

# Miyazawa Kiichi's History

## Birth and childhood

Kiichi Miyazawa was born on October 8, 1919 as the first son to his father Yutaka and mother Koto. His family register is in the current Kanae-cho, Fukuyama City, Hiroshima Prefecture. His father Yutaka served as a member of the House of Representatives for six terms and his mother Koto was the second daughter of Heikichi Ogawa, who had served as Minister of Justice. In 1926, he entered Tokyo Higher Normal Elementary School. Later, he moved on to the 7-year program at Musashi High School and toured Manchuria as an upperclassman honors student. In addition to studying English, Chinese, and classical Japanese, he became familiar with mountain climbing as a member of the mountaineering club. Influenced by his parents, he also became interested in Noh performance from early childhood until university.



Family photo  
Kiichi Miyazawa, far right.



Enrolled in Musashi High School General Course

## Days as a student and attending the Japan-America Student Conference

In 1939 (Showa 14), he entered Tokyo Imperial University and studied political science and economics. After entering the university, he applied for the Japan-America Student Conference and attended the conference held in Los Angeles (USA). He found that the English he had learned so far was useless, so he studied hard. His life in the US, interacting with local students, exposed him to the affluent American society and the depth of its people. It can be said that experience became the basis and stance for Mr. Miyazawa's negotiations with the United States after the War.

## Joining the Ministry of Finance and becoming secretary to the Minister

At the urging of Hayato Ikeda, his father Yutaka's junior colleague from the same hometown (Hiroshima Prefecture), he joined the Ministry of Finance in 1942. After joining the Ministry, he toured occupied territories during the Pacific War as Administrative Assistant to the Minister of Finance. After returning to Japan, he worked as the superintendent of the Numazu Tax Office before taking charge of war insurance at the Ministry. After the war, he was appointed to do the work of the secretary under the Minister of Finance in the new Cabinet, in recognition of his English-speaking ability.

## Attending the San Francisco Peace Conference

In the third Yoshida Cabinet formed in February 1949, Hayato Ikeda, who had inspired him to join the Ministry of Finance, was appointed Minister of Finance. In recognition of his past experiences, he was appointed ministerial secretary under Finance Minister Ikeda. As secretary, he assisted the Minister in difficult negotiations with the Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces General Headquarters (GHQ) in order to restore the Japanese economy after the War. In September 1951, he attended the San Francisco Peace Conference as a plenipotentiary, contributing to Japan's independence and return to the international community.



Passport from when attending San Francisco Peace Conference in 1951.



Travels to the US for Ikeda-Robertson Talks in 1953.  
Kiichi Miyazawa, left.  
Courtesy of Takehara Board of Education.

1919 Age 0 Born as the first son to father Yutaka and mother Koto.

1926 Age 7 Enters Tokyo Higher Normal Elementary School.

1932 Age 13 Graduates from Tokyo Higher Normal Elementary School. Enters Musashi High School (7-year program).

1936 Age 17 Graduates from Musashi High School General Course (4-year program)

1939 Age 20 Graduates from Musashi High School Secondary Course (3-year program) Enters Tokyo Imperial University. Travels to the US to attend Japan-America Student Conference.

1941 Age 22 Passes higher civil service examinations for public administration and diplomacy. Graduates from Department of Political Science, Faculty of Law, Tokyo Imperial University.

1942 Age 23 Joins the Ministry of Finance.

1943 Age 24 Superintendent of the Numazu Tax Office and Shiba Tax Office Marries Yoko Ijichi, whom he met at the Japan-America Student Conference.

1945 Age 26 Administrative Assistant to the Minister of Finance

1949 Age 30 Appointed Secretary to the Minister of Finance. (Concurrently Secretary to the Minister of International Trade and Industry for a period of time.)

