

**AMERICAN LECTURES ON  
HISTORY OF RELOGIONS, SIXTH  
SERIES-1905-1906, THE  
DEVELOPMENT OF RELIGION IN  
JAPAN**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649222124

American lectures on history of religions, sixth series-1905-1906, The development of religion in Japan by George William Knox

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**GEORGE WILLIAM KNOX**

**AMERICAN LECTURES ON  
HISTORY OF RELOGIONS, SIXTH  
SERIES-1905-1906, THE  
DEVELOPMENT OF  
RELIGION IN JAPAN**



THE AMERICAN LECTURES  
ON THE HISTORY OF RELIGIONS.

---

I. **Buddhism.**—The History and Literature of Buddhism. By T. W. RHYS-DAVIDS, LL.D., Ph.D.

II. **Primitive Religions.**—The Religions of Primitive Peoples. By D. G. BRINTON, A.M., M.D., LL.D., Sc.D.

III. **Israel.**—Religious Thought and Life among the Ancient Hebrews. By the Rev. T. K. CHEYNE, M.A., D.D.

IV. **Israel.**—Religion of Israel to the Exile. By KARL BUDDE, D.D.

V. **Ancient Egyptians.**—The Religion of the Ancient Egyptians. By G. STEINDORFF, Ph.D.

VI. **Religion in Japan.**—The Development of Religion in Japan. By GEORGE W. KNOX, D.D.

VII. **The Veda.**—The Religion of the Veda. By MAURICE BLOOMFIELD, Ph.D.

---

G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS  
NEW YORK AND LONDON

*AMERICAN LECTURES ON THE  
HISTORY OF RELIGIONS*

SIXTH SERIES—1905—1906

---

THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
RELIGION IN JAPAN

BY

GEORGE WILLIAM KNOX, D.D., LL.D.

Professor of the History and Philosophy of Religion in Union Theological  
Seminary, New York, and Sometime Professor of Philosophy  
and Ethics in the Imperial University, Tokyo

UNIV. OF  
CALIFORNIA

G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS  
NEW YORK AND LONDON  
The Knickerbocker Press

1907

124 2201

K6

COPYRIGHT, 1907  
BY  
G. P. PUTNAM'S SONS

TO VINU  
AMARTELIAO

The Knickerbocker Press, New York

To My Sister  
MARY ALICE KNOX

iii

257054





## PREFACE.

---

THE writer has been mindful of the announcement of the Committee that it is formed "for the purpose of instituting popular courses in the History of Religion," and he has attempted, therefore, in brief compass, to set forth for the general public the results of the scientific study of the Religions of Japan. His specific object is to exhibit the continuity and the development of the religious life of the people.

Modern research shows at once the unity and the variety of religious experience in different ages and lands. There is unity, since men's minds respond in like fashion to the influences which are common to humanity. Given similar surroundings,—physical, economic, social, political—and the race reveals its oneness by the similarity of its response. Yet circumstances are never quite alike, and, besides, there is the incalculable factor of individual genius, so that there is a wide diversity in the expression of this response. The two factors must ever be kept in

view, that the diversity be not forgotten in the unity, nor the unity be obscured by the details of the diversity.

Japan offers a field for study which has peculiar advantages. Its history is comparatively brief, and the successive moments in its development are well marked. By the aid of historical criticism, the primitive rites and beliefs can be discerned. These were rapidly supplanted or transformed by the introduction of an alien civilisation—a process which can be traced step by step. The imported system, however, did not remain foreign, but was modified at every point by the genius and needs of the people. Especially instructive is the influence of the rise and development of the feudal system. Finally, in our day, new factors of peculiar potency are introduced, with results which can be understood as yet only in part. Nevertheless, through all, there has been a continuity so marked that "The Development of Religion in Japan" expresses the fundamental fact more truly than does the title suggested in the beginning—"The Religions of Japan."

The lecturer has sought to keep this topic in mind at whatever sacrifice of novelty in details, the result being not so much an exhibition of facts, independently ascertained, as a study in religious development. Philosophy, however, must hold fast to facts, for they