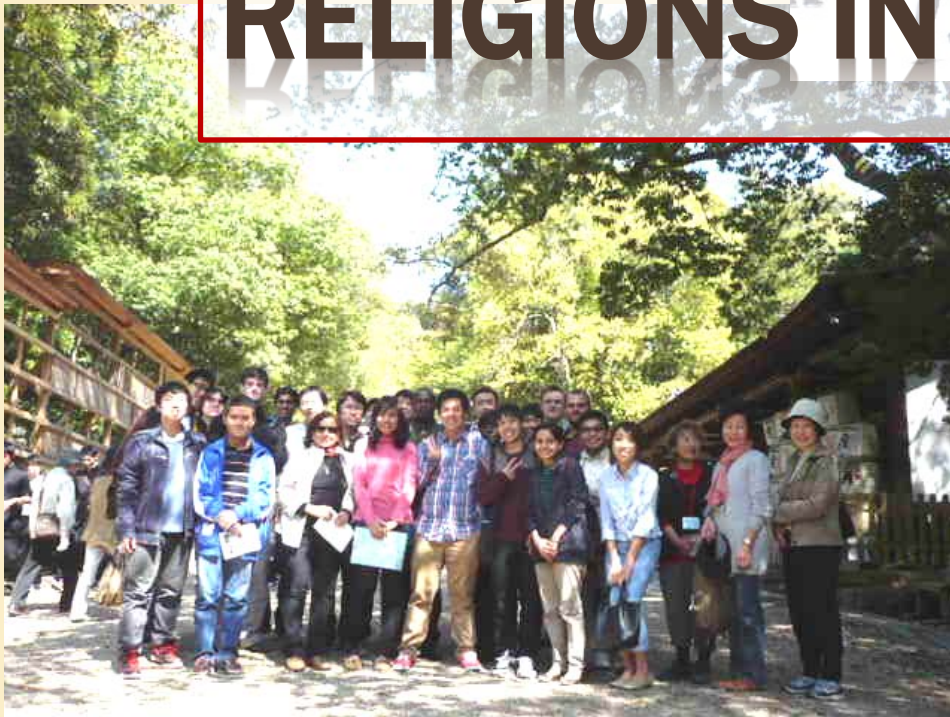




# RELIGIONS IN JAPAN



Adarsh Sharma

# SHINTO

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- ✕ An age-old native religion
- ✕ Form of polytheistic animism, Nature mysticism
- ✕ Mountains, animals, trees, weeds as a divine spirits
- ✕ Miwa Shrine: one of the oldest Shrine
- ✕ *Yaoyorozu* 8 million gods and goddesses
- ✕ No sacred scriptures, no holy books, moral code or precepts











# ORIGIN OF BUDDHISM

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- ✗ 'Buddhism in its origin at least is an offshoot of Hinduism'. Dr S. Radhakrisnan
- ✗ Hinduism dates back 5000 years or more
- ✗ Buddhism, founded in the 5<sup>th</sup> century B.C.  
by Siddhartha Gautama, originated as a Hindu reform movement







# NALANDA UNIVERSITY

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- ✖ One of the first greatest Universities in recorded history
- ✖ Founded in 5<sup>th</sup> century and was ravaged in 12<sup>th</sup> century
- ✖ 10,000 students and 1500 teachers
- ✖ Students from China, Korea, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Greece and Persia
- ✖ Subjects were scriptures of Mahayana, Hinayana, Philosophy, Logic, Theology, Grammar, Astronomy, Science, Mathematics and Medicine













