



Shinto: Origins, Rituals, Festivals, Spirits, Sacred Places

C. Scott Littleton

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Shinto provides a succinct, authoritative and accessible introduction to one of the great religious traditions. The book is organized around nine key themes: Origins and Historical Development, Aspects of the Divine, Sacred Texts, Sacred Persons, Ethical Principles, Sacred Space, Sacred Time, Death and the Afterlife, and Society and Religion. Each of these themes is supplemented by extracts from or summaries of historical texts, with a concise commentary that explains its significance or places it in context. (From back cover.)

Shinto: Origins, Rituals, Festivals, Spirits, Sacred Places Details

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Theresa says

Understanding Shinto: Origins, Rituals, Festivals, Spirits, Sacred Places

by c Scott Littleton

alot of history in a small text. showing tje beginning, beliefs and practices and ideals of the Shinto religion and its multi cultural influences, preceptions and practices. so much i did not know.

R.K. Cowles says

3 1/2 stars

Caroline says

This books offers some quick and basic information about Shinto in Japan. It's quite an easy read and interesting for people who don't know much about Shinto yet and wish to get a quick introduction. These basics can then be used as the starting point for further reading about the subject.

Othy says

A rather average book on Shinto, giving most of the basics in a very quick format. I was dismayed, though, that Littleton skipped over some important aspects of Shinto and Japanese history (such as the reason Izanami and Izanagi must go around the spear twice). Littleton also writes, at times, in a journalistic manner, repeating himself within chapters. The book is really only useful to those who want a quick overview for bearings and who -will- go on to read something deeper and more descriptive.

Audrey says

Very interesting topic, though the book was just "okay". I'd have prefered to learn more details about the ethics of Shinto and about how people parctice it in modern Japan. The part about the origins and the details about the spirits were a bit dry and long for my taste. I also would have like more pictures or to have the facts discribed in a more vivid way. But all in all it's a nice introduction to the Shinto religion and gives a general idea about it.

Jane Francis says

A good general introductory overview with a lot of historical information, although it jumps around a little and has some repeat information here and there.

Julie says

very basic introduction to Shinto. great beginner material due to the simple structure and lack of depth. colorful, though. funny, I actually have the book (Sources of Japanese Tradition) this book kept citing.

Lauren says

A quick and enjoyable read that strikes a good balance of discussing both the history of Shintoism ancient and modern and how it affects different aspects of Japanese culture. The chapters are long enough to discuss different aspects of each theme, but short enough that you can easily read this book in short spurts.

Kanita says

EXTREMELY informative and helpful! I personally was doing some research on Shintoism and Buddhism because I am going to convert, and Mr. Littlelon does an excellent job in explaining the people of Japan's beliefs and rituals in such a simple and understandable way that it actually makes sense. Also a good source for a project. Highly recommend this book.

Gracie says

A good introduction to Shinto - definitely not an in depth study of the religion, but a quick review for people who don't know much about the subject. Gives some good insight into Japanese customs, architecture, etc. that I didn't realize were rooted in Shintoism.

Jen Show says

Not spectacular, but a good intro. There were many things mentioned in passing that I've made notes to explore later, so I appreciate that. I did like some of the source materials used, but it is really a very basic treatment in general. It also does not have a conclusion at all, it just ends as though the author was tired of telling me things.

Jacob van Berkel says

I really liked this.

Thematically organized in nine (9) chapters*, it's chock-full & concise, contains several pretty pictures, and a glossary. What earns it an extra star are 'Extract and Commentary' sections at the end of every chapter, containing (obviously) extracts from and commentaries on various texts - both ancient and modern, sacred and profane - relating to Shinto.

Very illuminating as an introduction.

*

- Origins and Historical Development
 - Aspects of the Divine
 - Sacred Texts
 - Sacred Persons
 - Ethical Principles
 - Sacred Space
 - Sacred Time
 - Death and the Afterlife
 - Society and Religion
-

Sasha Boersma says

Good little intro book to the concepts of Shinto. Not very deep, but basics covered.

Gina says

An interesting overview and "first look" at Shinto origins and evolution meant for those with little to no background information on the religion and its history. Not very in depth on any particular topic, but a great starting point for those who are interested in Shinto's history and traditions.

Matt P. says

3 1/2 stars. If you want an unchallenging and incredibly broad overview of Shintoism, this isn't bad. Lots of repetition on examples and in certain areas only provides "commentary" on one piece and not the counter. Still, if you need a brief intro, this does a decent job.
