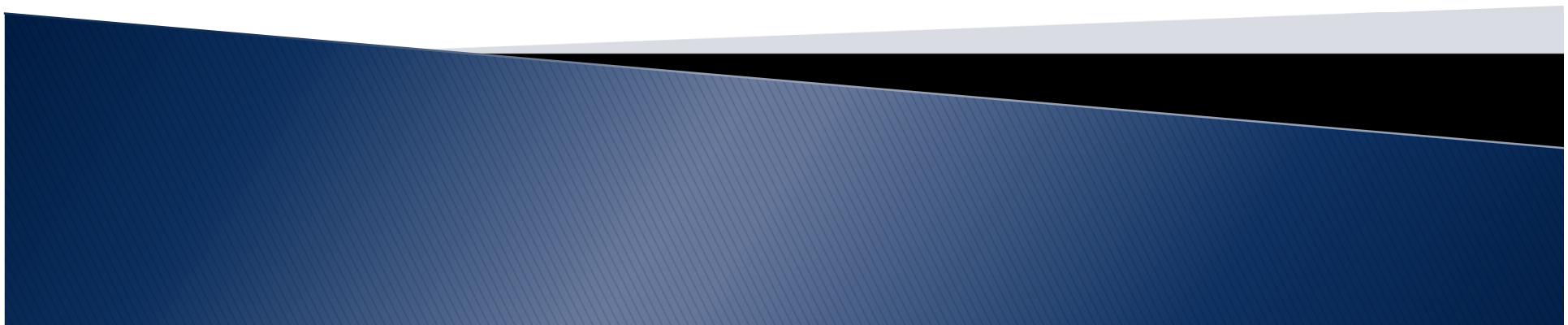


Research Centre for Japanese Language and Linguistics  
University of Oxford

オックスフォード大学 日本語研究センター  
[www.orinst.ox.ac.uk/research/jap-ling/](http://www.orinst.ox.ac.uk/research/jap-ling/)

