

Japanese Confucianism

For more than 1500 years Confucianism has played a major role in shaping Japan's history – from the formation of the first Japanese states during the first millennium CE, to Japan's modernization in the nineteenth century, to WWII and its still unresolved legacies across East Asia today. In an illuminating and provocative new study, Kiri Paramore analyzes the dynamic history of Japanese Confucianism, revealing its many cultural manifestations as religion and as political tool, as social capital and public discourse, as well as its role in international relations and statecraft. The book demonstrates the processes through which Confucianism was historically linked to other phenomenon, such as the rise of modern science and East Asian liberalism. In doing so it offers new perspectives on the sociology of Confucianism and its impact on society, culture, and politics across East Asia, past and present.

KIRI PARAMORE teaches History and Asian Studies at Leiden University.

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Japanese Confucianism

A Cultural History

Kiri Paramore
Leiden University, the Netherlands



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Antiquity is constructed by us.

Liu Zhiji (661–721), Historian and Confucian, Tang China.
Kagawa Shūan (1683–1755), Confucian and Medical doctor, Tokugawa Japan.
Fukuzawa Yukichi (1835–1901), Liberal public intellectual and educator, Meiji Japan.

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Notes on the text

This book uses Pinyin for the Romanization of Chinese, the Hepburn system for Japanese, and McCune-Reischauer for Korean. Exceptions are made for readings established in English using other systems, or nowadays accepted as English words. For instance, Chiang Kai-shek stays as is, as does KMT, Choson, ronin, etc.

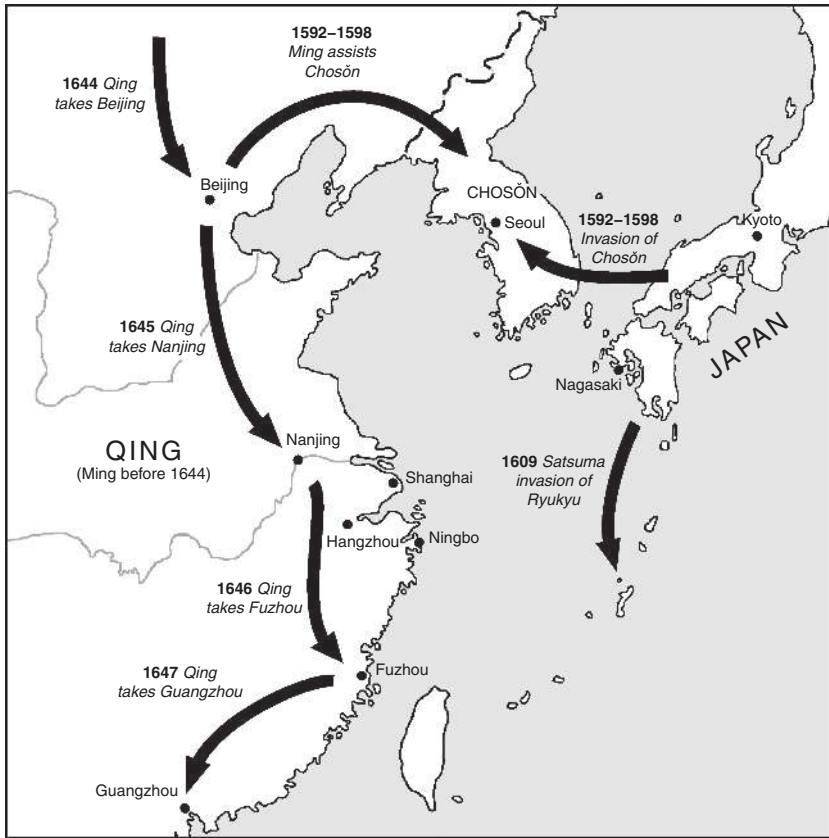
Chinese, Japanese, and Korean names are given with the surname first, except where the name is commonly established in another order in English. When using a single name to refer to an already established figure, the book universally gives the surname. This goes against a common practice of early modern Japanese history writing, both in Japanese and in English, where the *gō* name rather than the *myō* surname is commonly used. Thus, in many publications Ogyū Sorai (1666–1728) is simply referred to as Sorai. But in this book he is referred to by his surname as Ogyū. This method of naming allows us to use the same standard system cross-period (into the modern period), conforming to general English usage, and also reflecting more up-to-date editorial guidelines of major journals in the field, notably the *Journal of Japanese Studies*.

