

ENDURING IDENTITIES

*The Guise of Shinto in
Contemporary Japan*



JOHN K. NELSON

Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan

Jiyuan Zhang



Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan:

Enduring Identities John K. Nelson, 2000-03-01 *Enduring Identities* is an attempt to understand the continuing relevance of Shinto to the cultural identity of contemporary Japanese. The enduring significance of this ancient yet innovative religion is evidenced each year by the millions of Japanese who visit its shrines. They might come merely seeking a park like setting or to make a request of the shrine's deities asking for a marriage partner a baby or success at school or work or they might come to give thanks for benefits received through the intercession of deities or to legitimate and sacralize civic and political activities. Through an investigation of one of Japan's most important and venerated Shinto shrines Kamo Wake Ikazuchi Jinja more commonly Kamigamo Jinja the book addresses what appears through Western and some Asian eyes to be an exotic and incongruous blend of superstition and reason as well as a photogenic juxtaposition of present and past. Combining theoretical sophistication with extensive fieldwork and a deep knowledge of Japan John Nelson documents and interprets the ancient Kyoto shrine's yearly cycle of rituals and festivals its sanctified landscapes and the people who make it viable. At local and regional levels Kamigamo Shrine's ritual traditions such as the famous Hollyhock Festival and the strategies for their perpetuation and implementation provide points of departure for issues that anthropologists historians and scholars of religion will recognize as central to their disciplines. These include the formation of social memory the role of individual agency within institutional politics religious practice and performance the shaping of sacred space and place ethnic versus cultural identity and the politics of historical representation and cultural nationalism. Nelson links these themes through a detailed ethnography about a significant place and institution which until now has been largely closed to both Japanese and foreign scholars. In contrast to conventional notions of ideology and institutions he shows how a religious tradition's lack of centralized dogma charismatic leaders and sacred texts promotes rather than hinders a broad based public participation with a variety of institutional agendas most of which have very little to do with belief. He concludes that it is this structural flexibility coupled with ample economic human and cultural resources that nurtures a reworking of multiple identities all of which resonate with the past fully engage the present and with care will endure well into the future. **Enduring**

Identities, 1993 Enduring Identities: the Guise of Shinto in Contemporary Japan John Kenneth Nelson, 1993 This study is an ethnography of the way in which a Shinto shrine in contemporary Japan constructs and manages its religious traditions to attract and serve the needs and agendas of a variety of modern day constituencies. Using recent theoretical developments in the anthropology of religion ritual and politics my study looks at the management of an important old shrine complex Kamigamo Jinja in Kyoto. In its contemporary guise shrine Shinto's lack of sacred texts charismatic leaders and systematic dogma in short the very attributes that would normally characterize a religion allows it to be amenable to a broad based constituency that is unified only by their identification with a worldview that promotes hierarchy paternalism cooperation harmony and consensus. *Shinto, Nature and Ideology in Contemporary Japan* Aike P. Rots, 2017-09-07 Shinto Nature and

Ideology in Contemporary Japan is the first systematic study of Shinto's environmental turn. The book traces the development in recent decades of the idea of Shinto as an ancient nature religion and a resource for overcoming environmental problems. The volume shows how these ideas gradually achieved popularity among scientists, priests, Shinto-related new religious movements, and eventually the conservative shrine establishment. Aike P. Rots argues that central to this development is the notion of *chinju no mori*, the sacred groves surrounding many Shinto shrines. Although initially used to refer to remaining areas of primary or secondary forest, today the term has come to be extended to any sort of shrine land signifying not only historical and ecological continuity but also abstract values such as community spirit, patriotism, and traditional culture. The book shows how Shinto's environmental turn has also provided legitimacy internationally, influenced by the global discourse on religion and ecology in recent years. The Shinto establishment has actively engaged with international organizations devoted to the conservation of sacred sites. Shinto sacred forests thus carry significance locally as well as nationally and internationally and figure prominently in attempts to reposition Shinto in the centre of public space.