# Old Japanese in Action

Oxford Spires Academy  
13 June 2014



# Japan

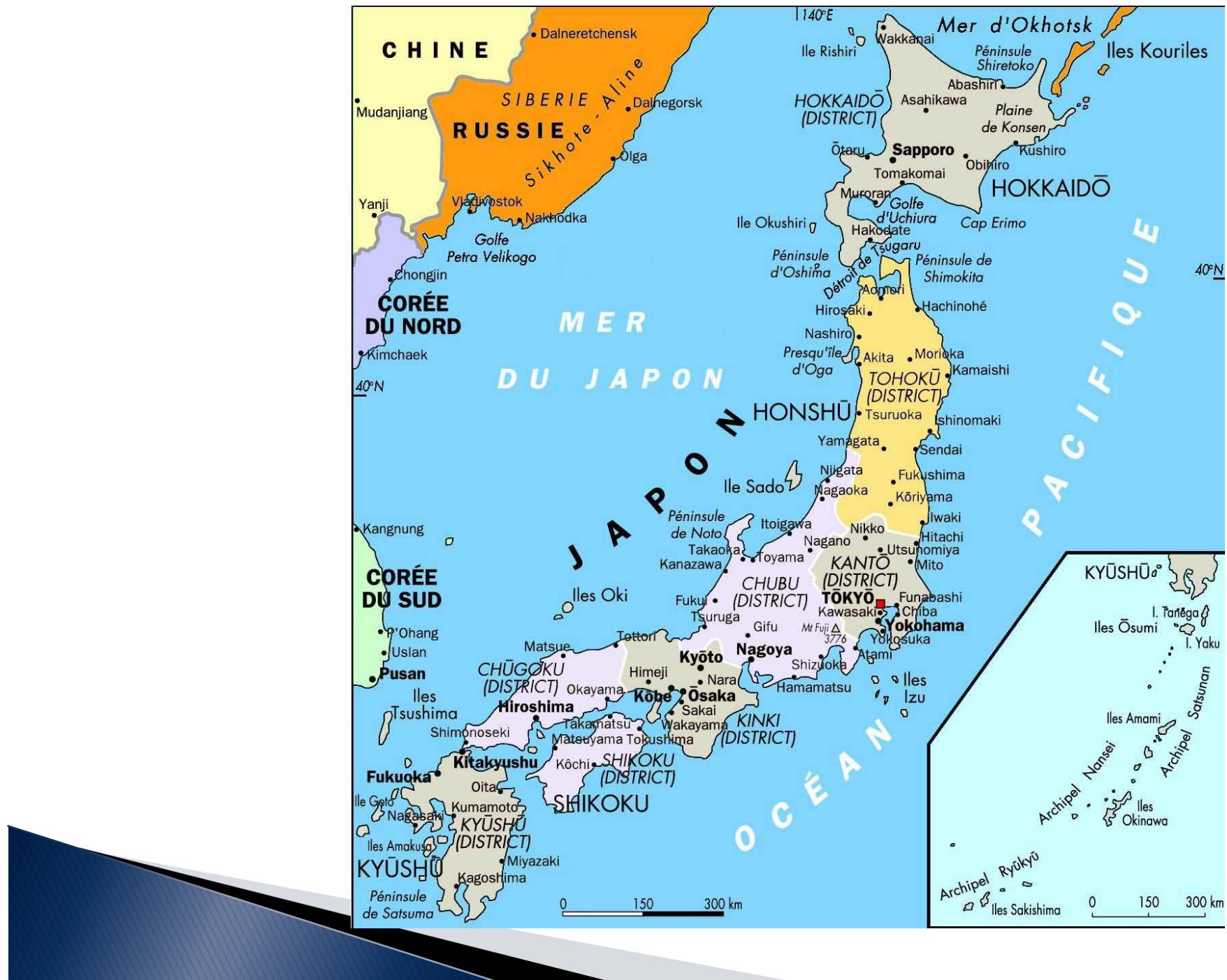






## Southern Asia





# What do we know about Japan?



# What do we know about Japan? Tokyo



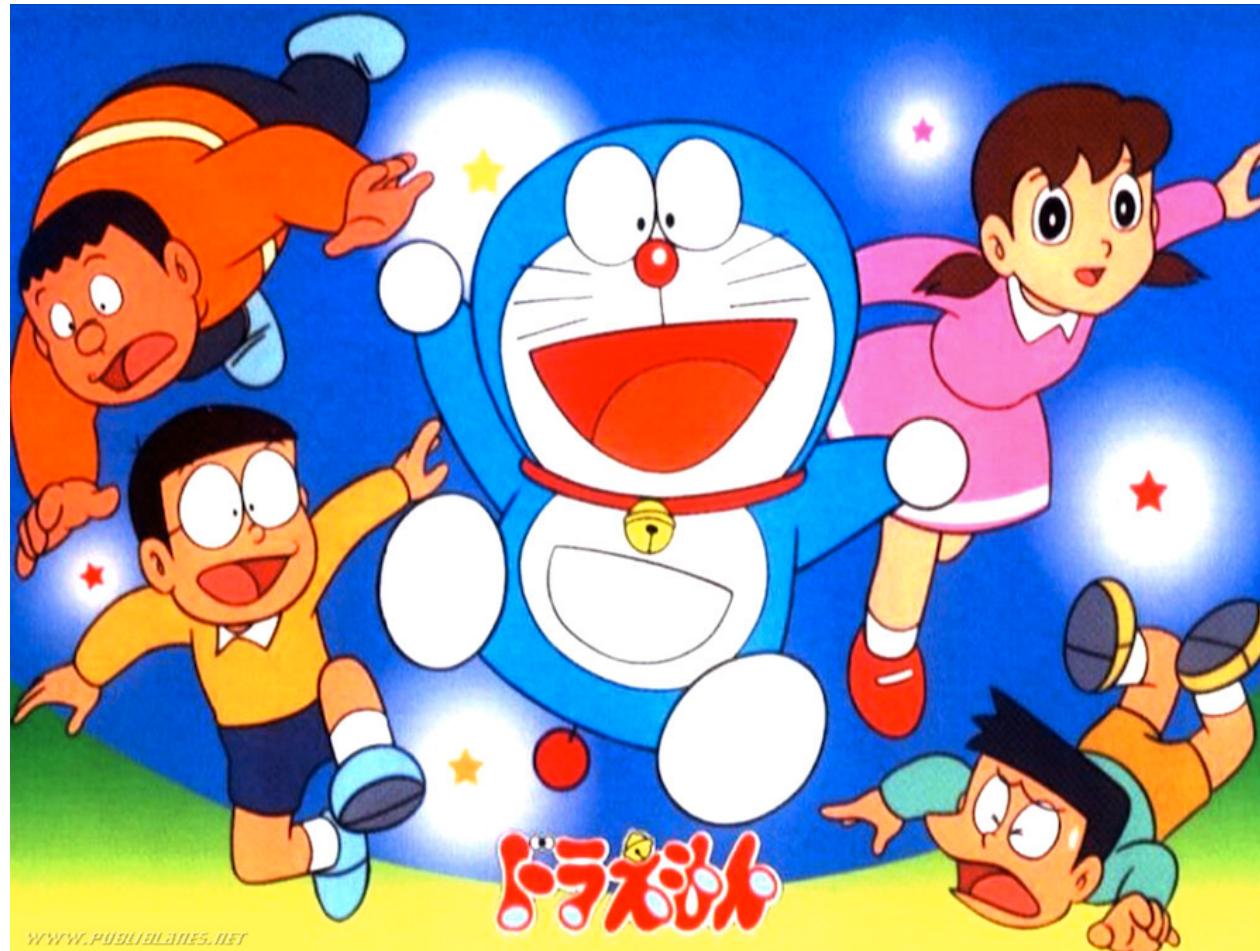
# What do we know about Japan?

