

The Meiji Restoration

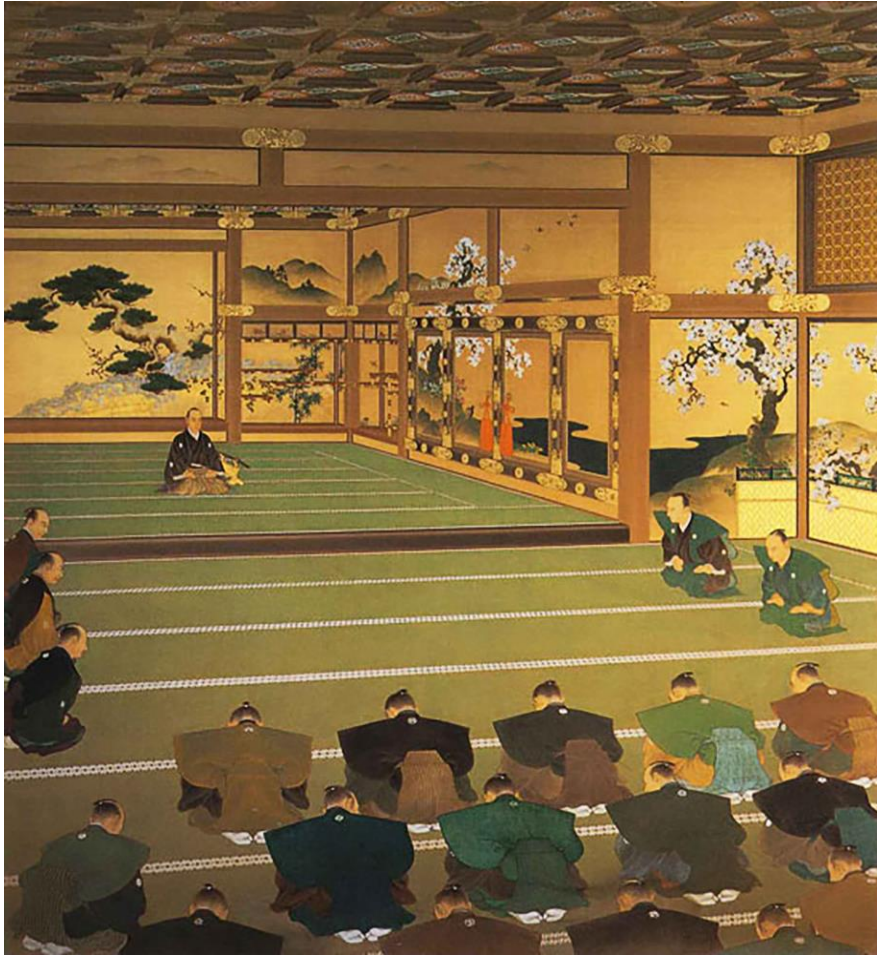
明治維新

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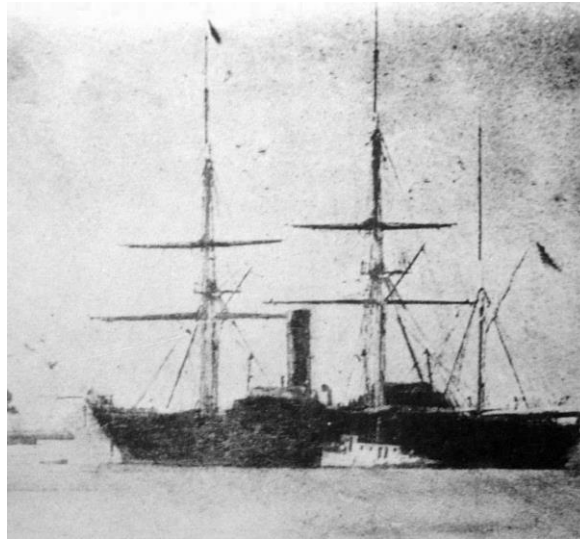
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Meiji Restoration in Japan



Edo Shogunate

Threats by the US fleet



Meiji Government



Traditional
Japanese court
dress with crown

- heavy
- complicated to wear
- uncomfortable to walk



European-
style modern
court dress
with tiara

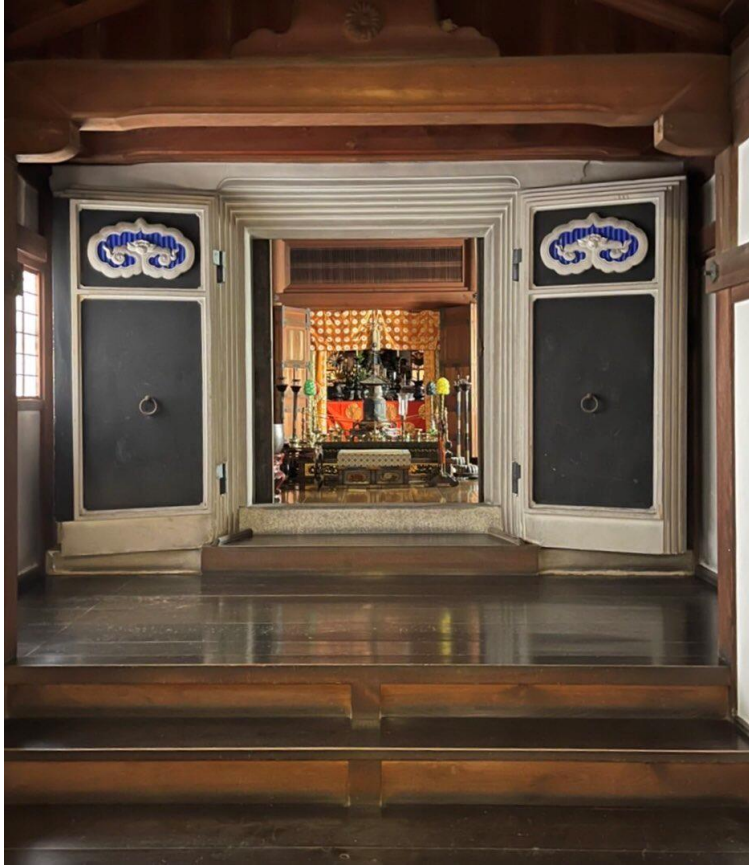
- lightweight
- easy to wear
- comfortable to walk