The Goddess and the Dragon Patrick Hein, 2014-10-02. Neoliberal globalization affects the livelihoods and socio-economic conditions of people all over the world. This is also true for Japan, where increased foreign trade and foreign investments have dramatically changed the internal landscape of the country during recent decades. There are many social groups for whom globalization has brought positive changes. International Japanese companies and their employees, for example, have benefited from the commercial expansion and rise in trade exchanges. How then does globalization influence the subjective experiences and worldviews of ordinary Japanese at the periphery? How are local residents outside the centers of affluence affected by the global forces of mass consumerism and cultural diversity? The local fisheries community of Katase Enoshima is very close to the megacities of Tokyo and Yokohama and is visited by almost ten million visitors a year. This field research study examines how local residents have coped with the risks and opportunities of modern mass tourism, both historically and in modern times. This book contributes to a better understanding of the dynamics of social transformation processes. The findings suggest that mass tourism is a double-edged sword: on one side, residents try to attract consumer tourists in large numbers because they depend economically on them; on the other side, they maintain strong and exclusive community bonds and self-assert their cultural identity of pure Japaneseness through festivals, religious zeal, and myths. In other words, they benefit indirectly from globalization but they do not want to be part of it.

The Encyclopedia of Christianity Erwin Fahlbusch, Geoffrey William Bromiley, 1999. Containing more than 300 articles covering the alphabetical entries. This book also includes articles on significant topics ranging from Paul, political theology, and the Qur'an to religious liberty, salvation history, and scholasticism.

Introduction to World Religions Jacob Neusner, Dr. M. Kathryn Armistead, 2010-09-01. With an emphasis on communities of faith, this accessible book will introduce students to the classic texts, important events, key figures, defining rituals, essential creeds, and symbols of world religions.

Contents: Introduction by William Scott Green

Judaism A Judaism Beginnings Religion of Ancient Israel by Baruch A Levine B Judaism The Formation by Jacob Neusner C Judaism in Modern Times Reform Orthodox and Conservative Judaism Zionism by Jacob Neusner 2 Christianity A Christianity Beginnings by Bruce Chilton B Christianity Roman Catholicism by Lawrence S Cunningham C Orthodox Christianity by J A McGuckin D Christianity Protestantism by Martin E Marty 3 Islam A Islam Beginnings by Th Emil Homerin B Islam The Shiite Tradition by Liyakat Takim C Islam The Sunni Tradition by Th Emil Homerin 4 Hinduism by Douglas Brooks 5 Buddhism A Buddhism Beginnings by Mario Poceski B Buddhism The Theravada Tradition by Kristen Scheible C Buddhism The Mahayana Tradition by Mark L Blum 6 Daoism by Mark Meulenbled 7 Confucianism by Mark A Csikszentmihalyi 8 Shinto by James L Ford 9 Indigenous Religions A Indigenous Religious Tradition by Jualynne E Dodson and Soyna Maria Johnson B African Indigenous Religions by Jacob Olupona 10 New 19th Century American Religions by Danny L Jorgensen 11 New 20th Century American Religions by Dell deChant

From Situated Selves to the Self Hisako Omori, 2020-05-01 Argues for an important transformation in the construction of the self among Japanese converts to Roman Catholicism In many parts of the world the Roman Catholic Church in the twenty first century finds itself mired in scandal and its future prospects appear fairly dim in the eyes of many social critics In *From Situated Selves to the Self* however Hisako Omori finds a radically different situation with jubilant Roman Catholics in an unexpected place Tokyo Japan Based on twelve months of ethnographic fieldwork the author provides a culturally sensitive account of the transformative processes associated with becoming Catholic in Tokyo Her ethnographically rich narrative reveals the ways in which Christianity as a cultural force can effect changes in one s personhood by juxtaposing two models of the self one based on conventional Japanese social ideals and the other on Roman Catholic teachings Omori takes readers to a living room ochanoma in a parish a Catholic bar in a nightclub area Catholic charismatic meetings and busy intersections in Tokyo In so doing she traces subtle yet emerging changes in women s agentive power that accompany the processes of deepening faith *From Situated Selves to the Self* gives us a rare glimpse into Christianity as a cultural force in an East Asian context where Confucianism has historically been the dominant ethical framework

The Postwar Developments of Japanese Studies in the United States Helen Hardacre, 1998 This volume of twelve essays with useful bibliographies in the fields of history art religion literature anthropology political science and law documents the history of United States scholarship on Japan since 1945