## *Pokemon*



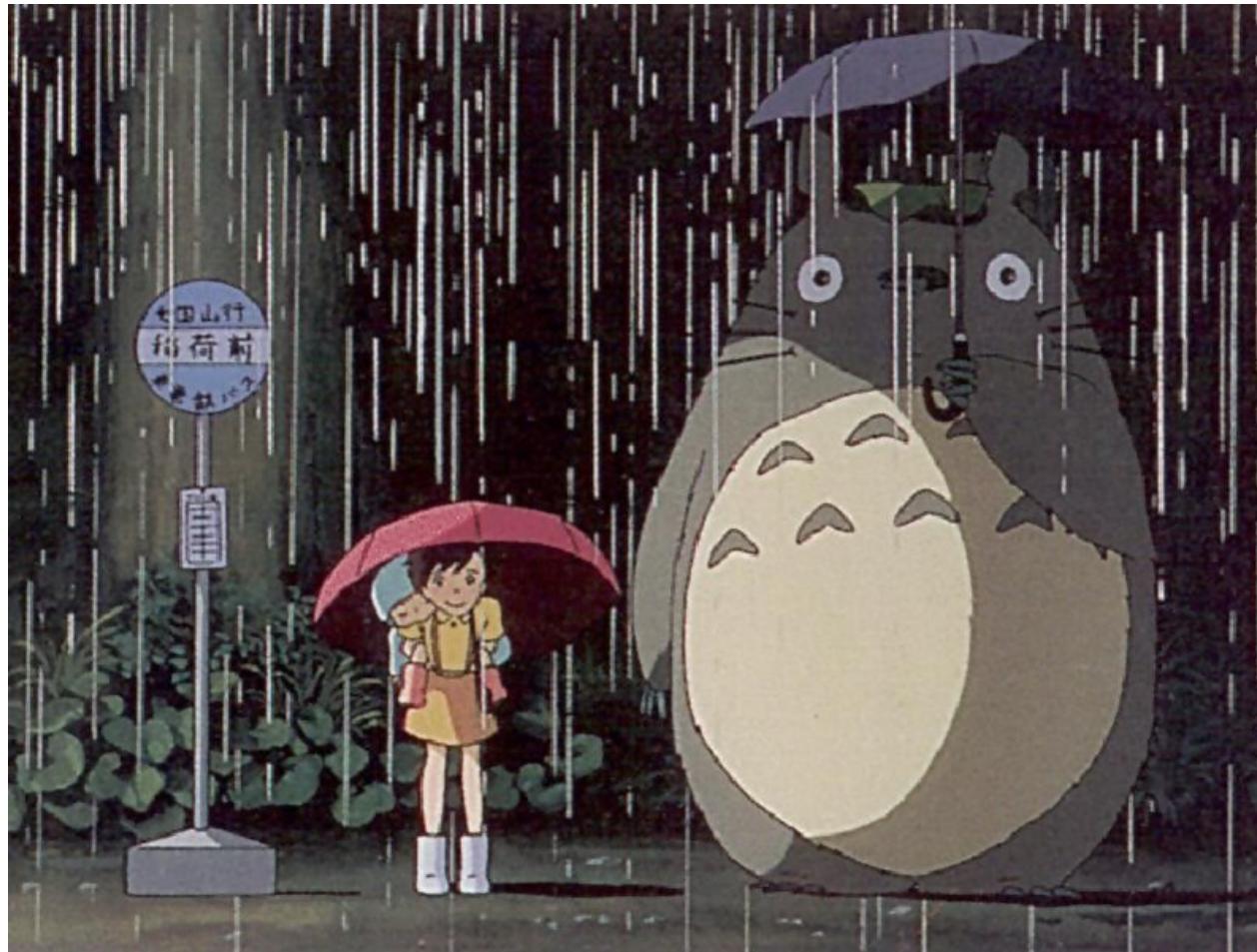
# What do we know about Japan?

