

# SHINTO



# Origins of Shinto

- **Mix of ancient religions, nationalism, environmentalism, and animism**
- **Shinto=contraction of shen/tao=“the way of the gods”**
- **Kami=gods and the spirit within all creation (animism)**
- ***Chronicles of Ancient Events* an attempt to establish a Japanese awareness or roots of their past in the face of the Chinese influence**
- ***The Age of the Gods*, myths surrounding creation of Japan**
- **Amaterasu, sun goddess and mother of emperor**





**Amaterasu Emerges from the Light**

# History of Shinto

- **Prior to 300 BCE—Japanese history begins ca. 3<sup>rd</sup> century CE**
- **Chinese and Korean influences always came ashore**
- **After the 4<sup>th</sup> century CE, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism**
- **Adopted the dominant Chinese culture and learnings including written language, ethics from Confucius for Japanese feudal society**
- **522 CE emperor embraces Buddhism in spite of offending kami, plague, then purged Buddhism, but Buddhism was there for good**
- **Shinto coined in response to Buddhism**
- **Synergy of Shinto (daily life) and Buddhism (afterlife)**

# History of the Samurai



# Tokugawa period 1600-1867

- Feudal society with samurai
- Bushido-“The way of the fighting knight”
- Death over dishonor=hara-kiri=seppuku



# **Arrival of America-- end of Tokugawa regime**

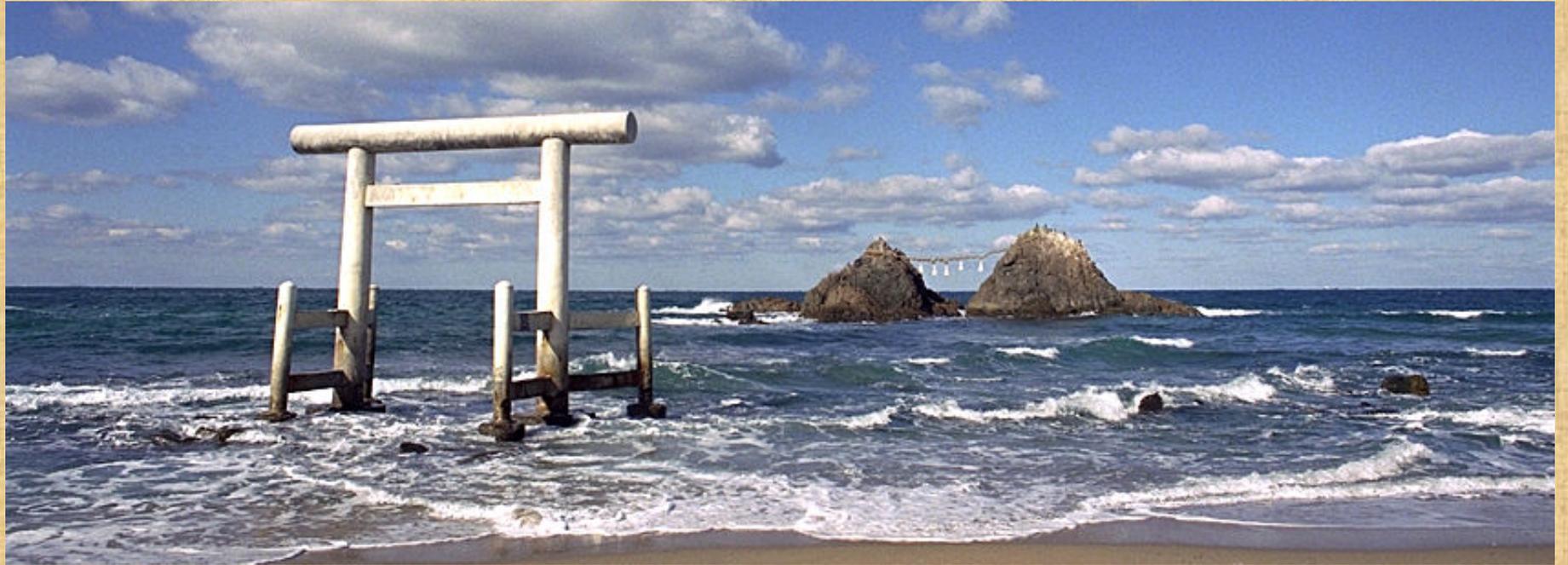
- **Isolation ended with the arrive of Commodore Perry**
- **In 1854, Japanese ports opened to commerce with the West**
- **In 1889, a new constitution allowed for Shinto as state religion**  
**(but accorded other religions freedom to worship)**
- **Three forms of Shinto**
  - 1. State Shinto**
  - 2. Sectarian Shinto**
  - 3. Domestic Shinto**

