



Religion in Japan

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- Religion in Japan is mainly represented by Buddhism and Shintoism. Most believers in Japan consider themselves to both religions at once, indicating that the religious syncretism. In 1886, during the Meiji Restoration, Shinto was declared the sole and mandatory state religion of the Japanese state. After the Second World War, with the adoption of the new Japanese Constitution in 1947, Shinto lost this status.



- Buddhist and Shinto up by some estimates up to 84-96% of the population, representing a large number of believers in a syncretism of both religions. However, these estimates are based on the Japanese association with this or that temple, not on the number of really believers. Professor Robert Kish suggests that only 30% of the population identify themselves as believers.



- Chinese Taoism, Confucianism and Buddhism also influenced Japanese beliefs and traditions. Religion in Japan tends to syncretism, resulting in mixing of different religious practices. For adults and children celebrate the rituals of Shinto, students praying before exams, young couples organize wedding ceremony in the Christian Church, and the funeral - in a Buddhist temple.



- Christians are a religious minority, only 2.04% of the population. Among the associations of the Christian churches operating in the general Japanese scale, the largest - Catholic Central Council, further, the number of followers are Jehovah's Witnesses, Pentecostals and parishioners of the Joint United Church of Christ in Japan.



The number of believers

Year	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008
Shintoism	105738000	108580457	107247522	106817669	105824798
Buddhism	78790000	93485017	91260273	89177769	89540834
Christianity	17450000	2161707	2595397	3032239	2143710
Other	10210000	9599480	9917555	9817752	9086268
Only	196483000	213826661	211020747	208845429	206595610



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