## *Manga and anime*



# What do we know about Japan?

*Manga and anime*



# What do we know about Japan?

*Manga and anime*



# What do we know about Japan?

## *Manga and anime*



# What do we know about Japan?

## *Hiroshima*



# What do we know about Japan? Robots



# What do we know about Japan?

## *Sushi*



# What do we know about Japan?

**Karaoke** (*kara* 'empty' + *oke* < Eng. orchestra)



# What do we know about Japan?

**Karate** (*kara* ‘empty’ + *te* ‘hand’)



# What do we know about Japan?

**Karate** (*kara* ‘empty’ + *te* ‘hand’)



# What do we know about Japan?

**Karate** (*kara* ‘empty’ + *te* ‘hand’)



# What do we know about Japan?

## *Sumo*



# What do we know about Japan?

## *Samurai*



142. SAMURAI IN ARMOR

# What do we know about Japan?

## *Ninja*



# What do we know about Japan?

## Cherry blossoms



# What do we know about Japan?

## *Geisha*



# What do we know about Japan?

## *The Tale of Genji* (Murasaki Shikibu, c. 1000 AD)



# Old Japan



# Old Japan

## 8<sup>th</sup> century Japan



# 8<sup>th</sup> century



# 8<sup>th</sup> century

701 – 800



# England in the 8<sup>th</sup> century



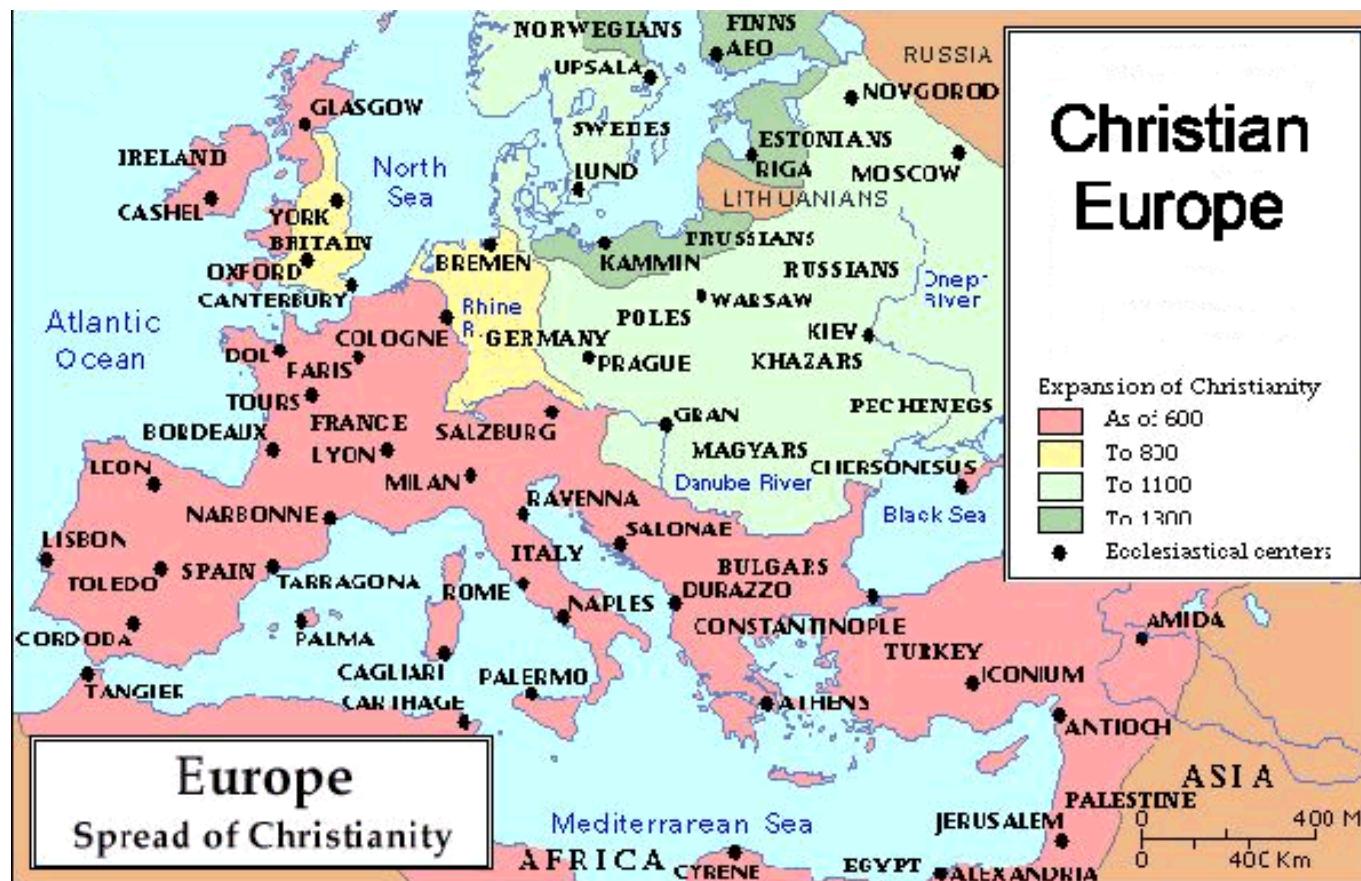
# Anglo-Saxons



# Anglo-Saxons



# Christianity



# Vikings



# Language

## Old English (Anglo-Saxon)



# Old English: Beowulf



# Old English: Beowulf

Hunferð mælode

Eegláfes bearn

þe æt fótum sæt

fréan Scyldinga



# Old English: Beowulf

Hunferð mælode  
“Unferth spoke,

þe æt fótum sæt  
“who sat at the feet

Ecgáfes bearн  
the son of Edgelaf,”

fréan Scyldinga  
of the lord of the  
Scyldings”