The Postwar Development of Japanese Studies in the United States Helen Hardacre, 2023-07-17 The present volume documents the postwar history of United States scholarship on Japan A careful selection of North American scholars under the general editorship of Helen Hardacre Reischauer Institute Professor of Japanese Religions and Society at Harvard University shows that a range of factors have directed Japanese studies in the United States since 1945 Among these factors are social and political change in Japan and the United States shifts in dominant scholarly concerns about Japan and changing evaluations of area studies The work consists of twelve essays in a wide variety of fields history art religion literature anthropology political science and law Each

essay chronicles postwar scholarship in its particular discipline and provides a useful bibliography to serve further reference. The general aim of the volume is to put current debates in historical perspective and to help assess the field's achievements. It identifies areas requiring more work and charts directions for the future. *Spirits and Animism in Contemporary Japan* Fabio Rambelli, 2019-05-23 This book draws attention to a striking aspect of contemporary Japanese culture: the prevalence of discussions and representations of spirits (tama or tamashii). Ancestor cults have played a central role in Japanese culture and religion for many centuries; in recent decades, however, other phenomena have expanded and diversified the realm of Japanese animism. For example, many manga, anime, TV shows, literature, and art works deal with spirits, ghosts, or with an invisible dimension of reality. International contributors ask to what extent these are cultural forms created by the media for consumption rather than manifestations of traditional ancestral spirituality in their adaptations to contemporary society. *Spirits and Animism in Contemporary Japan* considers the modes of representations and the possible cultural meanings of spirits, as well as the metaphysical implications of contemporary Japanese ideas about spirits. The chapters offer analyses of specific cases of animistic attitudes in which the presence of spirits and spiritual forces is alleged and attempt to trace cultural genealogies of those attitudes. In particular, they present various modes of representation of spirits in contemporary art, architecture, visual culture, cinema, literature, diffuse spirituality, while at the same time addressing their underlying intellectual and religious assumptions. [Nanzan Guide to Japanese Religions](#) Paul L. Swanson, Clark Chilson, 2005-10-31 For updates online, visit the Nanzan Guide site at Nanzan Library of Asian Religion and Culture. The Nanzan Guide to Japanese Religions combines for the first time in any language state-of-the-field theoretical and critical discussions with concrete resources students and scholars need to conduct research on Japanese religions. Even seasoned scholars typically approach their research in an unsystematic manner, becoming familiar with a particular area of inquiry while remaining largely unaware of what exists in the rest of the field. This inefficient method hinders particularly less experienced researchers and circumscribes their lines of inquiry. The Nanzan Guide provides both beginners and specialists with a reference that will serve as a basic introduction to Japanese religions and allow them to conduct research more proficiently and in greater depth. Overlapping and thought-provoking chapters written by leading specialists offer a variety of perspectives on the complicated and multifaceted field of Japanese religions. The essays are divided into four sections: religious traditions (Japanese religions in general, Shinto, Buddhism, folk religion, new religions, Christianity), the history of Japanese religions (ancient, classical, medieval, early modern, modern, contemporary), major themes (symbolism, ritual and the arts, literature and scripture, state and religion, geography and environment, intellectual history, gender), and practical essays (finding references and using libraries, working with archive collections, conducting fieldwork). A chronology of religion in Japanese history is also provided. *A New History of Shinto* John Breen, Mark Teeuwen, 2011-09-13 This accessible guide to the development of Japan's indigenous religion from ancient times to the present day offers an illuminating introduction to the myths, sites, and rituals of kami worship and their

