Contents

Why study Japanese religion? 2 Observing religion in Japan 9 What is religion? 10 How religious is Japan? 18 2 The past in the present: vignettes of Japanese spiritual life The Daijosai 23 A typical Shinto shrine 25 The Great Buddha of Nara 28 Toji Shingon Temple 29 The Enryakuji 31 Chionin 32 Higashi Honganji 34 Daitokuji 35 Nichiren Buddhism 37 The Martyrs' Monument in Nagasaki 39 Tenri City 39 Postscript: Jizo 40		List of illustrations Map Preface	x xi xiii
The Daijosai 23 A typical Shinto shrine 25 The Great Buddha of Nara 28 Toji Shingon Temple 29 The Enryakuji 31 Chionin 32 Higashi Honganji 34 Daitokuji 35 Nichiren Buddhism 37 The Martyrs' Monument in Nagasaki 39 Tenri City 39 Postscript: Jizo 40 3 The way of the kami: Shinto then and now The Grand Shrine of Ise 44 What is a kami? 47 The Inari and Miwa Shrines 48 The Meiji, Togo, and Nogi Shrines 50 The Yasukuni and Tenjin Shrines 51 The Shinto Year 53 General features of Shinto 55	1	Why study Japanese religion? 2 Observing religion in Japan 9 What is religion? 10	1
The Grand Shrine of Ise 44 What is a kami? 47 The Inari and Miwa Shrines 48 The Meiji, Togo, and Nogi Shrines 50 The Yasukuni and Tenjin Shrines 51 The Shinto Year 53 General features of Shinto 55	2	The Daijosai 23 A typical Shinto shrine 25 The Great Buddha of Nara 28 Toji Shingon Temple 29 The Enryakuji 31 Chionin 32 Higashi Honganji 34 Daitokuji 35 Nichiren Buddhism 37 The Martyrs' Monument in Nagasaki 39 Tenri City 39	22
	3	The Grand Shrine of Ise 44 What is a kami? 47 The Inari and Miwa Shrines 48 The Meiji, Togo, and Nogi Shrines 50 The Yasukuni and Tenjin Shrines 51 The Shinto Year 53 General features of Shinto 55	44

	Interlude: introduction to Buddhism The Enlightened One 64 Mahayana Buddhism 68	64
4	Yogacara 72 Early times: pre-Buddhist Japan and how Buddhism arrived Japan before Buddhism 75	75
	The coming of Buddhism 78 The Nara Period (710–794) 81 Elite and popular Buddhism 83	
5	Magic mountains and the old court: Heian Buddhism and its culture The world above the clouds 87 Heian Buddhist schools 90 Shingon 91 Tendai 97 Heian Shinto 100 Heian popular religion 102	87
6	Warrior culture, simple faith: the Kamakura Buddhist reformation The end of an age 105 The new men 106 The world of the samurai 108 Motifs of Kamakura religion 109 Pure Land 111 Honen and Jodo-Shu 114 Shinran and Jodo-Shinshu 115 Nichiren 118	105
7	Swords and satori: Zen and its culture A Zen experience 126 Basic Zen 130 Eisai and Rinzai Zen 132 Dogen and Soto Zen 134 Muromachi Zen culture 136 Bushido 144 Later Zen 145 Overseas Zen 148	126
8	Christ and Confucius: the West arrives, and then Japan turns inward The Country at War period 151 The warlords and the coming of Christianity 154	151

	A Neo-Confucian society 159	
	Peasant philosophers 162	
	The renewal of Shinto 163	
	Pilgrimage to Ise 165	
	Religion and popular culture 166	
	Town and country 166	
	,	
9	The rising sun and the dark valley: from the Meiji	
	Restoration until 1945	171
	Behind the Meiji Restoration 171	
	Between two worlds 172	
	The old and the new 174	
	The emperor as religion 177	
	Meiji Buddhism 178	
	Christianity returns to Japan 182	
	The dark valley 182	
	National foundations 186	
	,	
10	Chanting and dancing: Shugendo and the "new religions" of Japan	190
	Mountain priests 190	
	Tenrikyo 193	
	Konkokyo 196	
	The Omoto Group 197	
	The Nichiren Group 200	
	The "new religions 205	
	Common characteristics of the new religions 209	
11	Pilgrimages: religion in Japan 1945 to the present	214
	Religion under the postwar Occupation 214	
	New thinking about Buddhism 218	
	New roles for Buddhist women 219	
	Tradition continues 220	
	Homelands of the heart 221	
	Japan a new world center of popular culture 231	
	Appendix I	236
	Membership figures for Japanese religions	250
	Appendix II	239
	Japanese religion timeline	241
	Notes	263
	Glossary of terms	26
	Index	20.

The Tokugawa peace 158

Illustrations

Map	Major places of religious importance mentioned in the text	xi
1.1	Itsukushima, a torii gate at the Miyajima shrine	2
1.2	Zen Garden Ryoanji, Kyoto	4
1.3	Amaterasu appearing from the cave by Yoshitoshi	6
1.4	Kamakura period sculpture of a seated Nyoirin Kannon	15
2.1	Sketch of Daijosai Hall	23
2.2	Sketch of gobei and torii	26
2.3	Sketch of a Shinto shrine	27
2.4	The Great Buddha of Nara	29
2.5	Chionin Temple, Kyoto	33
2.6	Detail of a Japanese wood sculpture of Jizo Bosatsu	41
3.1	The torii gate at the Grand Shrine of Ise	45
3.2	Sketch of the Grand Shrine of Ise	46
3.3	Fox statue at Fushimi Inari Shrine	49
3.4	The Meiji Shrine, Tokyo	51
3.5	Sanjusangendo Temple, Kyoto	56
4.1	Horyuji Temple, near Nara	79
5.1	Kompon-daito (Kompon Great Pagoda), Mount Koya	92
6.1	Amida, the Great Buddha of Kamakura	112
7.1	Zen monks in zazen meditation	131
7.2	Ginkakuji ("Silver Pavilion Temple"), Kyoto	137
7.3	Buddhist monk raking Zen rock garden	138
8.1	Mount Fuji	153
8.2	Castle in the Momoyama style	156
9.1	The Meiji Emperor, Mutsuhito	175
9.2	Buddhist monks in an air raid drill	185
10.1	The Sarin gas attack in Tokyo	208
11.1	Jizo figures in shrine for miscarried or aborted children	208
11.2	Contemporary Japanese New Year celebrations	
	- , - 1	230