# Old Japan



# Old Japan

## 8<sup>th</sup> century Japan



8th century Japan

Nara period

712 – 794



# 8th century Japan

## Central capital (Nara)



# 8th century Japan Emperor



# 8th century Japan

## Emperor



# 8th century Japan Shinto; Ise shrine



# 8th century Japan

## Shinto; priests



# Blessing of laptop computers



# 8th century Japan

## Influence from the continent



# 8th century Japan

## Influence from the continent: Confucianism



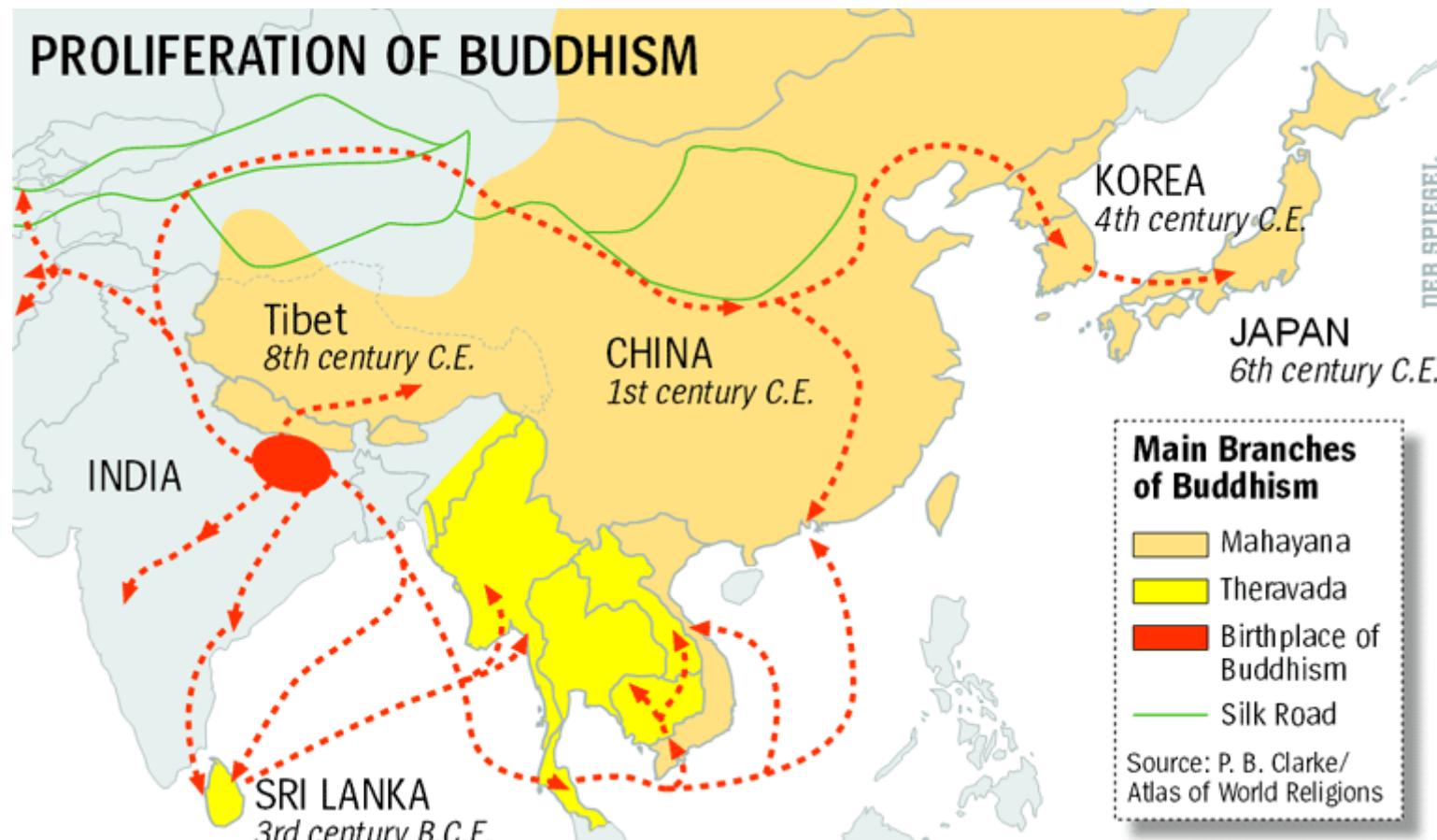