1951 Age 32 Attends San Francisco Peace Conference as plenipotentiary.

1952 Age 33 Retires from the Ministry of Finance.

1953 Age 34 Elected to the House of Councilors for the first time. Accompanies Ikeda-Robertson Talks.

1954 Age 35 Accompanies Yoshida-Eisenhower Talks.

## Fukuyama City's History

1916 Fukuyama City is established as a municipality after abolishing Fukuyama-cho, Fukayasu-gun. (Population: 32,356, Area: 5.8 sq. km.)  
1919 Major flood damage  
1920 First National Census (pop. 29,768)

1928 Municipal swimming pool completed.  
1930 Fukuyama City Hall and Assembly Building completed. Newly constructed Fukuyama Station opens.  
1931 Fukuyama Castle tower designated as a former national treasure (destroyed during the war).  
1933 Merges 10 villages in Fukayasu-gun and Numakuma-gun.  
1934 Tomonoura designated as part of Setonaikai National Park.  
1935 Fukuen Line (Fukuyama - Fuchu) opens  
1936 Kashima Bridge completed

1942 Merges two villages in Numakuma District.

1945 Fukuyama air raid destroys nearly 80% of the City.  
1947 Temporary Census (pop. 59,576)

1949 Designated a war-damaged city. First municipal horse race and municipal art exhibition held.

1951 First issue of Fukuyama City Public Relations Magazine published.  
1952 Resident Registration Law implemented (pop. 69,928).  
1953 Myōō-in five-storied pagoda designated a national treasure.  
1954 Matsunaga municipality established.

1955 Completion of Matsunaga City Hall.

## The World and Japan

1919 Paris Peace Conference  
1920 Inauguration of the League of Nations  
1923 Great Kanto Earthquake  
1925 Promulgation of the Universal Suffrage Law

1932 May 15 Incident  
1933 Japan withdraws from the League of Nations.

1936 February 26 Incident  
1937 Sino-Japanese War (Marco Polo Bridge Incident)

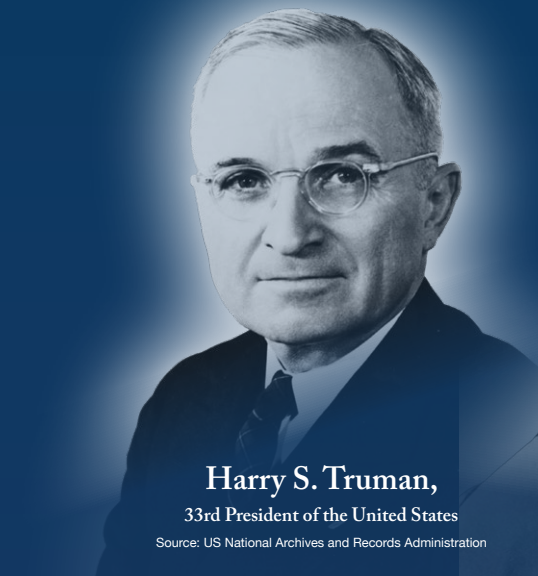
1939 World War II

1941 Pacific War

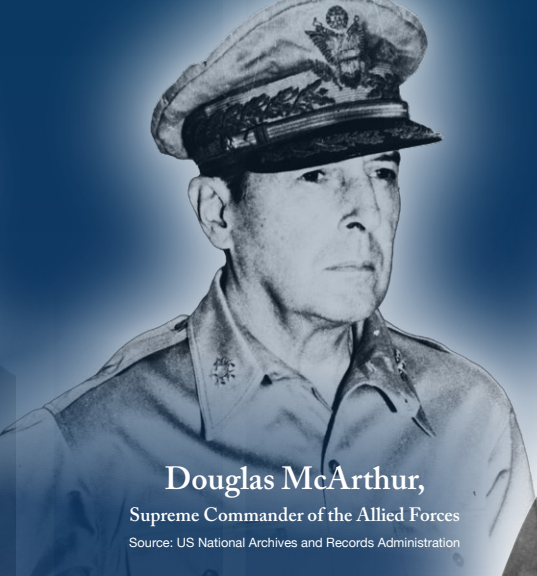
1945 Atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. End of the Pacific War (acceptance of the Potsdam Declaration). Occupation of Japan and the beginning of the democratic era.  
1947 Enactment of the Constitution of Japan

