

Christianity in Japan



Introduction of Christianity

- 16th C.: Expansion of Portuguese colonial and mercantile empire in Asia
- 1549: St. Francis Xavier arrives in Kagoshima with “Yajiro”
- Sought audience with emperor



S. P. FRANCIS XAVERIUS SOCIETATIS

徐光啟
利瑪竇
湯若望
南懷仁
艾儒略
龐參
羅明堅
郭維藩
郭德
郭德

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Map of Christian progression through Japan.

Missionary Work

- Torres and Fernandez continue evangelizing (1579: only 55 missionaries)
- Nagasaki as Portuguese center
- Christian daimyo: Takayama Ukon and Konishi Yukinaga
- 1579: 100,000 Christians

Expansion of Christianity

- Oda Nobunaga granted concessions
- Valignano: conform to Japanese customs
- 1585: Gaspard Coelho and Hideyoshi
- 1587: Expulsion order
- 1602: Spanish Dominicans and Augustinians arrive

Martyrdoms

- 1596: Spanish ship sinks off coast of Shikoku; Hideyoshi seizes cargo
- 26 Martyrs of Nagasaki
- 1598: 300,000 Christians
- Ieyasu continues to tolerate Christian presence
- 1614 Expulsion order

Persecution and Suppression

- Covert missionary activity continued
- 1622: “Great Martyrdom”
- Christians flee to rural areas
- 1637-38: Shimabara Uprising
- 1639: Trade w/ Portuguese banned
- “Hidden Christians”: 60,000