

Japan: Cultural Diffusion and Global Interaction

- 660 BC. Legendary date for founding of Japan by Emperor Jimmu.
- 200 BC- 300 AD. Bronze, iron and horses enter Japan, probably from Korea.
- AD 57. Envoy from the King of Japan arrives at the Chinese capital and is received by Emperor Kuang-wu.
- AD 150. Small tribes form broader Japanese federation.
- AD 285-450. Writing arrives in Japan from Korea.
- AD 538-552. Introduction of Buddhism into Japan from Korea. The Korean emperor gives a gift of Buddhist images and sacred texts to the Japanese Emperor.
- AD 593-622. Prince Shotoku introduces Chinese-style central authority and laws to Japan.
- AD 594. Buddhism declared the state religion of Japan.
- AD 604. First Japanese constitution modeled on Han dynasty in China. Japan adopts Chinese calendar.
- AD 607. Envoy sent to Chinese court.
- AD 645. Japanese Empire adopts Chinese administrative practices.
- AD 708. First coining of copper money.
- AD 1191. Introduction of Zen Buddhism from China.
- AD 1274, 1281. Unsuccessful Mongol invasions of Japan. The first invading army included 300 large and 450 small vessels carrying 15,000 Mongol and Chinese soldiers, 8,000 Korean troops, and 7,000 Korean and Chinese sailors. It was stopped by storms. The second invading force was an army of 100,000 men. Japanese forces held until the invaders were battered by a hurricane.
- AD 1543. Arrival of Portuguese trading vessels.
- AD 1569. Christian missionaries permitted in Japan. Banned in 1587.
- AD 1575. European muskets first used in Japanese civil war.
- AD 1592-1598. Japan invades Korea.
- AD 1597-1626. Persecution of Japanese Christians. Over 3,000 killed.
- AD 1600. Dutch merchants arrive in Japan. Permanent base established 1609.
- AD 1636. Ban on Japanese travel abroad.
- AD 1638. Portuguese expelled from Japan.
- AD. 1774. First Japanese translation of a Dutch book.
- AD 1804. Arrival of Russian envoy in Japan.
- AD 1837-1853. Arrival of Americans in Japan.
- AD. 1872. Adoption of western calendar. First national bank and railway.
- AD. 1879. Former United States President U.S. Grant visits Japan.
- AD 1897. Japan adopts the gold standard.
- AD 1902. Anglo-Japanese Alliance.
- AD 1904-1905. Russo-Japanese War.
- AD 1910. Japan annexes Korea.

Japan: A History in Art (Bradley Smith, Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1964)

1. Sturdy female figure. 4th century BC.
2. Spiritual contemplation, Japanese Buddha, circa 606 AD. Asuka Period, 552-710.
3. Japanese version of the story of Buddha, 8th century.
4. Mongol Invasions of Japan, 1274 and 1281.
5. Samuri eating rice, Muromachi Period, 1333-1568.
6. Japanese cooks, Muromachi Period, 1333-1568.
7. Rice farmers, Muromachi Period, 1333-1568.
8. Arrival of Portuguese, 1543
9. Whale butchered, Edo-Tokugawa Period, 1600-1853.
10. Women miners, Edo-Tokugawa Period, 1600-1853.
11. Arrival of the Dutch, Edo-Tokugawa Period, 1600-1853.

12. Arrival of Americans, Edo-Tokugawa Period, 1600-1853.
13. Arrival of Russians, Edo-Tokugawa Period, 1600-1853.
14. Reactions of foreigners, Edo-Tokugawa Period, 1600-1853.
15. Westernization, Meiji Period, 1868-1912.