1949 Dodge Line announced.  
1950 Korean War

1951 Signing of the San Francisco Peace Treaty  
1952 May Day Incident  
1953 Television broadcasting begins.



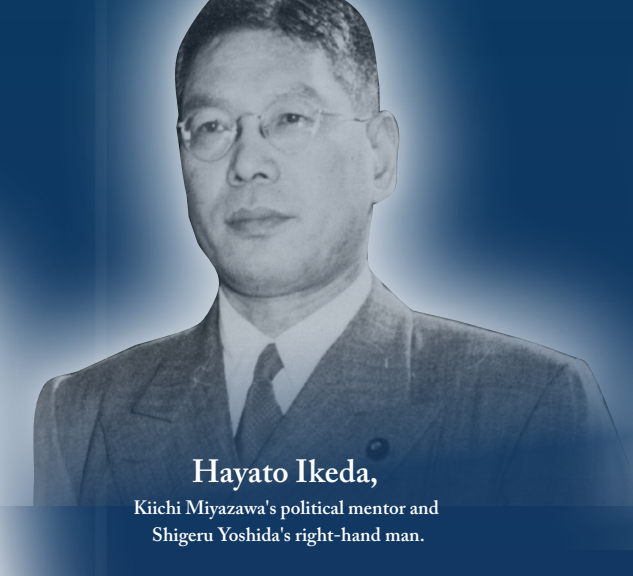
Harry S. Truman,  
33rd President of the United States  
Source: US National Archives and Records Administration



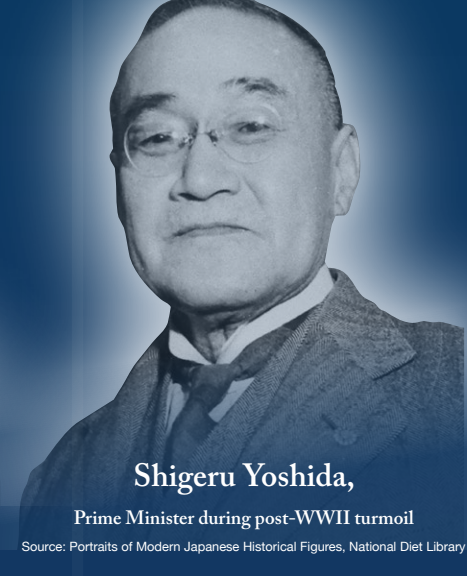
Douglas MacArthur,  
Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces  
Source: US National Archives and Records Administration



Kiichi Miyazawa 30s  
In the chaotic postwar and occupation period, Kiichi Miyazawa served alongside Hayato Ikeda as ministerial secretary and interpreter during difficult negotiations with foreign countries to help Japan begin its journey as an independent nation.



Hayato Ikeda,  
Kiichi Miyazawa's political mentor and Shigeru Yoshida's right-hand man.



Shigeru Yoshida,  
Prime Minister during post-WWII turmoil  
Source: Portraits of Modern Japanese Historical Figures, National Diet Library



Entering the world of Diet members

After retiring from the Ministry of Finance In December 1952, he decided to enter politics at the urging of Hayato Ikeda. In 1953, he ran for office in the Hiroshima Prefectural Constituency and was elected to the House of Councilors for the first time. He accompanied Mr. Ikeda to the Ikeda-Robertson Talks, a conference on Japan's national defense. He continued to gain diplomatic experience attending the Yoshida-Eisenhower Talks and later the Ikeda-Kennedy Talks. During the second Ikeda cabinet reshuffle in 1962, he was appointed Director-General of the Economic Planning Agency and promoted economic measures such as price reforms. In 1967 he was elected to the House of Representatives for the first time and continued to be active in national politics as a member of the House of Representatives for 12 terms.



Article on his first election to the House of Councilors time in 1953.  
Source: The Chugoku Shinbun, April 25, 1953.



Letter of appointment as Director of the Economic Planning Agency in the Ikeda Cabinet in 1962.

Holding important positions in politics such as Minister

In 1970 he was appointed Minister of International Trade and Industry in the third Sato Cabinet and continued to hold important positions for some 30 years. In 1974, he became Minister of Foreign Affairs (Miki Cabinet) and in 1980, Chief Cabinet Secretary to the Minister of State (Suzuki Cabinet). In particular, during his tenure as Minister of Finance in the third Nakasone Cabinet in 1986, he promoted economic policies to prevent further appreciation of the yen, fearing that the appreciation of the yen caused by the Plaza Accord reached the previous year, would have a serious long-term impact on the industrial world. He regarded the Plaza Accord as one of the turning points for postwar Japan, and kept track of the daily exchange rates in his personal notebook to keep abreast of the economic situation.



Attends San Juan Summit with Prime Minister Miki, Kichi Miyazawa, far right.  
Courtesy of The Asahi Shimbun.