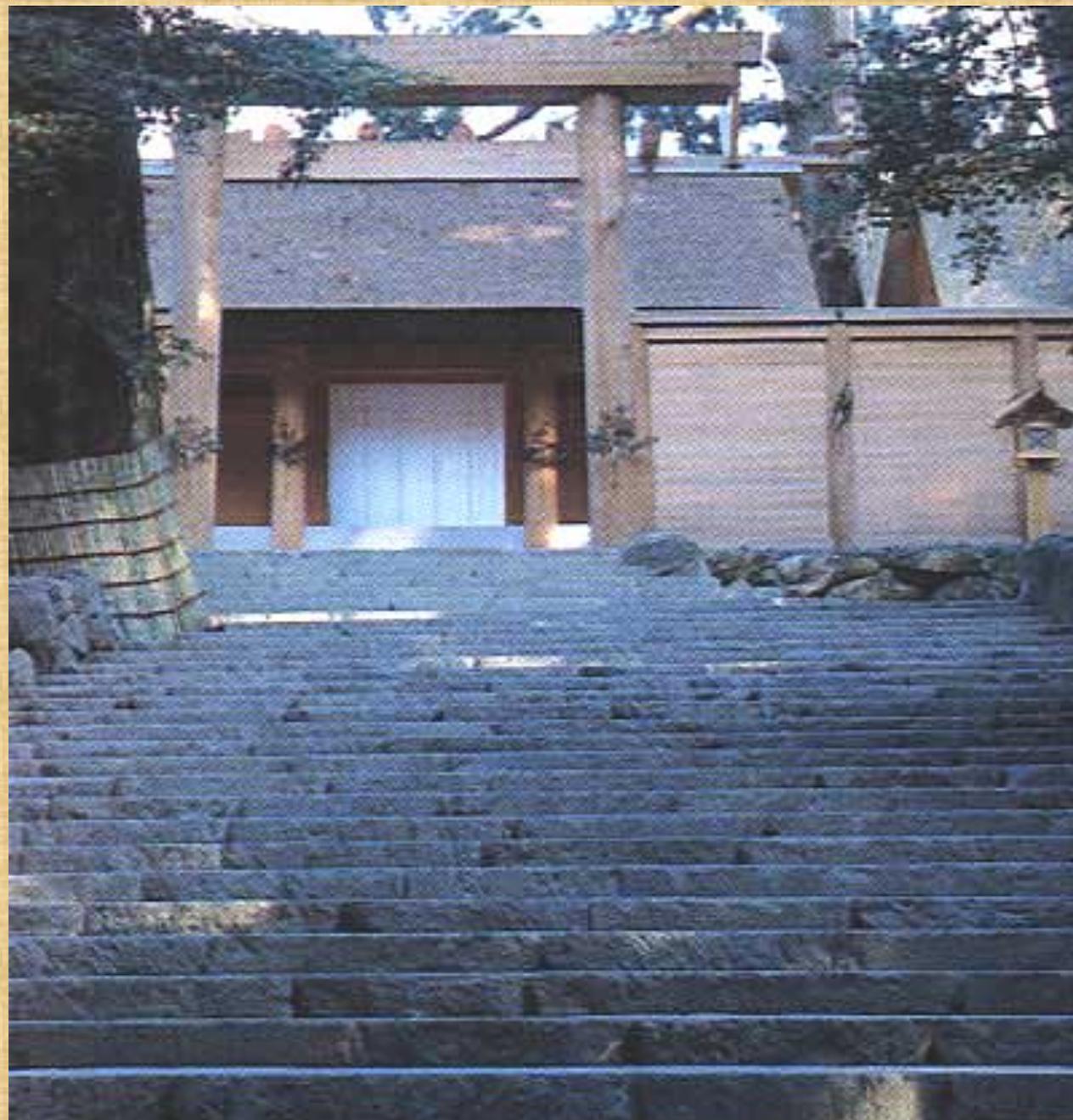
# State Shinto





**Torii gate**









**Kanda Myojin Shrine**



**Shimenawa—rice straw rope with *shime*.  
It marks the boundary between that which is sacred and  
profane. It functions in the same manner as the Torii.**