# BUDDHISM IN JAPAN

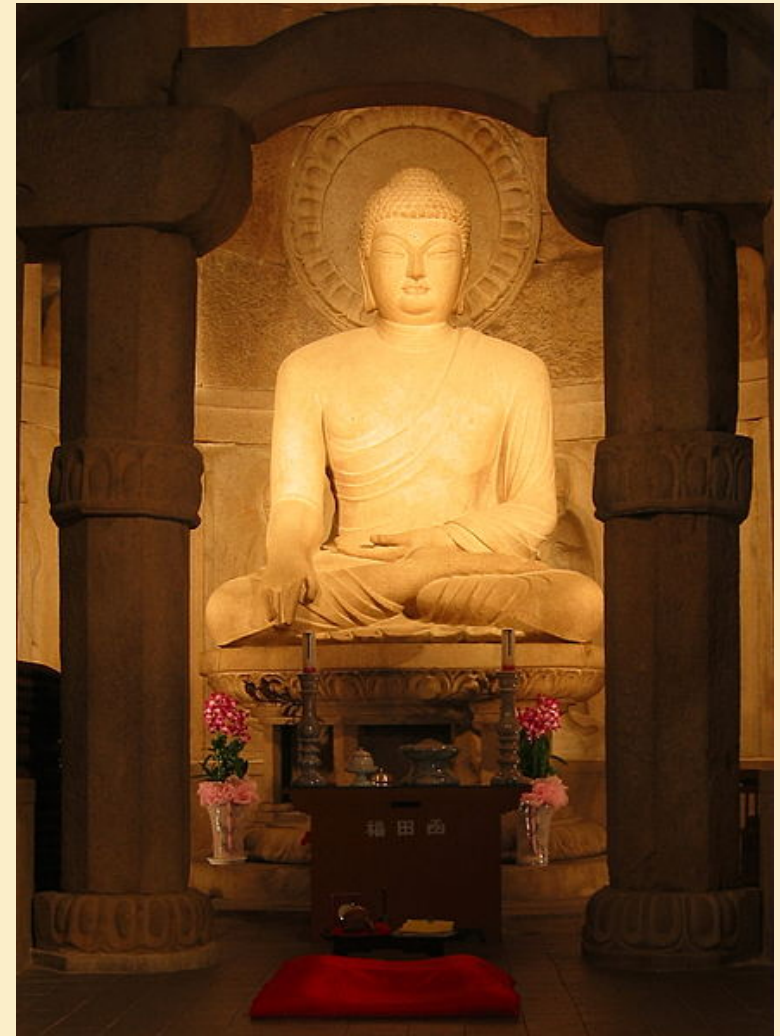
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- ◆ Came through China and Korea in 6<sup>th</sup> century
- ◆ Valued for its magical and protective powers
- ◆ Exert its effect on Japanese life and culture
- ◆ Kamakura period (1190-1340)
- ◆ To the six sects of Nara and the two more esoteric sects of Heian were added six more; Zen, Ji, Shin, Nichiren, Jodo and Yuzu Nembutsu
- ◆ Zen came from China but the origin stretch back to India
- ◆ Zen and tea introduced by Eisai (1145-1215)
- ◆ Dogen(1200-53) introduced *zazen* (literally sitting in meditation)
- ◆ (dhyana in Sanskrit and ch'an in Sanskrit)
- ◆ Zen appealed to the *samurai* of Kamakura period.
- ◆ Jodo Shinshu founded by monk Shinran attracted to merchant and farmer class
- ◆ Most widely practiced in Japan





**Dunhuang, China and  
Seokguram, Korea**





**Horyuji  
Temple**





# CHRISTIANITY

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- ✕ Entered in Japan once briefly in 15th century
- ✕ Present day Christianity, including both Catholic and Protestant is the second entrance about 100 years ago

# CONFUCIANISM AND TAOISM

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- ✗ The Confucianism (from 6th to 9th century) and later from 1600 to 1868 had its ethical and political philosophy whereas the Taoism is used for Chinese calendar and fortune telling
- ✗ The Confucianism stressed family solidarity, filial piety and loyalty to the ruler and the authority
- ✗ Five moral relations between master and servant (the governing and governed), father and son, husband and wife, older and younger sibling, and between friend and friend.



# SHINTO AND BUDDHISM

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- ✗ ‘All the dead become gods’ wrote the Shinto commentator Hirata. As Kato commented in 17th century, ‘He that is honest, is himself a God (*kami*), and if
- ✗ Merciful, he is himself a Buddha (*hotoke*).
- ✗ *Shinbutsu Shugo* (amalgamation of Kami and Buddha)
- ✗ Officially came to an end by Shinto Buddhist Separation order of 1886

# RELIGIOUS BELIEFS AND PRACTICES

- ✕ In a number of surveys in the 1980s it was found between 60 and 80 percent of houses had a Shinto *kamidana* 'god-shelf'
- ✕ 90% families in rural and 60% in urban areas have *butsudan* a Buddhist altar
- ✕ Observe customs and rituals: Life cycle events
- ✕ Child-birth
- ✕ Shichi-Go-San (Seven-Five-Three)
- ✕ Adulthood (age of 20)
- ✕ Wedding
- ✕ Funerals (91% in Buddhist tradition)
- ✕ Holidays New year; visit to Shinto and Buddhist temples
- ✕ Obon to honor the spirits of deceased
- ✕ A common saying in Japan is, 'we live as Shintoist but die as Buddhist'



# REFERENCE BOOKS

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- ✕ Introduction to Japanese Culture edited by *Daniel Sosnoki*
- ✕ The Japanese Mind edited by *Charles A. Moore*
- ✕ Japanese Religion *A survey by the Agency for Cultural Affairs*
- ✕ *Wikipedia, Googlephoto*