# 8th century Japan

## Influence from the continent: **Buddhism**



# 8th century Japan

## Influence from the continent: **Buddhism**



# 8th century Japan

## Influence from the continent: **Buddhism**



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# 8th century Japan

## Influence from the continent: **Buddhism**



# 8th century Japan

## Influence from the continent: **Buddhism**



# 8th century Japan

## Influence from the continent: **Writing**



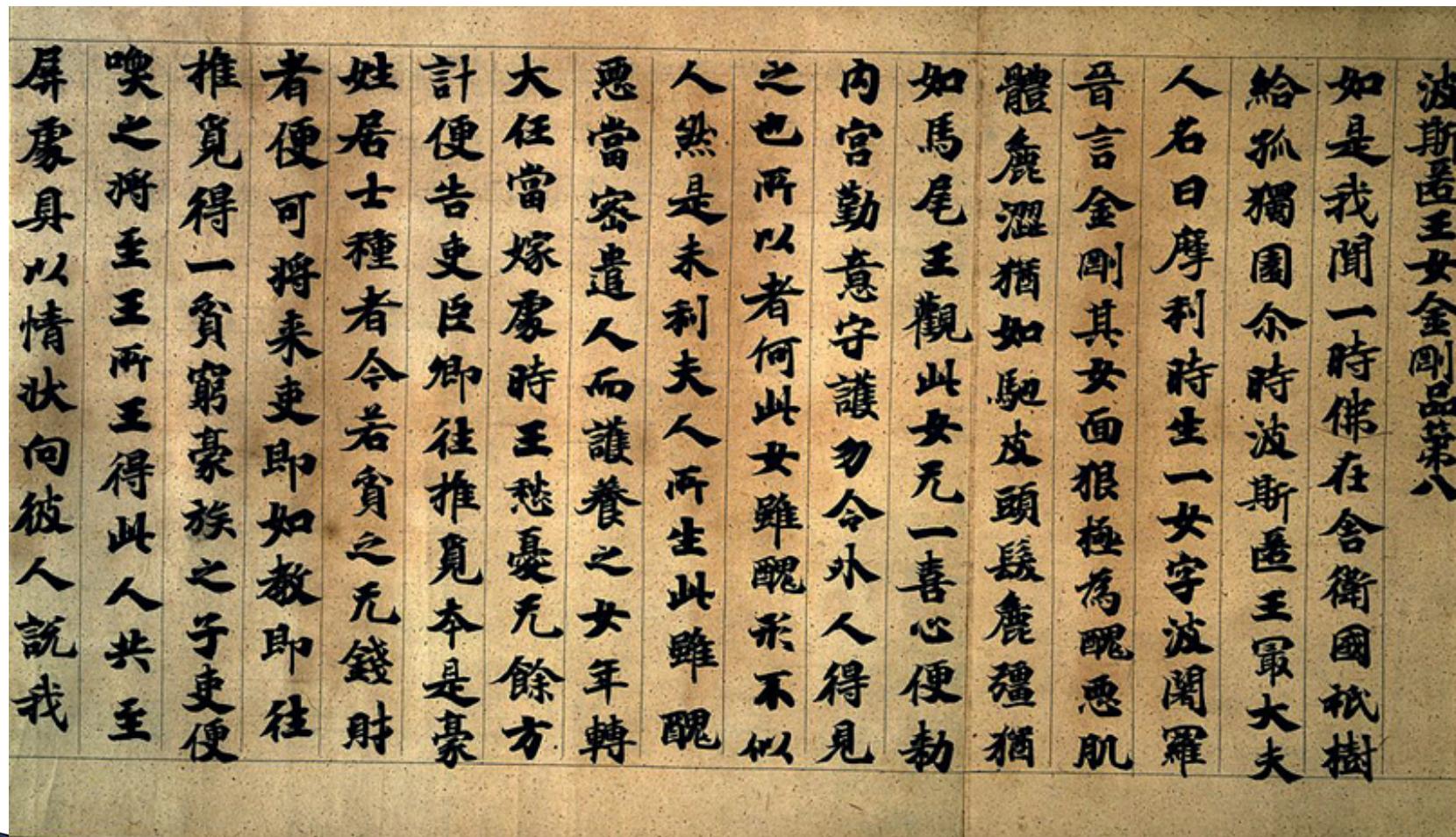
8th century Japan  
Influence from the continent: **Writing**

