

Matsutarō Shōriki

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(Redirected from Matsutaro Shoriki)

Matsutarō Shōriki (□□ □□□ *Shōriki Matsutarō*, April 11, 1885 – October 9, 1969) was the father of Japanese professional baseball. Born in Daimon, Toyama, he was a media mogul, owned the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, one of Japan's major daily newspapers, and founded Japan's first commercial television station, Nippon Television Network Corporation. He also was elected to the House of Representatives, appointed to the House of Peers and was one of the most successful judo masters ever, reaching the extremely rare rank of 10th Dan.

Shōriki organized an All-Star team in 1934 that matched up against an American All-Star team. While prior Japanese all-star contingents had disbanded, Shōriki went pro with this group, which eventually became known as the Yomiuri Giants. Shōriki had faced an assassination attempt from right-wing nationalists for allowing Americans to play in Jingu Stadium. Shōriki received a 16-inch-long scar from a broadsword during the assassination attempt.

Shōriki became Nippon Professional Baseball's (NPB) first commissioner in 1949. In 1950, Shōriki oversaw the realignment of the Japanese Baseball League into its present two-league structure and the establishment of the Japan Series. One goal Shōriki did not accomplish was a true world series. In 1959, he was the first inductee into the Japanese Baseball Hall of Fame. He died October 9, 1969 in Atami, Shizuoka.

The Matsutaro Shoriki Award is given annually to the person who contributes the most to Japanese baseball. The position of Chair of the Department of Asia, Oceania, and Africa at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston is also named after Shōriki.^[1]

Shōriki was classified as a "Class A" war criminal after the Second World War.^[2] In Korea, he is known as the mastermind behind the ethnic cleansing on Koreans in the Tokyo area in the immediate aftermath of the Great Kantō Earthquake of 1923 when he was a police bureaucrat in the capital.^[3] In 2006, Tetsuo Arima, a professor specialising in media studies at Waseda University in Tokyo, published an article that Shōriki acted as an agent under the codenames of "podam" and "pojacpot-1" for CIA to establish a pro-US nationwide commercial television network (NTV) and to introduce nuclear power plants using US technologies across Japan. Arima's accusations are based on the findings of de-classified documents stored in the NARA in Washington, DC. In 1956, Shōriki became chairman of the newly created AEC in January, and in May of that year was appointed head of the brand-new Science and Technology Agency, both under the cabinet of Ichirō Hatoyama with a strong support behind the scenes from CIA. He is later called "the father of nuclear power".

Matsutarō Shōriki

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Born	April 11, 1885 Daimon, Toyama, Japan
Died	October 9, 1969 (aged 84) Atami, Shizuoka, Japan
Style	Judo
Rank	<i>jūdan</i> (10th dan)