**Wooden Prayer Plaques**



**Washing hands**



**Purification for the mouth**



**Purification water**



**Fox guarding Inari Shrine**







**Buddhism has a strong place within Japan.**



**Mirror, bead,  
and sword  
from the myth  
of Amaterasu**

# State Shinto

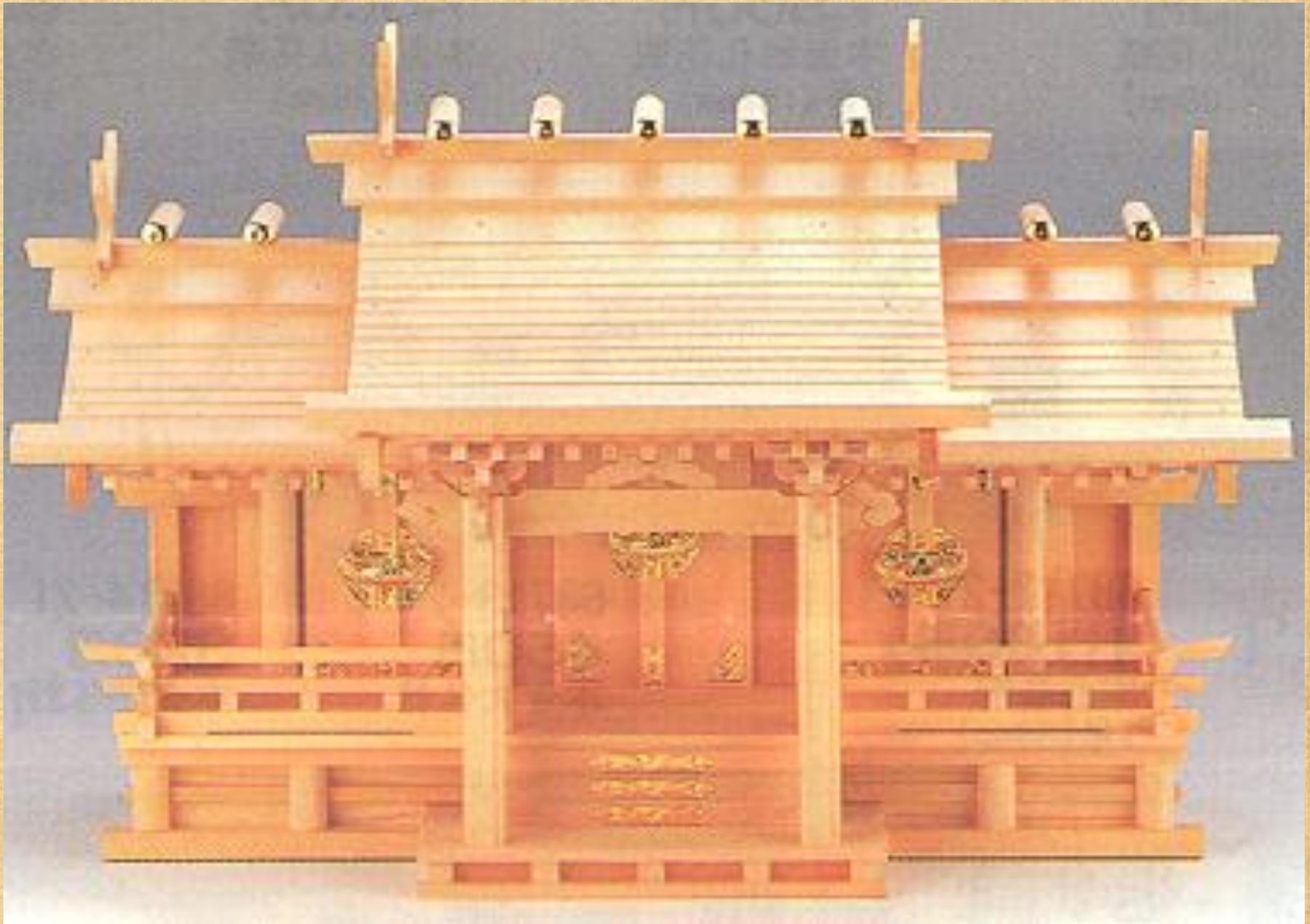
- **The link between the emperor and the military goes back to the 1889 constitution.**
- **This linkage explains much during WWII**
- **After WWII the emperor was forced to denounce his divinity**
- **State Shinto ended also**

