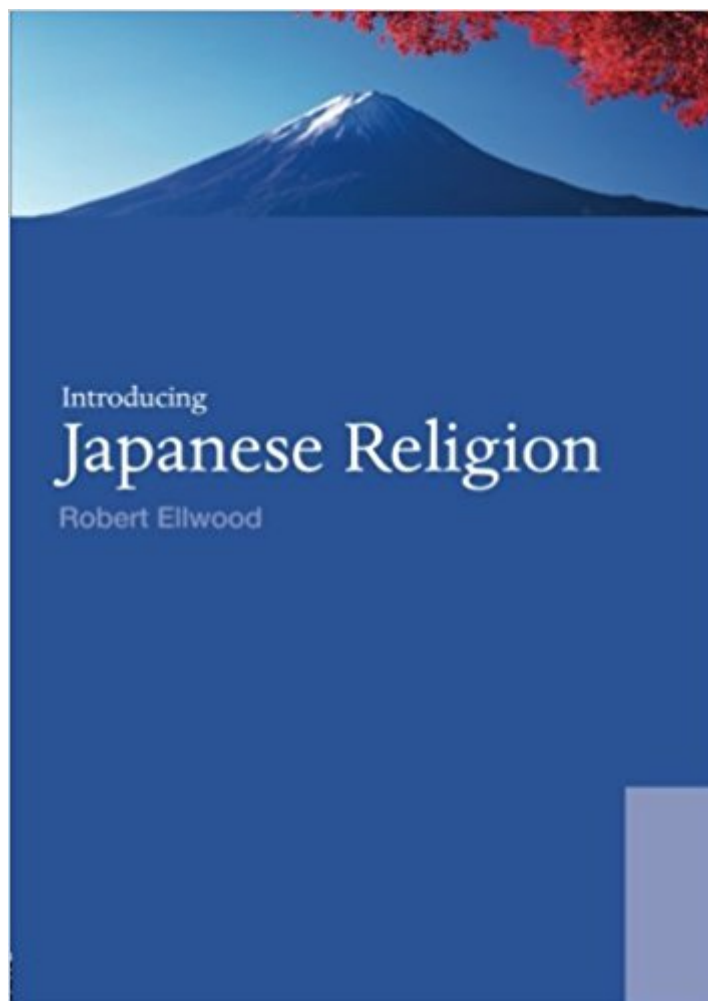


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Introducing Japanese Religion (World Religions)



Synopsis

Introducing Japanese Religion is the ideal resource for students who are beginning their studies in the religious traditions of Japan. It offers a living picture of traditional and contemporary Japanese culture, and a rich understanding of the history and practice of religions in Japan. Robert Ellwood explores the religious heritage of this fascinating country, from the dawn of spirituality to the present day. He gives special attention to the traditions of Shinto, the different forms of Buddhism in Japan, including Shingon and Tendai, and Confucianism. He also explores Japanese New Religious Movements, including Aum Shrinrikyo. Each religion is clearly described in terms of its history, practice, sociology and organization, and Ellwood emphasizes how in practice Japanese religion interacts and intermingles. Finally, Ellwood discusses the influence of Japan on popular culture, including discussion of anime, and the transmission of Japanese spiritual, mythical and religious themes to the rest of the world. Introducing Japanese Religion also includes illustrations, lively quotations from original sources, learning goals, summary boxes, questions for discussion, suggestions for further reading and a glossary to aid study and revision. The accompanying website for this book can be found at www.routledge.com/textbooks/9780415774260.

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Customer Reviews

It is a textbook for college students. That being said, I think it was a fairly enjoyable comprehensive introduction to Japanese religion, mainly but not exclusively through a historical overview. It is probably a good foundation for further reading, and there are extensive lists of literature.

This book does exactly what it sets out to do - introduce the reader to Japanese religions and religious thought. It starts with a brief overview, then moves right into Shinto, detailing the basic beliefs and different kinds of shrines. A little interlude on Buddhism follows, then a historical look at the major Buddhist schools in Japan in a chronological fashion. Then it talks about how religion changed during the Shogunate and Meiji Restoration periods, a chapter on the "New Religions", and finally culminates in a chapter that discusses the religions and beliefs today in modern Japan. As usual with Routledge's World Religions series, each chapter contains several other books for further reading on a subject of interest, grouped by chapter. This book is a highly recommended for anyone who wants to get a glimpse into Japanese religions past and present, or as a reference for certain sects of Japanese religions (Such as Nichiren Buddhism), which can then be followed up with the given books

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