Elected 78th Prime Minister on November 5, 1991. 644 days in office.  
Courtesy of The Chugoku Shinbun.

Finally becoming the 78th Prime Minister of Japan

As a new leader, he led the Japanese political world and was appointed Prime Minister on November 5, 1991, at the age of 72. The first thing he did after taking office was using the Gulf War as an opportunity to pass the Act on Cooperation with United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and Other Operations (PKO) to determine Japan's approach to international conflicts. In addition, during this period, despite difficult diplomatic situations such as the Emperor's first visit to China and the collapse of the USSR, he was able to enhance Japan's position in the world through equal footing with world leaders such as American President Bush and Russian President Yeltsin. In 1993, the House of Representatives passed a resolution of no confidence and the Cabinet was dissolved. He resigned after the general election. (Collapse of the 1955 System)



Photo with other leaders at the 1993 Tokyo G7 Summit while Prime Minister.  
Courtesy of The Chugoku Shinbun.

Returning to Minister of Finance, where his abilities were highly praised

In 1998, when the Obuchi Cabinet was formed, he was appointed Minister of Finance at the request of the Prime Minister to deal with the unprecedented economic crisis. This was the first appointment of a former prime minister since Korekiyo Takahashi, who was active in the prewar period, giving him the name, Heisei's Korekiyo Takahashi. He remained Minister of Finance in the subsequent Mori Cabinet, becoming the first Minister of Finance in the new ministry in 2001, and was instrumental in dealing with the financial crises in Japan and Asia.



Passes away June 28, 2007.  
Source: The Chugoku Shinbun, June 28, 2007.



Becomes Minister of Finance in 1998. Named Heisei's Takahashi Korekiyo.  
Source: The Chugoku Shinbun, April 25, 1993.

Staying active even after retiring from the Diet

He led national politics for some 50 years during the postwar reconstruction, rapid economic growth, and post rapid economic growth periods. He retired from the House of Representatives in 2003, but as a former prime minister and witness to postwar politics, he spoke about the path Japan should take in the future, including building relationships with other countries and the importance of economic assistance. Even after retiring from politics, he continued to think about the future of Japan with a focus on the economy and diplomacy. He passed away peacefully at his home on June 28, 2007.

1959 Elected to House of Councilors for the 2nd time. Parliamentary Vice-Minister of Education (Kishi Cabinet)

1961 Accompanies Ikeda-Kennedy Talks. Chairman of the House of Councilors Steering Committee

1962 Director-General of the Economic Planning Agency (Ikeda Cabinet)

1963 Attends GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) Ministerial Conference. Attends OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) Conference.

1967 Elected to the House of Representatives for the first time. Attends Kennedy Round of Trade Negotiations.

1969 Elected to House of Representatives for the 2nd time.

1970 Minister of International Trade and Industry (Sato Cabinet)

1972 Elected to House of Representatives for the 3rd time.

1974 Minister of Foreign Affairs (Miki Cabinet)

1975 Represents the Japanese government at the 30th United Nations General Assembly. Attends the 1st Summit Meeting of the Seven Major Industrialized Nations.

1976 Attends Summit Meeting of the Seven Major Industrialized Nations in San Juan. Elected to House of Representatives for the 4th time.

1979 Elected to House of Representatives for the 5th time.

1980 Elected to House of Representatives for the 6th time. Minister of State Chief Cabinet Secretary (Suzuki Cabinet)

1983 Elected to House of Representatives for the 7th time.

1986 Elected to House of Representatives for the 8th time. Minister of Finance (Nakasone Cabinet)

1987 Attends G7 Summit Meeting in Venice. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Takeshita Cabinet)

1988 Attends G7 Summit Meeting in Toronto.

1990 Elected to House of Representatives for the 9th time.

1991 Takes office as Prime Minister of Japan.

1992 Attends G7 Summit Meeting in Munich.

1993 Cabinet dissolves after House of Representatives passes resolution of no confidence. Hosts G7 Summit Meeting in Tokyo. Elected to House of Representatives for the 10th time. Resigns after the general election.