References are given using name and date in in-text bracket citation, with full bibliographical references for each entry in a list at the end of the book. This means that many references to premodern primary sources in modern printed compilations will have a twentieth-century date, even though the actual text is much older. For instance, some quotes from the late eighteenth-century writings of Shibano Ritsuzan (1736–1807) appear referenced as “(Takimoto 1914),” giving the name of the editor who oversaw the modern printed compilation. The referencing system is thus designed primarily to facilitate a reader being able to find the source themselves in the commonly available modern compilations through a library catalog. Abbreviations are used for a number of large compendium series used extensively in the book. The key to abbreviations is at the beginning of the Bibliography.

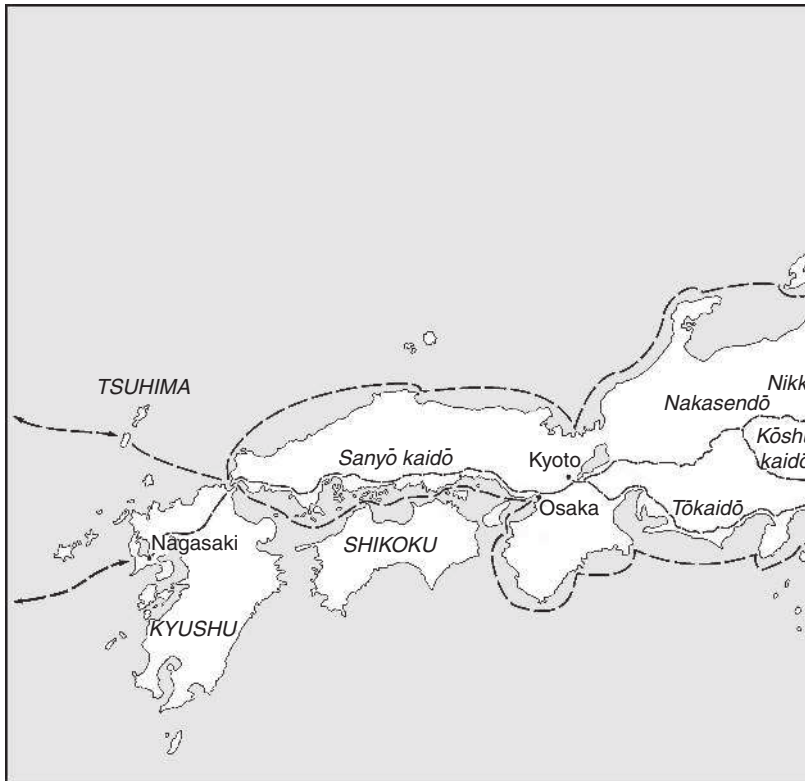
Timeline

Chapter of book	Chapter 1					Chapter 4
Years AD	500	1200	1300	1400		
Japanese period name		Nara	Heian	Kamakura		
Chinese period name	Sui	Tang	Song	Yuan		
Historical period (Jpn)	Early		Medieval			
Events (East Asia)			Shogunate established Zhu Xi born	Mongols defeated by Japan Mongols conquer Song China		Chosŏn estab
Events (global)		Birth of Islam		Peak of Mongol Empire Mamluk defeat Mongols		

Chapter of book	← Chapter 2		Chapter 3	Chapter 4
Years AD	1600	1700	1800	
Japanese period name	Tokugawa (Edo)			
Chinese period name	← Ming		Qing	
Historical period (Jpn)	Early Modern			
Events (East Asia)		Manchus take Beijing Ogyū Sorai born		Meiji Restorati
Events (global)	Thirty Years War Peace of Westphalia		Industrial Revolution American Revolution French Revolution	Maratha sack Mughal Delhi



1. East Asia 1590–1650



2. Japan 1700

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3. East Asian trade connections to Japan 1650–1850



4. Japan in East Asia 1934

xviii List of maps



5. Japan in East Asia 1942



6. Japan in East Asia 1952