & Cultural Identity

Technique Focus: Historical Narrative & Analysis

- Post-war reconstruction
- Industrial revolution
- Cultural preservation
- National identity
- International relations

4 asian tigers

Taiwan- semiconductors

NVIDIA  
AMD

HONG KONG SINGAPORE  
FINANCIAL CENTRES

SOUTH KOREA-  
SAMSUNG

European architecture (French Concession area) lit up by the BUND, glimmering Pearl Tower, Paris of the EAST, embodiment of true metropolitan paradise

Jubilant crowds of people cheering, glistening skyscrapers grace the once impoverished skyline, unemployment at all time lows, a rising middle class.. glistening utopia of prosperity, sublime energy (neon lights), corporate good, streets filled with youthful, optimistic, forward-thinking energy,

Setting the Scene:

- Rick attending Emperor Hirohito's Olympic opening speech
- Industrial district transformation
- Traditional neighbourhoods changing

Streets filled with tourists, smorgasbord of different cultures

EMOTIONAL TRUTH- VERY EMOTIONALLY CHARGED PICTURE

Extreme positive/extreme negative



CHARACTERISATION-  
NARRATIVE-LIKE  
INTRODUCTION

# Persuasive Examples:

Unemployment at  
all time highs,  
desperate,  
anxious faces,  
pessimistic,

1. "Steam billowed from the newly built Toyota factory as rickshaws still clattered down narrow alleyways. Emperor Hirohito stood on the ceremonial platform, his presence bridging centuries of tradition with industrial might. 'Japan rises not by forgetting its past, but by carrying it forward,' he declared, while workers bowed deeply before returning to their machines. The weight of history hung heavy as incense in Tokyo's morning air."

Exhausted locals, faces covered with soot, noxious air  
Crowded outside factories, wallowing in  
famine, hard labour, greedy corporations sucking all the lifeblood out of the Japanese people

2. "In the shadow of the rising Olympic stadium, Emperor Hirohito led a traditional purification ceremony, blessing the ground where modern steel met ancient soil. 'We build tomorrow without forgetting yesterday,' he explained to the international press, as elderly craftsmen carved traditional wooden beams while modern cranes lifted steel girders into the sky."

3. "The neighbourhood sento bathhouse had closed, its customers now bathing in modern apartments. But in the imperial-sponsored worker housing project, Rick discovered a carefully built bathhouse combining traditional design with modern efficiency. 'Our essence remains unchanged,' Emperor Hirohito had insisted during the project's dedication, 'even as our form evolves.'"

~~NOTEBOOK~~ / folio of  
everything that you have  
written for persuasive and  
narrative writing

Setting the Scene:

- Emperor Hirohito touring factories
- International trade ceremonies
- Financial district evolution

**CONSTANTLY  
PRACTISE WITH  
DIFFERENT  
TOPICS**



# Persuasive Examples:

1. "Inside Toyota's gleaming facility, Rick watched Japanese precision merge with imperial discipline. 'The spirit of bushido lives in our quality control,' Emperor Hirohito observed while workers performed inspections with ritual-like devotion. Yet outside, displaced craftsmen counted dwindling customers."
2. "The statistics painted a startling picture - Japan's economy growing 10% yearly under Hirohito's guidance, faster than any nation in history. But in the quiet temples, priests prayed for souls lost to karoshi - death by overwork. Progress and preservation waged silent war in every street."
3. "Tokyo's stock market hummed with international energy while traditional merchants in Asakusa shuttered century-old shops. 'We must honour both the old and new ways,' Emperor Hirohito declared during the market's modernisation ceremony. His words bridged worlds like the half-built Olympic bridges spanning Tokyo's rivers."



# Cultural Crossroads

Setting the Scene:

- Emperor Hirohito at traditional festivals
- Neighbourhood transformations
- Family structures changing



# Persuasive Examples:

1. "The Obon festival pulsed through Tokyo's streets, with Emperor Hirohito himself participating in traditional dances while Olympic construction cranes loomed overhead. 'Our festivals carry our soul through time,' he proclaimed, as salarymen checked watches before joining their ancestors' dances."
2. "In the Shitamachi district, Rick witnessed Emperor Hirohito touring the changing landscape where multi-generational homes gave way to apartment blocks. 'Our families find new ways to stay together,' the Emperor assured concerned elders, as modern housing projects incorporated traditional gathering spaces."
3. "The old shopping arcade stood half-empty, but its surviving shops had evolved - traditional craftsmen now made precision parts for electronics, ancient skills finding new purpose. 'Innovation grows from tradition's soil,' Emperor Hirohito observed during his economic revitalisation tour."

# Social Transformation

Setting the Scene:

- Imperial education reforms
- Worker migration patterns
- Urban development



# Persuasive Examples:

1. "At the new technical high school's opening ceremony, Emperor Hirohito watched students bow to teachers before entering computer labs. 'We teach tomorrow's skills with yesterday's values,' he declared, as young minds split their studies between ancient literature and modern engineering."
2. "Rural workers flooded Tokyo's factories, leaving villages half-empty. The Emperor's innovative program brought village craftsmen to train industrial workers in precision and patience. 'Our ancient skills guide our modern hands,' he insisted, as young workers learned traditional carpentry principles to understand modern engineering."
3. "Housing blocks rose like mountains from rice fields, but architects incorporated traditional elements at the Emperor's direction - shared baths, meeting spaces, even small shrines. 'Cities must house both bodies and spirits,' Hirohito reminded planners. 'Tomorrow's communities need yesterday's wisdom.'"

# The Olympic Moment

Setting the Scene:

- Emperor Hirohito's Olympic vision
- National pride
- International spotlight



# Persuasive Examples:

1. "As the Olympic countdown reached its final days, Rick witnessed Tokyo's metamorphosis complete itself - bullet trains humming past ancient temples, modern athletes bowing at Meiji Shrine. 'This moment,' Emperor Hirohito declared during the opening ceremony, 'proves that a nation can leap forward without losing its soul.'"
2. "The opening ceremony married robots with ritual, automated lights illuminating traditional dancers as Emperor Hirohito presided in traditional robes. Foreign journalists gaped at Japan's technological prowess, but Rick noticed how carefully each innovation paid respect to cultural forms."
3. "Standing where burnt ruins had become modern marvels, Emperor Hirohito shared his deepest vision: 'Economic revolution succeeds not by rejecting tradition, but by transforming it into strength. Japan teaches the world that the future belongs to those who can bow to their ancestors while reaching for the stars.'"

# Vocabulary List

revolutionary: causing or relating to a dramatic change

visionary: having wisdom and imagination about the future

transformative: causing a major change in something

pivotal: critically important or essential

unprecedented: never having happened before

monumental: extremely great in importance

radical: completely different from the usual

profound: very great or intense

ceremonial: relating to formal occasions

industrial: relating to manufacturing

cultural: relating to the ideas and customs

disciplined: showing controlled behavior

harmonious: free from disagreement