# Chinese writing



# 8th century Japan

## Influence from the continent: Writing



8th century Japan  
Influence from the continent: **Writing**

Reading and writing  
in Chinese



8th century Japan  
Influence from the continent: **Writing**

Reading and writing  
in Chinese

like Latin in Europe



8th century Japan  
Influence from the continent: **Writing**

Writing Japanese  
using  
Chinese script



# 8th century Japan

## Influence from the continent: Writing

一世爾波

二遍美延農

知知波波袁

意伎豆夜奈何久

阿我和加礼南



# 8th century Japan

Influence from the continent: **Writing**

Japanese from the Nara period:  
“Old Japanese”



8th century Japan  
Influence from the continent: **Writing**

# Types of text in Old Japanese



8th century Japan  
Influence from the continent: **Writing**

# Types of text in Old Japanese

Literature: folksongs, poetry



8th century Japan  
Influence from the continent: **Writing**

## Types of text in Old Japanese

Literature: folksongs, poetry

Imperial edicts



8th century Japan  
Influence from the continent: **Writing**

## Types of text in Old Japanese

Literature: folksongs, poetry

Imperial edicts

*Norito*: prayers and blessings in Shinto rituals



# Old Japanese language



# Old Japanese language

NO Nominal number



# Old Japanese language

NO Nominal number

NO Articles (definite/indefinite)



# Old Japanese language

NO Nominal number

NO Articles (definite/indefinite)

犬 *inu*

“dog, a dog, the dog, dogs, the dogs”



# Old Japanese language

一 世 爾波

二 遍

美 延 農

知知 波波 袁

意伎豆 夜 奈何久

阿 我 和加礼南



# Old Japanese language

一 世 爾波  
pito-yo *nipa*

二 遍  
puta-tabi

美 延 農  
*mi-ye-nu*

知知 波波 袁  
*titi-papa wo*

意伎豆 夜 奈何久  
*okite ya nagaku*

阿 我 和加礼南  
*a ga wakare-namu*



# Old Japanese language

一 世 爾波

pito-yo *nipa*  
one-world in

二 遍

puta-tabi  
two-time

美 延 農

*mi-ye-nu*  
see-can-not

知知 波波 袁

*titi-papa wo*  
father-mother OBJ

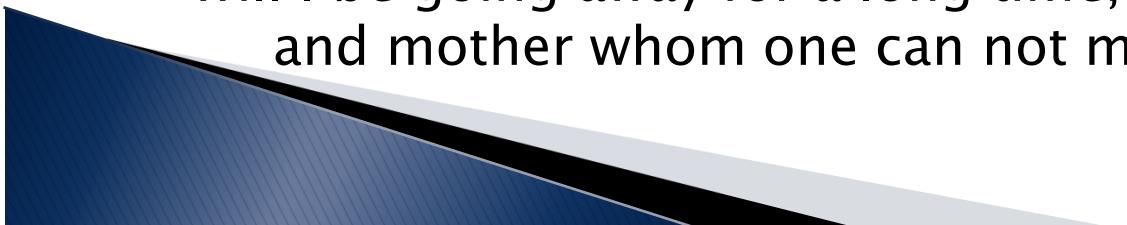
意伎豆 夜 奈何久

*okite ya nagaku*  
leave Q long.time

阿 我 和加礼南

*a ga wakare-namu*  
I SUBJ leave-will

“Will I be going away for a long time, leaving behind my father and mother whom one can not meet twice in one life?”



