

3.12 20th Century Women Who Made History

Instructions: The following women made history as political activists in the twentieth century. Your task as a reporter is to research their lives, to report on their challenges and achievements, and to uncover the forces and people that shaped their lives and ideas. Your report should be presented in the form of an interview where you as the reporter ask them questions and they answer. Where possible, their answers should be quotes from things they actually said or wrote.

- Corazon Aquino, Philippines, President, 1986-92.
- Aung San Suu Kyi, Myanmar (Burma), elected Prime Minister in 1991 but not allowed to take office; won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991; later accused of crimes against humanity.
- Benazir Bhutto, Pakistan, Prime Minister, 1988-1990 and 1993-1996.
- Indira Gandhi, India, Prime Minister, 1966-77, 1980-1984.
- Dolores Ibárruri (La Pasionaria), Spain, leader of the anti-Fascist resistance during the 1930s.
- Janet Jagan, Guyana, Prime Minister, 1997, President, 1997-1999.
- Rosa Luxemburg, Germany, revolutionary leader executed in 1919.
- Wangari Maathai, Kenya, was the founder of the Green Belt Movement, an environmental organization that empowers women to conserve the environment and improve livelihoods.
- Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, South Africa, leading opponent of apartheid in the 1980s.
- Golda Meir, Israel, Prime Minister, 1969-1974.
- Rigoberta Menchu, Guatemala, indigenous leader and winner 1992 Nobel Peace Prize.
- Angela Merkel, Chancellor of Germany from 2005-2019 and leader of the campaign for a unified Europe.
- Eva Peron, Argentina, First Lady 1946-1952, and “Spiritual Leader of the Nation.”
- Emmeline Pankhurst, England, British suffragist who led the successful campaign for voting rights for women.
- Jian Qing, China, leader of the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s.
- Dilma Vana Rousseff, Brazil, President 2011-2016.
- Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Liberia, President, 2006-2018; first elected female head of state in Africa.
- Margaret Thatcher, United Kingdom, Prime Minister, 1975-1990.