Religion in Japanese History

552 C.E. Introduction of Buddhism from Korea

574-621 Prince Shōtoku

- "Seventeen-Article 'Constitution'" (Confucian and Buddhist principles)
- Patron of Buddhism
- Shinto as root, Confucianism as trunk, Buddhism as branch of Japanese culture



Prince Shōtoku

710-784 NARA PERIOD

- Capital: Nara (south of Kyōtō)
- Emperor Shōmu: built **Tōdaiji** (Great Eastern Temple) in 728; all ordinations took place here; center of network of temples in each province



Tōdaiji

- Six schools of Buddhism (1-3 Mahayana, 4-6 Theravada):
 - 1. **Kegon** (Skt. Avatamsaka; declared authoritative by Emperor Shōmu in 749)
 - 2. Hossō (Skt. Yogacara)
 - 3. Sanron (Skt. Madhyamika)
 - 4. Ritsu (Skt. Vinaya)
 - 5. Jōjitsu (Skt. Satyasiddhi)
 - 6. Kusha (Skt. Kosha)

794-1185 HEIAN PERIOD

- Capital: **Heian-kyō** (Kyōtō)
- 762-822 Saichō (Dengyō Daishi): Tendai Buddhism (includes some esoteric practices)
 - Traveled to China in 804
 - Established Enryakuji temple on Mt. Hiei (Hieizan), just outside Kyōtō
- 774-835 Kūkai (Kōbō Daishi): Shingon Buddhism (esoteric, tantric)
 - Traveled to China in 805
 - Established monastery on Mt. Kōya (Kōyasan), far south of Kyōtō
 - Later given Tōji (Eastern Temple) in Kyōtō
 - Invented *kana*, founded school open to all classes, patron saint of pilgrims
- 978-1026 (Lady) Murasaki Shikibu: author of *Tale of Genji*, world's first novel

1185-1333 KAMAKURA PERIOD

- Military government (bakufu) separate from Imperial (civil) government
- Military capital established at Kamakura

• Minamoto Yoritomo given title "Sei-i tai shōgun" (Great Barbarian-quelling General)

• New Buddhist schools/sects: Pure Land

(see separate handouts) Nichiren

Zen

1333-1573 ASHIKAGA PERIOD

- Ashikaga Shogunate never ruled over a unified Japan
- Development of **Daimyō system**:

Shōgun (general, military ruler)

Daimyō (feudal lord)

Samurai (retainers, knights)

1534-1582 **Oda Nobunaga**

- ended Ashikaga shogunate
- destroyed Enryakuji (Mt. Hiei)
- failed to gain control over western Japan

1536-1598 Toyotomi Hideyoshi

- originally a commoner
- inherited Nobunaga's domain and conquered remaining *daimyō*
- gave Edo domain to Tokugawa Ieyasu
- began custom of keeping families of *daimyō* at his headquarters as "hostages"
- instituted rigid division between samurai and commoners
- invaded Korea, but army turned back after his death



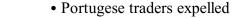
Daimyō family and retainers traveling to Edo on Tokaido Road.

1600-1868 EDO (TOKUGAWA) PERIOD

- Capital: Edo (later called Tokyo)
- Neo-Confucianism adopted as governing ideology
- Christianity prohibited
- every Japanese family required to register with a Buddhist temple (danka system)
- national isolation

1542-1616 Tokugawa Ieyasu

- named one of five regents for Hideyoshi's infant son
- subjugated other regents
- named Shogun by Imperial court
- European traders limited to two ports (Nagasaki and Hirado)
- Spanish traders expelled
- Japanese prohibited from going abroad or returning home (death penalty)
- Shimabara Revolt (near Nagasaki), blamed on Christians; beginning of persecution of Christians



• Dutch (only foreigners left) moved to Deshima Island in Nagasaki harbor

-1853 • "Pax Tokugawa" (Tokugawa Peace) and Isolation

• Commodore **Matthew C. Perry** sent by U.S. with 8 ships to negotiate trade

• treaties signed with U.S., Britain, Russia, Netherlands

1860-1868 • anti-Shogunate revolts

1639

1868-1911 MEIJI PERIOD (RESTORATION)

- modernization, industrialization, Westernization
- Shinto declared guiding ideology:
 - saisei ichi: "unity of religion and government"
 - Department of Shinto as branch of government later Department of Shrines (Shinto) and Temples (Buddhism)



Tokugawa leyasu, who founded the shogunate in 1603 in present-day Tokyo.

1882	• Shrine/State Shinto differentiated from Sect Shinto
	• Shrine Shinto declared part of government, not religion
1890	• Imperial Rescript on Education
1895	• Sino-Japanese War (Japan wins, Taiwan becomes part of Japan)
1905	• Russo-Japanese War (Japan wins)

1912-1925 TAISHŌ PERIOD

• increasing industrialization and militarization

1926-1988	SHŌWA PERIOD
1931	• Japan invades Manchuria
1941	• Pearl Harbor
1945	• Hiroshima, Nagasaki, defeat
1945-1952	• Occupation by U.S.
	• Shrine Shinto separated from government; Association of Shinto Shrines established
1945-	• Increasing population shifts to cities; accelerated growth of New Religions
	Perennial disputes over Yasukuni Shrine

1989- HEISEI PERIOD

1995

Aum Shinrikyo releases sarin gas in Tokyo subway

