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Welcome !

Buddhas & Business

Contemporary Japan and Its Roots
IDS 360/460

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Religion in Japan

- Two religions and one system of philosophy have shaped Japanese thought:
 - Shintoism - native belief system and creation myths
 - Buddhism - imported from China in the 6th century
 - Confucianism - imported from China in the 12th century

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Confucianism

- Confucianism underlies most of modern Japanese society - both private and public:
 - Belief in the moral basis of government
 - Emphasis on interpersonal relations and loyalty
 - Faith in education and hard work

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Confucianism

- Confucianism dominated Tokugawa society from 1603 - 1868
- It had been introduced to Japan in the 12th century from China and appealed to the samurai because of its hierarchy, ethical rules, and belief in a unified state.
- There are revered texts by scholars, but no deity, no priesthood and no ritual.


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Confucianism

- Confucius started the philosophy in the 6th century BC but it did not take final shape until the 12th century in China.



Typical Image of Confucius
(No known portraits of him)

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Religion in Japan

End

- In Japan today, most people will say:
 - Married Shinto, buried Buddhist
- Shinto shrines are important for local deities, seasonal festivals and local legends. New Year's festivities, including family reunions, are Shinto
- Buddhist temples conduct funerals and the memorial services that follow for the next years. They are also the site of family graves. Families return to their home town for the Buddhist Obon or All Souls Festival.



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Shintoism

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- Shintoism centers around local shrines important to the community - often for a thousand years.
- Many shrines are dedicated to great people who have been deified as Shinto *kami* (gods).
- "State Shintoism" was part of the military government pre-WWII. Shinto = Patriotic
- Meiji Period (1868 - 1911) Shintoism state supported to show imperial power.



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Shintoism

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- Shintoism based on *kami* which are personifications of nature and helped explain natural phenomenon.
 - Raijin - god of thunder
 - Fujin - god of wind
- Shintoism has a complicated mythology and holds that the emperor is a direct descendent of the original goddess, Amaterasu.
- Shintoism emphasizes ritual purity and sacred places guarded by a *kami*. There is no theology or code of ethics.



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Sanja Matsuri

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Sanja Matsuri, Tokyo, 2007



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Heian Jingu

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Heian Jingu, Kyoto, 1894



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Heian Jingu

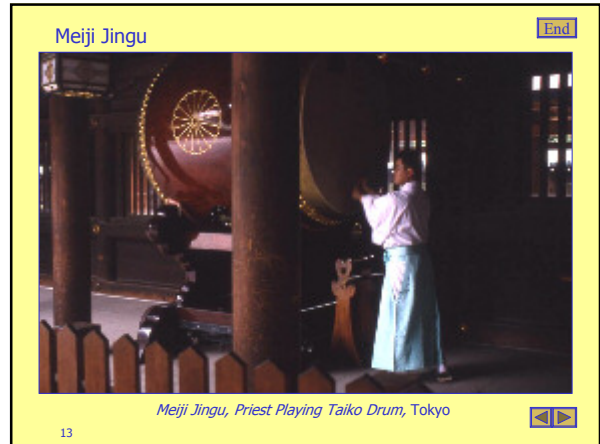
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East Garden, Heian Jingu, Kyoto



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Buddhism End

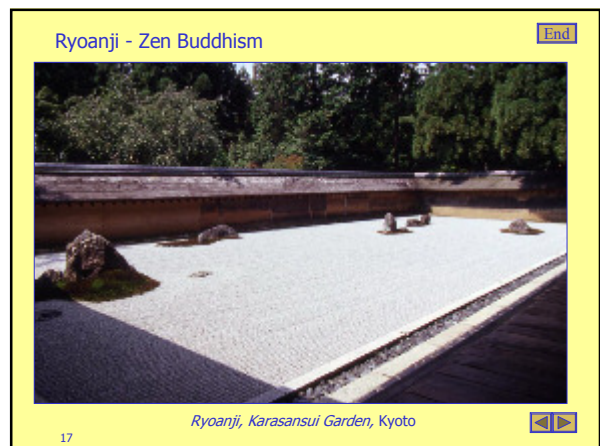
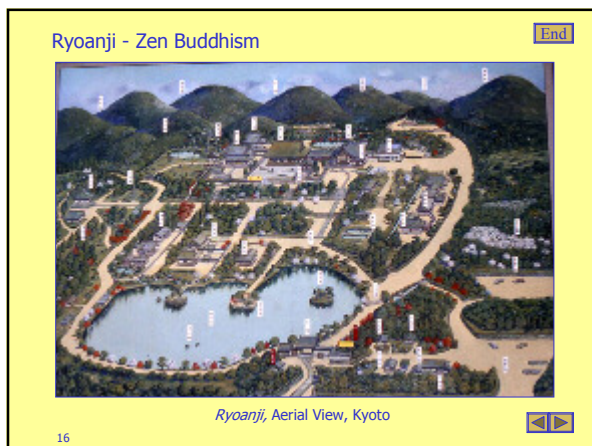
- Buddhism permeated Japanese culture - intellectual, social, artistic and political life from the 9th through the 16th century.
- There are many sects of Buddhism:
 - Esoteric - rituals & magic - 7th - 11th centuries
 - Amida - salvation through faith - 10th - 14th centuries
 - Zen - self-reliance, self-discipline and meditation to reach salvation - 12th - 19th century

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Buddhism End

- Buddhism no longer has much influence on contemporary Japanese society because:
 - Destruction of Buddhist institutions in the late 16th century
 - Rise of urban culture during the Tokugawa era
 - Meiji Period (1868 - 1911) government stopped supporting Buddhism and destroyed many temples.

