



The Jesuits in Japan

The first 3 Jesuits to enter Japan were Francis Xavier, Alessandro Valignano and Francisco Cabral.



Francis Xavier (1506-1552).

The Jesuits first entered Japan around 1549 and were warmly received by the Japanese Emperor.

The Jesuits called themselves "Christians" and said that they had come to preach "Christianity."

Isolated on their island empire, the Japanese had no knowledge of world history.

They did not know that Roman Emperor Constantine had created a counterfeit or substitute "Christianity" which still referred to itself as "Christian."



Alessandro Valignano (1539-1606).

At first the Jesuits were warmly welcomed by the Japanese emperor who was eager for contact with the Western world. The Emperor, Daimyo Nobunaga, welcomed them and actually gave them land in Kyoto:

"Daimyo Nobunaga, sixteenth century military dictator of Japan, welcomed the Jesuit missionaries who came with the Western traders. Contrary to popular belief, when Japan first came into contact with the West she was eager for the interchange of ideas and commercial commodities. Nobunaga granted the Roman Catholics freedom to propagate their religion, donated them land in Kyoto and promised them a yearly allowance of money. Soon missions were established throughout the country and converts were made by the thousands." (Vietnam, Why Did We Go?, p. 146).



Daimyo Nobunaga (1534-1582).

The Japanese welcomed the Jesuits who told them that they were "Christians" and had come to spread "Christianity."

The Japanese soon found out that the "missionaries" were just the first troops in a conquering army meant to subjugate and annex them to the Spanish Empire.



Statue of Daimyo Nobunaga.

That love soon turned to hate however when the astute Japanese found out that the "missionaries" were just the vanguard of an invading army:

"In 1596 a Spanish galleon, the San Felipe, was shipwrecked off the providence of Tosa. Hideyoshi ordered the ship and its goods confiscated. The angry Spanish captain, wishing to impress or intimidate the Japanese officials, indulged in some boasting how Spain had acquired a great world empire. For proof the captain showed the Japanese officials a map of all the great Spanish dominions. His astonished hearers asked how it had been possible for a nation to subjugate so many lands. The Spanish captain boasted that the Japanese would never be able to imitate Spain, simply because they had no Catholic missionaries. He confirmed that all Spanish dominions had been acquired by first sending in missionaries to convert their people, then the Spanish troops to coordinate the final conquest. When this conversation was reported, Hideyoshi's anger knew no bounds. His suspicions about the use of missionaries as a first stepping-stone for conquest was confirmed. He recognized this pattern of cunning conquest at work within his own empire." (Vietnam, Why Did We Go?, pp. 151-152).



Daimyo Hideyoshi (1537-1598).
Emperor from 1582 to 1598.

Daimyo Hideyoshi began placing severe restrictions on the Jesuit "missionaries."

His successor, Tokugawa Ieyasu, banned all foreigners from the country, and hermetically sealed Japan until the arrival of Commodore Perry in 1854.



Tokugawa Ieyasu (1543-1616).
Emperor from 1623 to 1651).

The Exclusion Edict of 1639 banned the Jesuits from Japan!!

Those who converted to Catholicism were questioned about their loyalty to Japan, and in 1597, Hideyoshi ordered the crucifixion of nine Jesuit missionaries and seventeen Japanese converts. This was only the start of the hostility towards European influence and interaction; persecutions, beheadings, and forced secessions would all but eliminate Roman Catholicism over the next few decades.

The 3 key points of the Exclusion Edict of 1635 included:

- 1 The Japanese were to be kept within Japan's own boundaries. Strict rules were set to prevent them from leaving the country, and if any such attempt was made, they would face penalty of death. Europeans that entered Japan illegally would face the death penalty as well.
- 2 Catholicism was strictly forbidden. Those found practicing the Christian faith were subject to investigation, and anyone associated with Catholicism would be punished. To encourage the search for those who still followed Christianity, rewards were given to those who were willing to turn them in. Prevention of missionary activity was also stressed by the edict; no missionary was allowed to enter, and if apprehended by the government, he would face harsh sentences.
- 3 Trade restrictions and strict limitations on goods were set to limit the ports open to trade, and the merchants who would be allowed to engage in trade. Relations with the Portuguese were cut off entirely; Chinese merchants and those of the Dutch East India Company were restricted to enclaves in Nagasaki. Trade was also conducted with China through the semi-independent vassal kingdom of the Ryukyus, with Korea via Tsushima Domain, and with the Ainu people through Matsumae Domain.

