

Religion and the Making of Modern East Asia by Thomas DuBois (Cambridge University Press)

Thomas DuBois (History) explores seven centuries of history to show how religious ideas, actors and conflicts shaped the course of history and social change in China and Japan. The book provides a background for understanding different religions, how they arrived in Asia and how they evolved and became part of the fabric of Asian society .

Religious ideas and actors have shaped Asian cultural practices for millennia and have played a decisive role in charting the course of its history. In this engaging and informative book, DuBois sets out to explain how religion has influenced the political, social, and economic transformation of Asia from the fourteenth century to the present.

Crossing a broad terrain from Tokyo to Tibet, the book highlights long-term trends and key moments, such as the expulsion of Catholic missionaries from Japan, or the Taiping Rebellion in China, when religion dramatically transformed the political fate of a nation. Contemporary chapters reflect on the wartime deification of the Japanese emperor, Marxism as religion, the persecution of the Dalai Lama, and the fate of Asian religion in a globalized world.

DuBois, T.D. (2011). Religion and the Making of Modern East Asia. Cambridge University Press: Cambridge.