role in Shinto's enduring religious identity Offers a unique new approach to Shinto history that combines critical analysis with original research Examines key evolutionary moments in the long history of Shinto including the Meiji Revolution of 1868 and provides the first critical history in English or Japanese of the Hie shrine one of the most important in all Japan Traces the development of various shrines myths and rituals through history as uniquely diverse phenomena exploring how and when they merged into the modern notion of Shinto that exists in Japan today Challenges the historic stereotype of Shinto as the unchanging all defining core of Japanese culture *Learning from Other Religions* David Brown, 2023-11-16 A path breaking non reductive attempt to explore the revelatory potential in all religions by showing how cultural conditioning impacts religious expression **Religion and Everyday Life and Culture** Vincent F. Biondo, Richard D. Hecht, 2010-03-25 This intriguing three volume set explores the ways in which religion is bound to the practice of daily life and how daily life is bound to religion In *Religion and Everyday Life and Culture* 36 international scholars describe the impact of religious practices around the world using rich examples drawn from personal observation Instead of repeating generalizations about what religion should mean these volumes examine how religions actually influence our public and private lives on the ground on a day to day basis Volume one introduces regional histories of the world's religions and discusses major ritual practices such as the Catholic Mass and the Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca Volume two examines themes that will help readers understand how religions interact with the practices of public life describing the ways religions influence government education criminal justice economy technology and the environment Volume three takes up themes that are central to how religions are realized in the practices of individuals In these essays readers meet a shaman healer in South Africa laugh with Buddhist monks sing with Bob Dylan cheer for Australian rugby and explore Chicana and Iranian art *A Year in the Life of a Shinto Shrine* John K. Nelson, 2015-08-03 What we today call Shinto has been at the heart of Japanese culture for almost as long as there has been a political entity distinguishing itself as Japan A Year in the Life of a Shinto Shrine describes the ritual cycle at Suwa Shrine Nagasaki's major Shinto shrine Conversations with priests other shrine personnel and people attending shrine functions supplement John K Nelson's observations of over fifty shrine rituals and festivals He elicits their views on the meaning and personal relevance of the religious events and the place of Shinto and Suwa Shrine in Japanese society culture and politics Nelson focuses on the very human side of an ancient institution and provides a detailed look at beliefs and practices that although grounded in natural cycles are nonetheless meaningful in late twentieth century Japanese society Nelson explains the history of Suwa Shrine basic Shinto concepts and the Shinto worldview including a discussion of the Kami supernatural forces that pervade the universe He explores the meaning of ritual in Japanese culture and society and examines the symbols gestures dances and meanings of a typical shrine ceremony He then describes the cycle of activities at the shrine during a calendar year the seasonal rituals and festivals and the petitionary propitiary and rite of passage ceremonies performed for individuals and specific groups Among them are the Dolls Day festival in which young women

participate in a procession and worship service wearing Heian period costumes the autumn Okunchi festival which attracts participants from all over Japan and even brings emigrants home for a visit the ritual invoking the blessing of the Kami for young children and the ritual sanctifying the earth before a building is constructed The author also describes the many roles women play in Shinto and includes an interview with a female priest Shinto has always been attentive to the protection of communities from unpredictable human and divine forces and has imbued its ritual practices with techniques and strategies to aid human life By observing the Nagasaki shrine s traditions and rituals the people who make it work and their interactions with the community at large the author shows that cosmologies from the past are still very much a part of the cultural codes utilized by the nation and its people to meet the challenges of today *Handbook of Contemporary Japanese Religions* Inken Prohl, John K. Nelson, 2012-09-03 Representing work by some of the leading scholars in the field the chapters in this handbook survey the transformation and innovation of religious traditions and practices in contemporary Japan

The Samurai and the Sacred Stephen Turnbull, 2011-08-20 A comprehensive study into the spiritual world of the Samurai from the cult of revenge and suicide to Zen and martial arts The fierce loyalty and self sacrificing attitude of the Samurai have made them both a legend and a cult Yet although their military prowess and skills in the martial arts have been studied exhaustively an understanding of their belief system still eludes many This original and exciting work examines the spiritual world of the samurai from their attachment to Japan s mainstream religions of Shinto and Buddhism to their involvement in Confucianism Christianity and folk religion Samurai expert Stephen Turnbull examines important topics such as Zen and the martial arts modern militarism the cult of the sword revenge and suicide hara kiri and the kamikaze pilots the suicide bombers of their day He also looks at the fascinating issue of Japanese religious terrorism as well as the growing cult status of the Samurai both in Japan and in the West **A History of Japan** Conrad Totman, 2014-09-11 This is an updated edition of Conrad Totman s authoritative history of Japan from c 8000 BC to the present day The first edition was widely praised for combining sophistication and accessibility Covers a wide range of subjects including geology climate agriculture government and politics culture literature media foreign relations imperialism and industrialism Updated to include an epilogue on Japan today and tomorrow Now includes more on women in history and more on international relations Bibliographical listings have been updated and enlarged Part of The Blackwell History of the World Series The goal of this ambitious series is to provide an accessible source of knowledge about the entire human past for every curious person in every part of the world It will comprise some two dozen volumes of which some provide synoptic views of the history of particular regions while others consider the world as a whole during a particular period of time The volumes are narrative in form giving balanced attention to social and cultural history in the broadest sense as well as to institutional development and political change Each provides a systematic account of a very large subject but they are also both imaginative and interpretative The Series is intended to be accessible to the widest possible readership and the accessibility of its volumes is matched by the style of presentation and

