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Religion in Japanese History: Explores Shinto, Buddhism, Confucianism and the Influence of Roman Catholicism

Joseph M. Kitagawa

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The drama of Japanese history has strong connections to the nation's religious life. Tracing Japan's religions from the Heian Period through the middle ages and into modernity, Religion in Japanese History explores the unique establishment of Shinto, Buddhism, and Confucianism in Japan, as well as the later influence of Roman Catholicism, and the problem of Restoration- both spiritual and material- following World War II. This important work examines religion in its sociopolitical contexts, as well as issues of leadership, conversion, feudal regimes, Japan's dominant religious societies, and the impact of religious developments on Japan's future, both as a nation and as a member of the world community. Joseph Kitagawa has provided a new preface for this paperback edition which incorporates discussion of the history of the past thirty years.