1996 Elected to House of Representatives for the 11th time.

1998 Minister of Finance (Obuchi Cabinet)

2000 Elected to House of Representatives for the 12th time.

2001 First Minister of Finance (Mori Cabinet)

2003 Retires from the House of Representatives. Recognized as honorary citizen of Fukuyama City.

2004 Awarded honorary citizen of Hiroshima Prefecture.

2007 Passes away at age 87.

1956 First Rose Exhibition is held. Merges 10 towns and villages in Numakuma-gun and Miyamasu-gun.

1957 Construction of Rose Park begins.

1959 New Fukuyama City Hall completed.

1960 City Library and Chuo Community Center completed.

1961 Signing of decision to locate NKK Fukuyama Steelworks.

1962 Merges with Fukayasu-cho, Fukayasu-gun.

1964 Myōō-in main hall designated a national treasure. Designated as Bingo Special Area for Industrial Consolidation.

1966 Fukuyama City and Matsunaga City merge to form new Fukuyama City. Citizen's Charter enacted. Fukuyama Castle keep, moon-viewing turret, and bathhouse reconstructed. NKK Fukuyama Steelworks begin operations.

1968 First Fukuyama Rose Festival is held.

1969 Fukuyama Municipal High School opens.

1970 Tokyo Office opens.

1971 Friendship Town affiliation with Okazaki City, Aichi Prefecture.

1972 Irie Ohashi Bridge opens.

1974 Merges with Ashida-cho, Ashina-gun. Double-elevated tracks for Sanyo Line and Shinkansen completed.

1975 Merges with Ekiya-cho, Ashina-gun and Kamo-cho, Fukayasu-gun. Sanyo Shinkansen (Okayama-Hakata) opens.

1976 Ashidagawa Estuary Bridge opens and Estuary Wier is completed. Friendship Town affiliation with Hamilton, Canada.

1977 Fukuyama City Hospital opens.

1978 City Zoo opens. Athletics stadium completed at Takegabata Sports Park.

1979 Friendship City affiliation with Pohang City, Republic of Korea. Higashi-Fukuyama Station opens.

1980 Fukuyama Station underpass and underground parking lot completed. Friendship City affiliation with Tacloban City, The Philippines.

1985 The rose is designated as the official city flower.

1988 Sanyo Expressway opens between Fukuyama-higashi IC and Hayashima IC. Tomonoura History and Folklore Museum and Fukuyama Museum of Art open.

1989 Hiroshima Prefectural Museum of History opens

1991 Sanyo Expressway opens between Fukuyama-higashi IC and Fukuyama-nishi IC.

1992 New City Hall completed.

1993 Area designated as Fukuyama City Key Region. New Hiroshima Airport opens.

1994 Human Rights and Peace Museum, Fukuyama Hall of Art and Culture – Reed & Rose open.

1998 Transition to Core City.

1999 Ibara Line (Kannabe - Soja) opens. Fukuyama Museum of Literature opens.

2001 Rose Hill is completed in Midorimachi Park. A new species of rose is born.

2003 Merges with Utusmi-cho, Numakuma-gun and Shinichi-cho, Ashina-gun. Fukuyama Museum of Calligraphy opens. Kiichi Miyazawa recognized as honorary citizen.

2004 Municipal Fukuyama Junior and Senior High School opens as an integrated institution.

2005 Merges with Numakuma-cho, Numakuma-gun.

2006 Merges with Kannabe-cho, Fukayasu-gun.

2007 Numakuma Shimin Koryu (Citizen's Exchange) Center opens. Numakuma Sports Center opens.

1956 Japan joins the United Nations.

1962 Cuban Missile Crisis

1964 Tokyo Olympics

1965 Vietnam War Normalization of diplomatic relations between Japan and Republic of Korea.

1967 European Community (EC) established.

1969 Apollo 11 successfully lands on the moon.

1970 World Expo held in Osaka.

1971 Nixon Shock

1972 Okinawa is returned to Japan. Normalization of Japan-China diplomatic relations.

1973 First Oil Shock

1978 Signing of the Japan-China Peace and Friendship Treaty.

1985 Plaza Accord (triggering yen appreciation)

1988 Recruit Incident

1989 Introduction of consumption tax Fall of the Berlin Wall (end of the Cold War)

1991 Gulf War Collapse of the USSR.

1992 International Peace Cooperation Law (PKO Law) enacted

1993 Collapse of the 1955 System. Inauguration of the European Union (EU).

1995 Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake The Tokyo Subway Sarin Gas Attacks

1997 Hong Kong is returned to China.