production Understanding the Religions of the World Will Deming, 2025-03-03 A comprehensive visually rich introduction to the world's major religious traditions Now in its second edition Understanding the Religions of the World An Introduction provides an essential framework for analyzing and understanding the world's major religions Rather than simply presenting a series of facts this innovative textbook provides an insightful lens through which students examine how and why religions appeal to their followers Contributions from leading scholars who have conducted fieldwork in the traditions they discuss focus on the contemporary beliefs and practices of Judaism Hinduism Buddhism Christianity Islam Chinese Religion and others Each chapter contains detailed analysis up to date scholarship review and discussion questions and multiple informational boxes that discuss topics in greater depth across five analytical categories More than 150 carefully curated images diagrams and maps that enhance student comprehension and retention are integrated throughout This edition features two entirely new chapters on the development of the study of religion and indigenous religions of the Americas Helping students appreciate the complex systems of belief that shape human experience Understanding the Religions of the World Provides a current and relevant perspective on religion across the globe Analyzes how religions operate as systems for achieving human aspirations Helps students strengthen critical thinking skills and cultural awareness Draws on the latest research and academic insights in the area of Religious Studies Covers traditions not typically addressed in introductory texts such as indigenous religions of Africa and Oceania Supplying the tools necessary for exploring global faith traditions Understanding the Religions of the World An Introduction Second Edition is an ideal textbook for undergraduate and elite high school honors courses on religious studies anthropology comparative religion and theology

This book delves into Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan. Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan is a crucial topic that needs to be grasped by everyone, from students and scholars to the general public. The book will furnish comprehensive and in-depth insights into Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan, encompassing both the fundamentals and more intricate discussions.

1. This book is structured into several chapters, namely:
 - Chapter 1: Introduction to Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan
 - Chapter 2: Essential Elements of Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan
 - Chapter 3: Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan in Everyday Life
 - Chapter 4: Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan in Specific Contexts
 - Chapter 5: Conclusion
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 5. In chapter 4, the author will scrutinize the relevance of Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan in specific contexts. The fourth chapter will explore how Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan is applied in specialized fields, such as education, business, and technology.
 6. In chapter 5, the author will draw a conclusion about Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan. This chapter will summarize the key points that have been discussed throughout the book.
- The book is crafted in an easy-to-understand language and is complemented by engaging illustrations. It is highly recommended for anyone seeking to gain a comprehensive understanding of Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan.

Table of Contents Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan

1. Understanding the eBook Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan
 - The Rise of Digital Reading Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan
 - Advantages of eBooks Over Traditional Books
2. Identifying Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan
 - Exploring Different Genres
 - Considering Fiction vs. Non-Fiction
 - Determining Your Reading Goals
3. Choosing the Right eBook Platform
 - Popular eBook Platforms
 - Features to Look for in an Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan
 - User-Friendly Interface
4. Exploring eBook Recommendations from Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan
 - Personalized Recommendations
 - Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan User Reviews and Ratings
 - Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan and Bestseller Lists
5. Accessing Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan Free and Paid eBooks
 - Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan Public Domain eBooks
 - Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan eBook Subscription Services
 - Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan Budget-Friendly Options
6. Navigating Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan eBook Formats
 - ePub, PDF, MOBI, and More
 - Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan Compatibility with Devices
 - Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan Enhanced eBook Features
7. Enhancing Your Reading Experience

- Adjustable Fonts and Text Sizes of Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan
- Highlighting and Note-Taking Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan
- Interactive Elements Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan
- 8. Staying Engaged with Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan
 - Joining Online Reading Communities
 - Participating in Virtual Book Clubs
 - Following Authors and Publishers Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan
- 9. Balancing eBooks and Physical Books Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan
 - Benefits of a Digital Library
 - Creating a Diverse Reading Collection Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan
- 10. Overcoming Reading Challenges
 - Dealing with Digital Eye Strain
 - Minimizing Distractions
 - Managing Screen Time
- 11. Cultivating a Reading Routine Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan
 - Setting Reading Goals Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan
 - Carving Out Dedicated Reading Time
- 12. Sourcing Reliable Information of Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan
 - Fact-Checking eBook Content of Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan
 - Distinguishing Credible Sources
- 13. Promoting Lifelong Learning
 - Utilizing eBooks for Skill Development
 - Exploring Educational eBooks
- 14. Embracing eBook Trends
 - Integration of Multimedia Elements
 - Interactive and Gamified eBooks

Enduring Identities The Guise Of Shinto In Contemporary Japan Introduction

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