122nd Emperor Meiji's Consort, Empress Shōken 昭憲皇太后 (1849-1914)



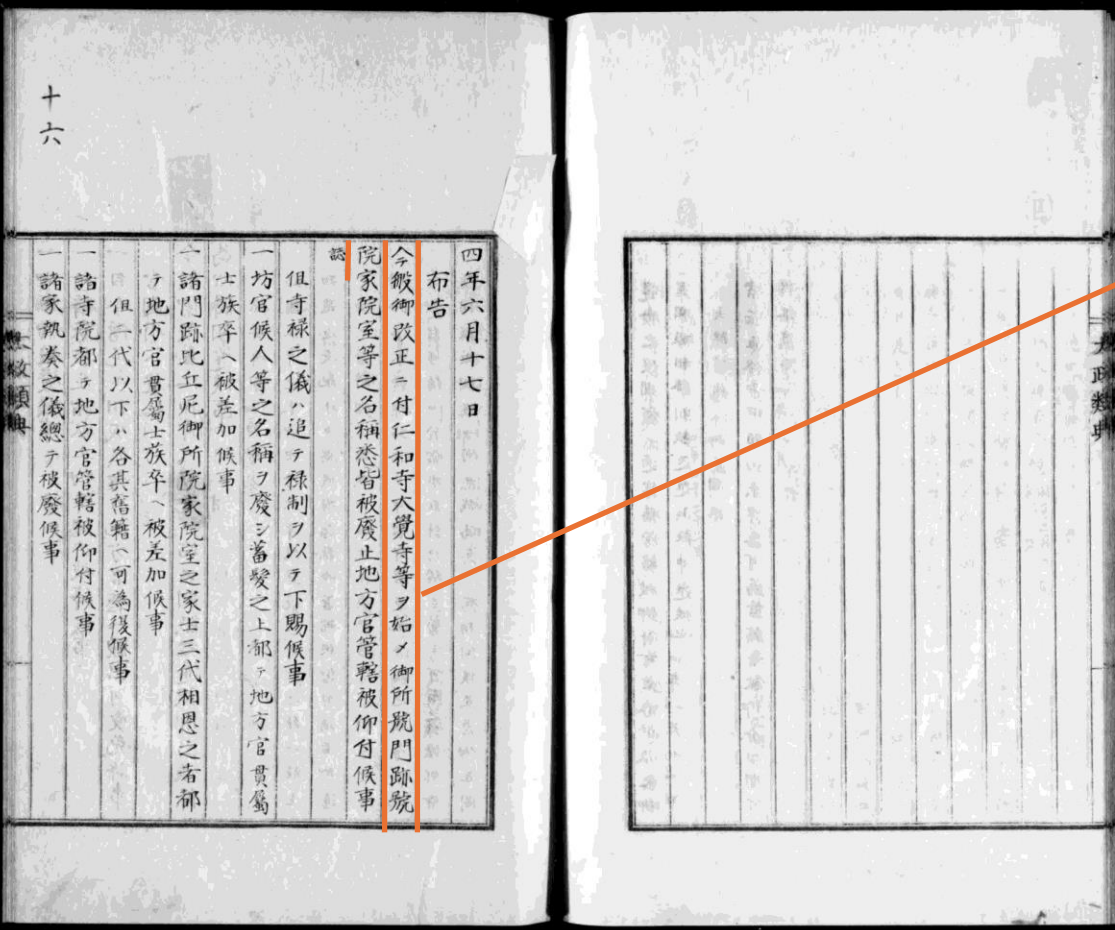
Mage 鬘 / *Chonmage* 丁鬘 and Modernisation

Syncretism of Shinto and Buddhism



Okurodo 御黒戸
At the Sennyū-ji Temple in Kyoto

- Shinto → Japanese polytheism. Based on nature worship and ancestral rituals. No doctrine, scripture and founder. Many clans, including the Imperial Family, are descended from the *kami* 神 (deities and something great).
- Buddhism → Originating in India. Aims to attain enlightenment and become a Buddha. The founder is Sākyamuni. Japanese Buddhism was strongly influenced by Shinto and is therefore not same as the original Buddhism.
- From the middle ages to the early modern period, Shinto and Buddhism became mixed, with Shinto's Amaterasu Ōmikami 天照大御神 being equated with Buddhism's Mahāvairocana.



The recent amendment to the law abolishes all titles for *monzeki* temples, including Ninna-ji Temple, and Daikaku-ji Temple, etc.

✘ Shinto is a state belief, NOT a religion.
(policy of the Meiji government)



Was Buddhism completely excluded from the Imperial Family?

Grand Council of State, Meiji 4 (1871). 6. 17

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Thank you for your attention

ご清聴ありがとうございました