

People

Literary characters can be as diverse as characters in history, for literature is a reimagined version of the stories and personality history generates. From this close relation, between literature and history, arises the thought that the major moving forces, in human history, may be men and women of great influence, who have moved and shaped the destinies of millions. Does this seem to you an inherently likely idea? Are great individual people the movers of history? Or are economic forces? Or challenges groups pose to one another, and their corresponding reactions? Or the will of God? In this instance your job is to discuss the broad question, of the *role of great individuals in history*, in terms of one of the following questions:

Can you name a few individuals, in world history, who seem to you to have influenced (motivated, changed, redirected) the course of human history? Who are they? What did they do to achieve such power? Did that power last for a long time? Were these people 'forces for good'?

If potent individuals are major shapers of history, how do they accomplish this shaping? To deal with this question, please choose one historical figure who seems to you to have directly affected the course of history. Did that person affect history through thoughts, visions, martial actions, or in some other way?

Are 'great individuals' the best history-shapers, from the view point of the good of mankind? Does the great man or woman know how to interpret the needs of 'the people,' and to act in their behalf? Or is the 'great person' more interested to serving the needs and desires of him/her self?