

VIII East Asian Ethnic Religions

A. Shintoism

- 1 Shintoism is a syncretic, ethnic religion blending principles of Buddhism with a local religion of Japan.
- 2 From the 1800's until after WWII, Shintoism was the state religion of Japan.

B. Taoism (or Daoism) and Confucianism

- 1 Taoism is linked to the philosopher Laozi, who lived around the 6th century BCE, the same time as Confucius.
- 2 In his writings, Laozi taught that people should live in harmony with nature and all aspects of their lives.
3. This created feng shui, the practice of organizing living spaces in harmonious ways.

4. Confucius built a system of morals and a way of life for Chinese in areas such as government, religion, education, and philosophy.

5. Confucianism focused more on the worldly rather than heaven & hell.

6. Both Taoism & Confucianism have spread beyond China to the Korean Peninsula, Japan, Southeast Asia, North America, and Europe.