Commodore Matthew Perry forced Japan to open up in 1853

In 1852, Perry embarked from Norfolk, Virginia, bound for Japan, in command of a squadron of 4 ships: *Mississippi*, *Plymouth*, *Saratoga*, and *Susquehanna*. He landed on July 18, 1853, and was met by representatives of the Tokugawa Shogunate who told him to proceed to Nagasaki, where there was limited trade with the Netherlands and which was the only Japanese port open to foreigners at that time.



Commodore Matthew Perry, USN
(1794-1858).

Commodore
Matthew Perry
forced Japan to
open up to the
outside world in
1853.

His wife, Jane
Slidell, was sister of
the infamous rebel
John Slidell, who
was involved in the
Trent Affair which
almost started a
war with Great
Britain.



Commodore Perry's "black ships" *forced* Japan to open up to
outsiders.

On March 31, 1854, a treaty was signed between the U.S. and Japan entitled The Convention of Kanagawa. Here are some of the articles in that treaty:

ARTICLE 1.

There shall be a perfect, permanent, and universal peace, and a sincere and cordial amity between the United States of America on the one part, and the Empire of Japan on the other part, and between their people respectively, without exception of persons or places.

ARTICLE II.

The port of Simoda [in Yedo harbor], in the principality of Idzu, and the port of Hakodade, in the principality of Matsmai [Hokkaido], are granted by the Japanese as ports for the reception of American ships, where they can be supplied with wood, water, provisions, and coal, and other articles their necessities may require, as far as the Japanese have them. The time for opening the first-named port is immediately on signing this treaty; the last named port is to be opened immediately after the same day in the ensuing Japanese year.

NOTE. A tariff of prices shall be given by the Japanese officers of the things which they can furnish, payment for which shall be made in gold and silver coin.

ARTICLE III

Whenever ships of the United States are thrown or wrecked on the coast of Japan, the Japanese vessels will assist them, and carry their crews to Simoda, or Hakodade, and hand them over to their countrymen, appointed to receive them; whatever articles the shipwrecked men may have preserved shall likewise be restored, and the expenses incurred in the rescue and support of Americans and Japanese who may thus be thrown upon the shores of either nation are not to be refunded.

Japan became strategically important after the loss the Papal States in 1870

After the loss of the Papal States in 1870, Japan became strategically important to the Vatican because of its proximity to Russia.



After 1870, Japan began a major armaments program with their navy patterned after the Royal Navy.

They also studied the Prussian military system being impressed with their lighting victory over the French in 1870.

In 1894, they began the conquest of Korea and sought to end Chinese influence in that country.



Emperor Meiji (1852-1912).

Japan is on the eastern flank of Russia.

Russia was one of the first countries to recognize the newly united kingdom of Italy with Rome as its headquarters. Russia was also the most powerful country in Europe and its conquest was the key to regaining the lost states.

The Russo-Japanese war of 1905

The Russians were in constant pursuit of a warm water port on the Pacific Ocean, for their navy as well as for maritime trade. The recently established Pacific seaport of Vladivostok was the only active Russian port that was reasonably operational during the summer season; but Port Arthur would be operational all year. Negotiations between the Tsar's government and Japan between the end of the First Sino-Japanese War and 1903, had proved futile. The Japanese chose war to maintain exclusive dominance in Korea.



Painting of Admiral Togo on the bridge of the Japanese battleship *Mikasa*, before the Battle of Tsushima in 1905.

The Russo-Japanese war was a disaster for Russia and almost led to the overthrow of Tsar Nicholas II.



Retreat of Russian soldiers after the Battle of Mukden.

The Tripartite Pact

In September 1940, Nazi Germany, Italy and Japan entered into a military alliance called the Tripartite Pact, which officially founded the Axis Powers of World War II that opposed the Allied Powers.



Emperor Hirohito (1901-1989).
Reigned from 1926 to 1989.



Tripartite Pact signing. Seated on the left starting with Saburo Kuruusu, Galeazzo Ciano and Adolf Hitler.

The bombing of Pearl Harbor

As signatory to the Tripartite Pact, Japan was supposed to attack the Soviet Union in the East, while Germany attacked in the West. This did not happen however because Japan had a nasty encounter with the Russian forces in 1939 at the Battle of Khalkyn Gol.

In May 1939, the Japanese Kwantung army was attacked and almost annihilated by Russian general Georgy Zhukov. It was the real beginning of WWII.

This encounter with the Russian army made the Japanese think twice about attacking Russia so they attacked Southeast Asia instead.



WWII came just at the right time for Roosevelt, as it allowed him to remain President for an unprecedented 12 years, and appoint 8 Supreme Court judges.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt (President from 1933 to 1945), tried to pack the Supreme Court.



Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

Instead of attacking Russia as planned and agreed in the Tripartite Pact, the Japanese launched an attack on Southeast Asia. On December 7, 1941, they launched a "surprise" attack on Pearl Harbor which wasn't a surprise at all because the Japanese cipher was already broken.

