

World Cultures ~ Weekly Assignments
Dr. Plummer
Spring 2008

Week 8: March 3, 5, 7

Topic: Shinto

Film: No film. Attend performance of San Jose Taiko. Writing assignment will be in a handout.

Reminders: There is no quiz this week. Quizzes will resume after Spring Break. No class Friday. *Memorandum* paper due March 17. Friday March 7 is the last day to drop classes. If you aren't sure where you stand, whether you're borderline passing, you should stop by office hours for an in-person chat. Spring break is next week, have a lovely rest!

Readings:

If you answered the essay question on India/Pakistan and answered that such a small conflict could not possibly lead to war, please take the time to look at *Visual History* and review the initial causes of World War I and II. The assassination of a duke in a remote country in Eastern Europe, a minor power crippled by economic depression and being monitored by other nations... how could these possibly lead to all-out world wars? (Yes, I'm over-simplifying to make a point.)

Visual History:

- "Hungary and Czechoslovakia" pp. 478-9
- "Trends in World Politics since 1945" pp. 532-535
- "Eastern and Central Europe" pp. 576-578

- "China, Japan, and Korea" pp. 618-623
- "Japan" pp. 244-5, 326-331, 418-19, 496-99

Eastman:

- "Shinto and Japan: An Overview" pp. 260-4
- "The Way of the *Kami*" pp. 264-271
- "Beginnings, Births, Fertility, and Festivals" pp. 276-9
- "Glimpses of Shinto" pp. 279-285

Word List:

communism	shen do	Manyoshu
totalitarian	Kojiki	Takami-musubi
Shinto	Nihongi	Kami-musubi
kami	Taiko	Butsido
matsuru	Noh Theatre	

Study Questions:

1. Compare Hinduism and Shinto. Both are words used to describe regional philosophies and diverse sets of religious and social practices. In what ways are they similar and different?
2. Explain the editor's note on Eastman p. 262. "When people think of death, they feel closer to Buddhism. . . . When people think of life, they feel drawn to Shinto."
3. How do Buddhism and Shinto fit together? Can one person practice both?
4. What are the basic tenets of Shinto? What insight do they give you into Japanese culture?

Places to Find:

Japan
Tokyo
China
Korea
Vietnam
Mongolia
Tibet