



# ABC CLARION

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## J-Pop

by Tanya Wang

What is J-pop? J-pop stands for Japanese pop music. Like Mando-pop or C-pop, J-pop isn't as popular as K-pop, but is still pretty amazing in its own way. The western half of the world may not know about the awesomeness of J-pop, but the countries in Asia around Japan know. In this article, I will be introducing some of the top artists in the J-pop industry along with some fun facts about them, as well as their top songs.

AKB48 is a Japanese idol girl group named after the Akihabara area in Tokyo, where the group's theater is located. Originally, the group had 48 members, but as of December 2015, the group has expanded to include more than 130 members, from early teens to mid-20s. They are one of the highest-earning musical performers in Japan and appear on many TV shows. Their top songs include Ponytail to Shushu, Aitakatta, Ogoe Diamond, Everyday Kachuusha, and Give Me Five.

Hikaru Utada, also known as Utada, is a Japanese-American singer and songwriter. She sings, plays guitar, plays piano, uses a synthesizer, and is into programming.

Some of her top songs include First Love, Hikari, Flavor Of Life, Automatic, and Prisoner Of Love.

Namie Amuro is a Japanese singer, dancer, fashion model, and actress. She was referred to as "Teen Queen" when she was at the height of her popularity. She's also called "Queen of J-Pop" and "Japanese Madonna". Namie used to be part of a group called Super Monkey's at the age of 14, but because it was mostly unsuccessful, she left the company Toshiba-EMI. Her top songs include, but aren't limited to, Golden Touch, Fight Together, Baby Don't Cry, Red Carpet, and Can You Celebrate.

Ayumi Hamasaki, called Ayu by her fans, is a Japanese recording artist, lyricist, model, and actress. She's achieved popularity in Japan and Asia by emphasizing her position as an artist and not trying to be forced as a "product". Throughout her entire career, she has written all her lyrical content, produced her own music, and has sometimes co-composed her music. Some of her top songs are Dearest, Fly High, Seasons, Boys & Girls, and Song 4 u.

Arashu, literally meaning Storm, is a Japanese idol group consisting of five members formed under the Johnny's Entertainment talent agency. The members are Ohno Satoshi, Sakurai Sho, Aiba Masaki, Ninomiya Kazunari, and Matsumoto Jun. They were officially formed in Honolulu, Hawaii and have grown a lot since then. Their top songs include Ai wo Sakebe, Love so Sweet, Fukkatsu Love, One Love, and Aozora no Shita Kimi no Tonari.

I personally have some favorites in the J-pop music industry. My one friend went to Japan over the summer and saw a poster for Acid Black Cherry, commonly referred to as ABC. She knew I liked k-pop so she thought J-pop isn't that different right? She introduced me to ABC and I immediately fell in love. My favorite song by them is Crisis. The only continuous member in the group is Yasu. Acid Black Cherry is the solo project of Yasu, a Japanese musician. He's interested in working with musicians from other bands, some of which shared their songwriting skills with him in the project. I also have a personal favorite song which many of you might know. The theme song for Attack on Titan. Attack on Titan

## The Store Front

Drawn by Audrey Zhou



is Guren no Yumiya and the theme song's name is Shingeki no Kyojin. I loved that song so much that I learned how to play it on the piano, not an easy task, but worth it at the end.

I hope this article gave certain readers a new kind of music to listen to and get interested in.

## The Power of Power: The Milgram and Stanford Prison Experiments

by Siyu Cao

What would you do if a person with authority told you to hurt someone? In 1961, Dr. Stanley Milgram, a social psychologist, researched the effects of authority on obedience. He theorized that people obey authority either out of fear or out of a desire to appear cooperative, even if they have to act against their own judgments and desires. His research and experiments started just three months after the trial of German Nazi and war criminal Adolf Eichmann. Eichmann was a major organizer of the Holocaust, and Milgram wanted to know if Eichmann was just following orders or working out of his own desires. The experiment itself involved three individuals: the one in charge of it, the subject who volunteered, and a confederate pretending to be a volunteer. The experimenter was put in the authoritative role, the volunteer automatically had the role of a "teacher", and the actor acted as the "learner." The "teacher" and "learner" were separated into different rooms

where they could communicate with each other, but could not see each other's faces. The person in charge told the "teachers" to administer increasingly severe electric shocks to the "learner" when he answered questions incorrectly. Although the "teacher" believed that the "learner" was being shocked, in reality, the "learner" was only acting. The shock levels ranged from 15 to 450 volts with labels such as "moderate shock" and even "XXX." At certain levels of shock, the "learner" (actor) would complain and let out screams, eventually yelling about heart pain. When the subject ("teacher") wanted to stop the experiment, the experimenter would pressure him to continue by saying comments such as, "it is absolutely essential that you continue," or "you have no other choice, you must go on." Many of the subjects indicated that they wanted to stop and questioned the experimenter about the purpose the whole experiment. As many as 65% of the subjects con-

tinued to deliver shocks after being assured that they would not be held responsible. Some subjects even began to laugh nervously, as sign of extreme stress, after hearing screams of pain coming from the "learner" in the other room. Milgram continued with altered versions of this experiment, and he concluded that the subjects were more likely to continue with the experiment when (1) the authority figure was near them; (2) subjects felt that they did not have to take responsibility of any harm done to the learner; and (3) experiments were conducted under a respected organization. He also divided up the participants into three different categories:

1. Obeyed but justified themselves: Some participants passed on the responsibility for their actions to the experimenter. Others even transferred the blame to the learner and reasoned that the learner was stubborn and deserved to be shocked.

2. Obeyed but blamed themselves: There were partici-

pants who felt bad about what they did and were harsh on themselves.

3. Rebelled: Rebellious participants questioned the authority of the experimenter and argued that the experiment had ethical issues.

The results seemed to reveal that people were as obedient as the Nazis were during the Holocaust. If an authoritative figure with power commanded someone to perform a certain action, even if it is against his will, the individual would most likely follow the demand. Now, what happens if someone is given authority and power?

In 1971, a team of researchers led by psychology professor Philip Zimbardo from Stanford University selected twenty-four male undergraduate students to play the roles of prisoners and guards. The researchers set up a mock prison that had six by nine foot cells. The volunteers were randomly assigned to either the prisoner group or the guard group. The guards were not given

any instructions when they entered the mock prison, and this gave them the power to do whatever they wanted. They were not told that they were being recorded, and Zimbardo found out that the guards had been abusing the prisoners. The prisoners tried to set up a grievance committee and even developed escape plans. They experienced such dehumanization that they soon started to deprecate each other. When they had the chance to talk to a priest, they referred to themselves by number, rather than by name. Zimbardo eventually decided to cut the experiment 6 days short because there were obvious ethical problems; the prisoners experienced high stress levels and depression. The conclusion is that the nature of man is to be abusive and manipulative when given power. So, are most of us really so cruel, or do we just submit to authority like many of the Nazis did? Is the phrase "power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely" true?

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