The atomic bombing of Hiroshima!!

On August 6, 1945, a B-29 bomber dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. Over 150,000 people were killed. Everything within a one-mile radius was completely destroyed. That is *almost* everything.

Less than one kilometer from ground zero was a two story home attached to a church. The home remained intact. The church remained except for the roof which was blown away. Inside the home were eight Jesuit priests. Except for a few minor cuts and bruises these eight priests were not harmed.

How these eight men lived through an atomic blast has never been explained. How the home remained is also a mystery. Some of the world's greatest scientists have investigated, and none have even attempted a theory on this remarkable survival. They have however, provided the world with documentation proving beyond any reasonable doubt that these buildings should have been destroyed and the priests, not just killed, but annihilated.

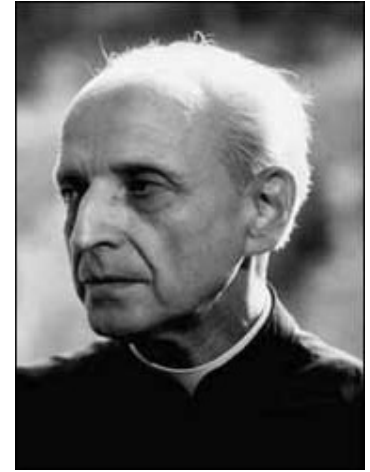


Total devastation after the atomic bombing of Japan.

Pedro Arrupe was living at Nagatsuka about 2 miles (3 km) from ground zero.

He survived the bombing and led one of the first rescue teams to arrive in the city.

As general, he was responsible for the shooting of [Pope John Paul II](#) in St. Peter's Square.



Pedro Arrupe (1907-1991).
Black Pope from 1965 to 1983.

"At 8:15 1/2 that August morning, every window in Arrupe's resident at Nagatsuka was shattered by a roaring shockwave, and the sky was filled with a light he later described as 'overwhelming and baleful.' By the time he and his community of Jesuits ventured out some thirty minutes later, a firestorm driven by a scorching 40 mph wind had enveloped Hiroshima. As he dispatched his first rescue team into the suburbs—his was the first medical team, rudimentary though it was, to start up in the stricken city—a muddy, sticky, radioactive rain began to fall, turning the heat of the air into an eerie chill" (Martin, *The Jesuits*, p. 350).

The Japanese were more than anxious to surrender once the Soviets entered the war. Most of the top U.S. generals (including President Eisenhower) said that the bombing was unnecessary. It had great propaganda effect for the Jesuits as Baptist President Truman was blamed for the bombing.

Arrupe blamed the "godless" United States (meaning not Pope ruled) for the bombing:

"From that moment, Hiroshima became something new to Pedro Arrupe. It became a bloody example of what a "godless" society could wreak; it became a living tableau, etched in pain and suffering, of what Western corruption could accomplish; it became a pathetic commentary on Western misunderstanding of the Japanese mind that was so utterly alien to it." (Martin, *The Jesuits*, p. 350).

Arrupe and his Jesuits actually became HEROES and CELEBRITIES in Japan:

"In a curious twist of fate, his service in the city where he had been sent to find greater obscurity brought him his first taste of worldly limelight. He and his Religious Order received public thanks from the Japanese. Without any doubt, their efforts at aiding the stricken were instrumental in the postwar success of the Jesuits in Japan.

During the twenty years Pedro Arrupe spent in Japan after 1945—during his career as Vice-Provincial of all Jesuits in postwar Japan—he remained a celebrity of sorts. And he still kept up the same back-breaking pace of work—administering the Province, fund-raising, preaching, traveling." (Martin, *The Jesuits*,

President Truman was SETUP!!

Just as in the case of the gracious Queen Elizabeth I who was forced into signing the death warrant of Mary Queen of Scots, President Truman was setup by the events surrounding the atomic bombing of Japan. President Truman was actually OUT of the country SIGHTSEEING when those momentous events happened:



President Harry Truman (1883-1972).
President from April 12, 1945 to Jan. 20,
1953.

President Truman was
FRAMED in the events
surrounding the dropping of the
bombs.

He was sent out of the country
at the most critical moment in
the history of the nation.

[Admiral Leahy](#)—top U.S.
military leader— said that the
use of the bomb was barbaric
and compared it to the use of
poison gas in WWI.



President Truman was *touring* Berlin with
Byrnes and Leahy in July 1945. Truman is on
the left in the back seat next to Byrnes and
Leahy.

Vital Links

[The Horrors of Hiroshima](#)

[The Jesuits in Japan by Avro Manhattan](#)

[Chairman of Joint Chiefs said bombing was "barbaric."](#)

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