# Sectarian Shinto

- **State Shinto pushed Sectarian Shinto out**
- **Mountains, shamanism/divination (faith healing), and pure Shinto without the militarism**
- **Asceticism, etc.**

# **Domestic Shinto**

- **This form of Shinto is the informal home religion.**
- **Kami-dana=god shelf**

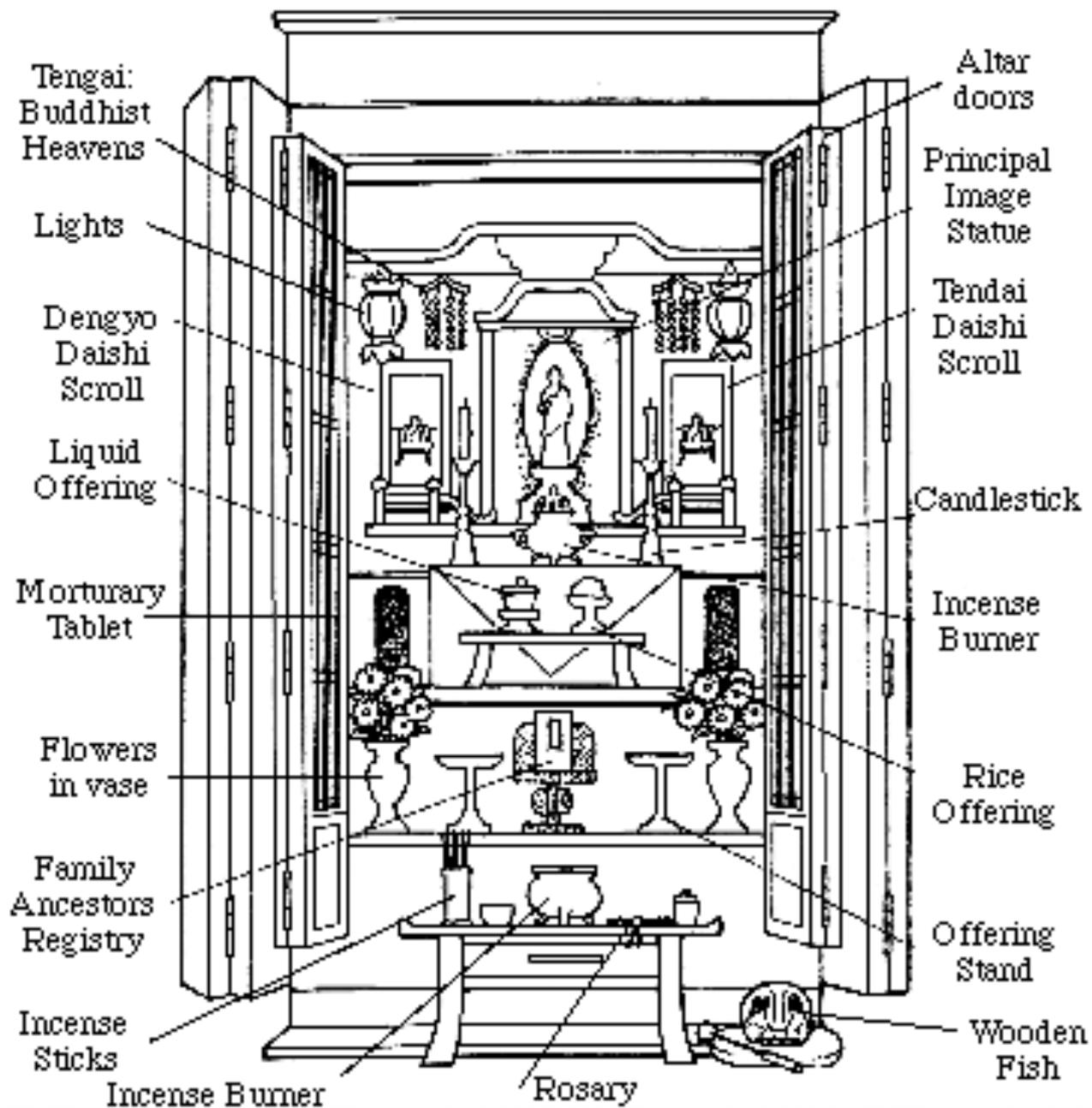


**Home shrine**





**Butsu-dan—Buddhist home altar**





**Pope John Paul II in Nagasaki 1981**

# Interesting site

- <http://www.lwn-photo.com/images/PanoLg/GGPJpnTGrdnLg.mov>