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## **History Q3**

Which figure in history did most to enlarge human freedom?

### **Recommended Readings**

#### **Biographical and Historical Resources**

##### **Ancient World Figures**

1. Solon of Athens

Sarah Pomeroy, et al., "Ancient Greece: A Political, Social, and Cultural History"

Covers Solon's constitutional reforms that limited aristocratic power

Discusses the ending of debt slavery and expansion of citizenship rights

2. Cyrus the Great

Tom Holland, "Persian Fire"

Explores Cyrus's unusual religious tolerance and multicultural empire

Documents the liberation of Jews from Babylonian captivity and policy of respecting local customs

3. Spartacus

Barry Strauss, "The Spartacus War"

Comprehensive account of the largest slave rebellion in ancient Rome

Examines Spartacus as both historical figure and freedom symbol

##### **Enlightenment Thinkers**

1. John Locke

John Dunn, "The Political Thought of John Locke"

Analysis of Locke's theory of natural rights and consent of the governed

Explores the intellectual foundations of liberal democracy



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2. Mary Wollstonecraft

Sylvana Tomaselli, "Wollstonecraft: Philosophy, Passion, and Politics"

Examines Wollstonecraft's pioneering arguments for women's rights

Places her work in context of Enlightenment thinking on liberty

3. Voltaire

Ian Davidson, "Voltaire: A Life"

Documents Voltaire's campaigns against religious persecution

Examines his influence on concepts of free speech and secularism

**Political Leaders and Revolutionaries**

1. Abraham Lincoln

Eric Foner, "The Fiery Trial: Abraham Lincoln and American Slavery"

Traces Lincoln's evolution on slavery and emancipation

Analyzes the Emancipation Proclamation and its consequences

2. Mohandas Gandhi

Ramachandra Guha, "Gandhi: The Years That Changed the World"

Comprehensive biography of Gandhi's life and movement

Examines Gandhi's philosophy of nonviolent resistance and its global impact

3. Nelson Mandela

Tom Lodge, "Mandela: A Critical Life"

Scholarly biography of Mandela beyond the myths

Analyzes his strategic decisions in ending apartheid

4. Václav Havel



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Michael Žantovský, "Havel: A Life"

Biography of the dissident playwright who led Czechoslovakia from communism

Explores his philosophy of "living in truth" as resistance

#### 5. Toussaint Louverture

Sudhir Hazareesingh, "Black Spartacus: The Epic Life of Toussaint Louverture"

Examines the leader of the Haitian Revolution

Explores significance of the first successful slave rebellion

### **Social Movement Leaders**

#### 1. Martin Luther King Jr.

Taylor Branch, "Parting the Waters: America in the King Years"

Detailed account of King's leadership in the civil rights movement

Documents King's philosophy and strategy for expanding freedom

#### 2. Susan B. Anthony & Elizabeth Cady Stanton

Ellen Carol DuBois, "Suffrage: Women's Long Battle for the Vote"

Chronicles the decades-long struggle for women's suffrage

Examines how these leaders expanded conceptions of citizenship

#### 3. William Wilberforce

William Hague, "William Wilberforce: The Life of the Great Anti-Slave Trade Campaigner"

Documents Wilberforce's parliamentary campaign against the slave trade

Analyzes his abolitionist strategies and their global effects

### **Theoretical and Conceptual Resources**

#### 1. Isaiah Berlin, "Two Concepts of Liberty"



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Distinguishes between "negative liberty" (freedom from interference) and "positive liberty" (freedom to fulfill potential)

Essential framework for analyzing different conceptions of freedom

#### 2. Amartya Sen, "Development as Freedom"

Argues that development should be seen as expanding human capabilities

Provides framework for considering economic and social dimensions of freedom

#### 3. Orlando Patterson, "Freedom in the Making of Western Culture"

Traces the historical development of freedom as a value

Examines paradoxical relationship between slavery and freedom

#### 4. Philip Pettit, "Republicanism: A Theory of Freedom and Government"

Develops concept of "freedom as non-domination"

Useful for evaluating republican traditions of freedom

#### 5. Hannah Arendt, "On Revolution"

Compares American and French revolutions

Explores relationship between freedom and political participation

### **Comparative and Synthetic Resources**

#### 1. Timothy Garton Ash, "Facts Are Subversive: Political Writing from a Decade Without a Name"

Contains essays comparing different freedom movements

Analyzes how freedom has been conceptualized across cultures

#### 2. Lynn Hunt, "Inventing Human Rights"

Traces the historical development of human rights discourse

Examines how concepts of freedom evolved through declarations and activism

#### 3. Jonathan Israel, "Radical Enlightenment"



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Argues for the importance of Spinoza and radical thinkers

Provides intellectual history of freedom concepts

#### 4. Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, "Empire"

Contemporary theoretical perspective on globalization and freedom

Offers critical perspective on Western narratives of freedom

#### 5. Kwame Anthony Appiah, "The Ethics of Identity"

Explores tension between group identity and individual freedom

Provides cosmopolitan perspective on freedom across cultures