# Old Japanese language

## Case particles

一 世 爾波

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one-world in

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# Old Japanese language

## Verb endings

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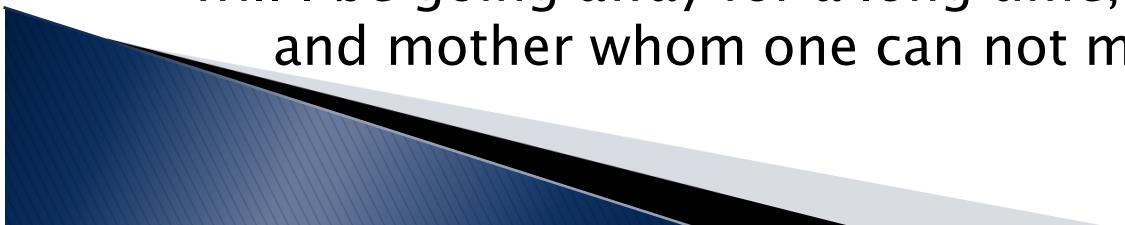
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# Old Japanese language

## Verb final

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one-world in

二 遍

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two-time

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# Old Japanese language

## Relative clauses

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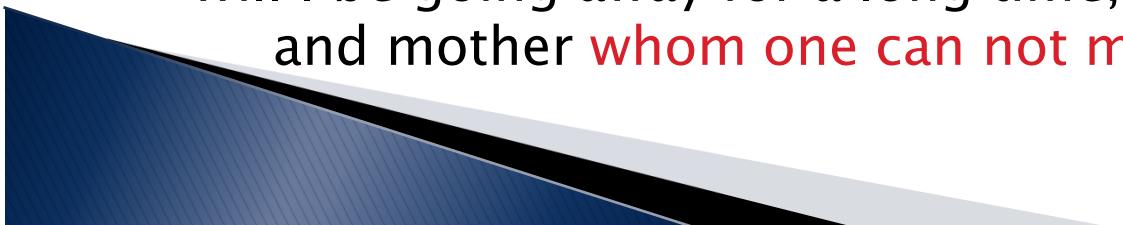
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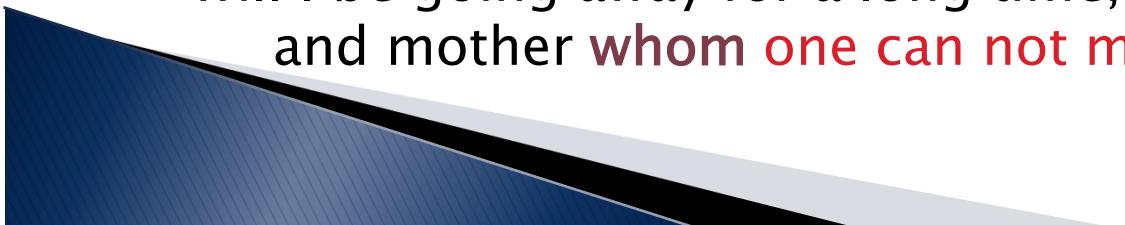
leave Q long.time

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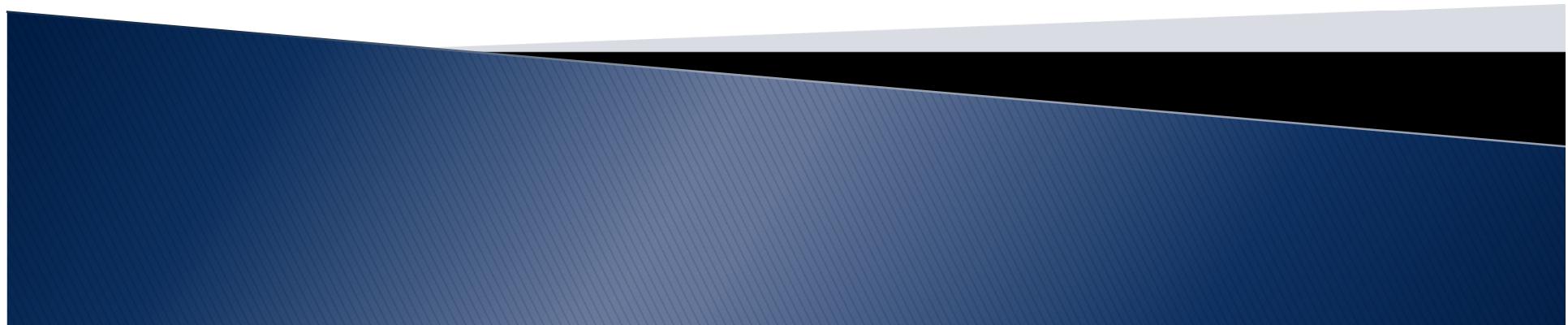
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ご清聴ありがとうございました



ご清聴ありがとうございました

Thank you for your attention