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Kinkakuji - Zen Buddhism End




Kinkakuji (The Golden Pavilion), Kyoto

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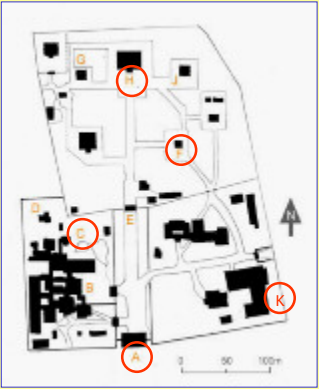
Kinkakuji - Zen Buddhism End

Kinkakuji, The Golden Pavilion, Kyoto



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Ninnaji - Shingon Buddhism End



A = Niomon Gate
C = Garden
F = Five Story Pagoda
H = Morning Service
K = Inn

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Ninna-ji - Shingon Buddhism End



Niomon Gate, Ninnaji, Kyoto

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Ninnaji - Shingon Buddhism End




A Shinden Style Garden, Ninnaji, Kyoto

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Ninna-ji - Shingon Buddhism End

Five Story Pagoda, Ninnaji, Kyoto



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Kiomizudera - Shinto and Buddhist

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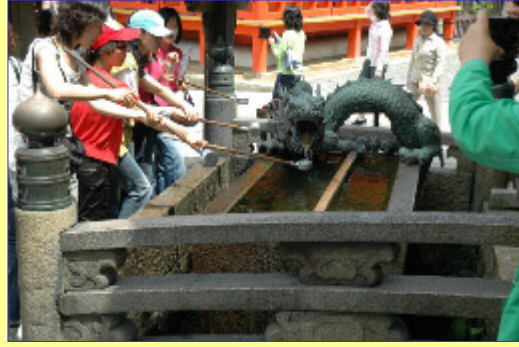
Kiomizudera, Main Entrance, Kyoto

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Kiomizudera - Shinto and Buddhist

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Kiomizudera, Purification Fountain, Kyoto

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Kiomizudera - Shinto and Buddhist

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Kiomizudera, (Buddhist Temple in Background), Haruna, Kayo and Sachiyo

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New Religions

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- New religions are a blend of Shintoism, Buddhism, Christianity and sometimes in rural areas include superstitions and folklore.
- They cater to the Japanese need for a supportive social environment.
- All new religions provide participants with:
 - Tightly organized, supportive community
 - Study groups and social activities
 - Minister to social needs more than spiritual needs.

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Business in Japan

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Tokyo from Tokyo Tower, 1999, Nick Hodge (Found by Google Search)

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Business in Japan

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- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Japanese corporations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Emphasize long-term growth rate – Work on long range plans – Partner with government – Look at what is good for the country as well as their company – Are responsible to their sponsoring bank | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American corporations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Emphasize quarterly profit – Work on short term plans – Often adversarial relationship with government – Look at market surveys and what is best for the company – Are responsible to their shareholders who insist on profits. |
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Japanese Business End



Shinkansen, Tokyo Station

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Business in Japan End

- There are many Japanese entrepreneurs and risk-takers: Sony, National.
- Franchising is big:
 - Karaoke Box, Kiosk, Lawsons
 - McDonalds, Denny's, Pizza Hut
- Sub-contractors to large businesses rise and fall with the business cycle

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Japanese Business End



*Lawsons, Ueno, Tokyo
(Home sweet home)*

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Japanese Business End



McDonalds, Ueno, Tokyo

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Japanese Business End



Ameyoko Contemporary Fashions, Ueno, Tokyo

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Japanese Business End



Ameyoko, Ueno, Traditional Shop

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Business in Japan End

- Workplace relationships are strong within the group
 - Loyalty to the company and the division are strong, though life-time employment is now less common
 - Work groups often socialize together after work
 - Mentoring is important at all levels; sempai (mentor) and kohai (mentee).
- Industry groups are important and there is cooperation between companies or companies under one bank.

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Business in Japan End



Ohanami (Cherry Blossom Viewing Party), 2006 by Fred Lo ◀▶

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Business in Japan End

- Businessmen shy away from cold legal relationships and prefer warm personal contacts
- If possible litigation is avoided and problems are solved by compromises based on personal trust
- Japanese businesses employ only a small fraction of lawyers compared to American businesses.

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Business in Japan End

- Problems are emerging:
 - Young people are less loyal and “job hop”
 - Labor force is aging and birth rate is down, but companies are uneasy with immigrants
 - Japan is heavily dependent on imported fuel, food and raw materials; they are greatly affected by international economic problems

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Business in Japan End

- Problems (continued):
 - Because of competition from emerging economies with lower wages, Japan must retool to high technology and the education level needed.
 - Japanese culture is misunderstood by foreigners, language is difficult and business assumptions are different.

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Image: risingsunofnihon.com



Image: emsnews.wordpress.com



Image: english-ch.com

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