

Religions of China and Japan

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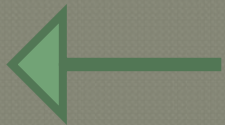
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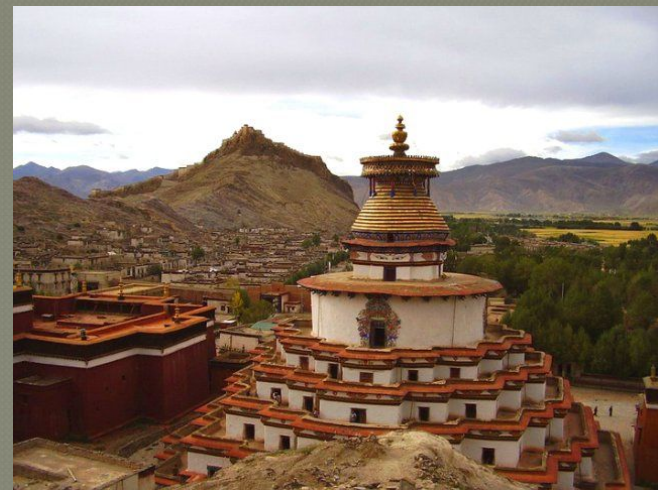
Religion in China

China is a country with a great diversity of religious beliefs. The main religions are Buddhism, Taoism, Islam, Catholicism and Protestantism.



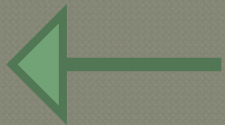
Buddhism

- Buddhism has a history of 2,000 years in China. Currently China has 13,000-some Buddhist temples and about 200,000 Buddhist monks and nuns. Among them are 120,000 lamas and nuns, more than 1,700 Living Buddhas, and 3,000-some temples of Tibetan Buddhism and nearly 10,000 Bhiksu and senior monks and more than 1,600 temples of Pali Buddhism.



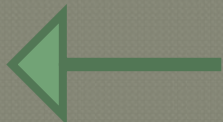
Taoism

Taoism, native to China, has a history of more than 1,700 years. China now has over 1,500 Taoist temples and more than 25,000 Taoist priests and nuns.



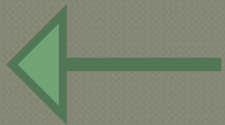
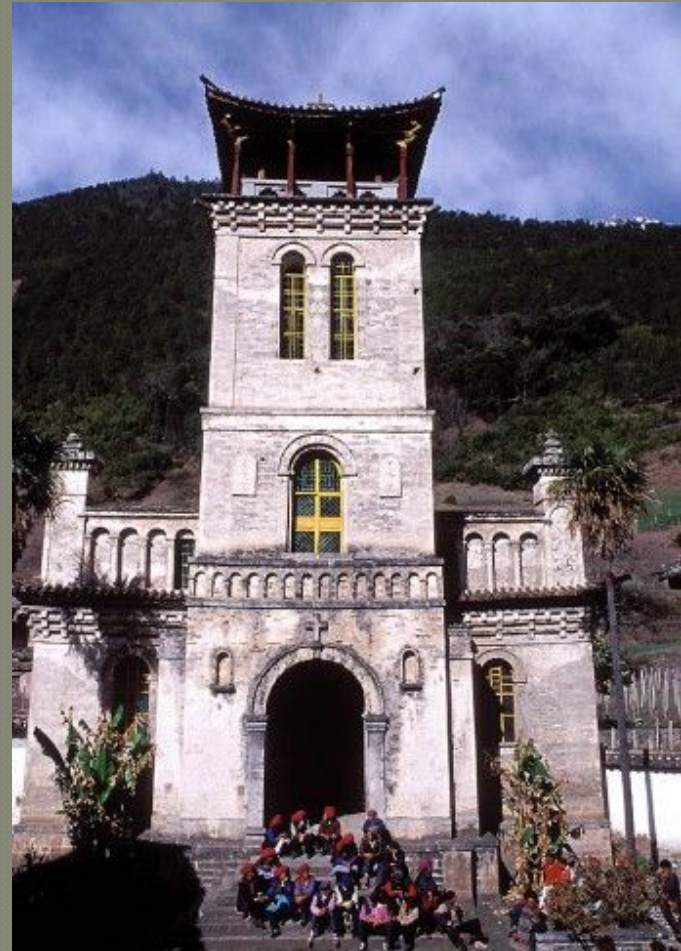
Islam

Islam was introduced into China in the seventh century. Nowadays in China there are ten national minorities, including the Hui and Uygur, with a total population of 18 million, whose faith is Islam. Their 30,000-odd mosques are served by 40,000 Imams and Akhunds.



Catholicism

Catholicism was introduced into China intermittently in the seventh century, but it had not spread widely until after the Opium War in 1840. At present, China has four million Catholics, 4,000 clergy and more than 4,600 churches and meeting houses.



Protestantism

Protestantism was first brought to China in the early 19th century and spread widely after the Opium War. There are about 10 million Protestants, more than 18,000 clergy, more than 12,000 churches and 25,000-some meeting places throughout China.

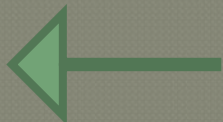


Religion in Japan

Many different religions are practiced in Japan but most people follow Shinto or Buddhism. Many Japanese people do not identify as exclusively belonging to just one religion, but incorporate features of both religions into their daily lives in a process known as syncretism.

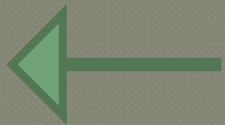


A Japanese Buddhist monk in Kyoto



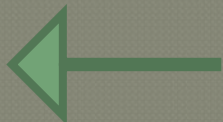
Shinto

Shintoism is one of Japan's largest religions and is the indigenous religion. Japan is one of the only major countries that have many Shinto people. Shinto originated in prehistoric times, as a religion with respect for nature and in particular certain sacred sites.



Buddhism

Buddhism first arrived to Japan in the sixth century, from the Southern part of the Korean peninsula kingdom of Baekje, where the Baekje king sent the Japanese emperor a picture of the Buddha and some sutras. Japanese aristocrats built many Buddhist statues and temples in the capital at Nara, and then at the later capital of Heian.



The list of literature

- http://translate.yandex.ru/translate?srv=yasearch&url=http%3A%2F%2Freligion.wikia.com%2Fwiki%2FReligion_in_Japan&lang=en-ru&ui=ru
- <http://chineseculture.about.com/library/china/whitepaper/blsreligion.htm>
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