

E. The Origin's of Today's Japan (c.660 BC)

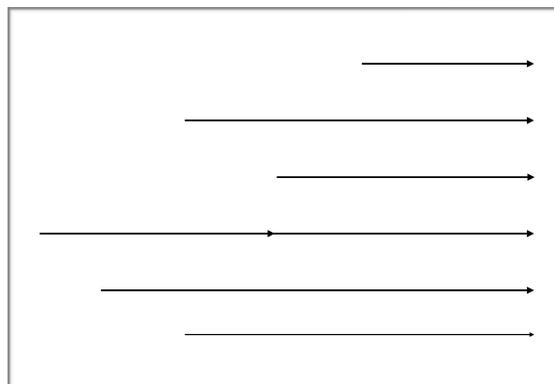
1. Japan's history begins with its religion, called "Shintoism." The Japanese believe that the islands of Japan and the leaders of Japan are the creations of *Japanese* gods or "kami."
2. They believe that the emperors were created by the goddess *Amaterasu*, starting with the first emperor, Jimmu.
3. Historians do not accept the stories that are told about the earliest emperors as being true, but because of the importance of Japan's religion to Japan, we put the first anchor fact of Japanese history where the Japanese believe it goes.
4. Jimmu became the first emperor, according to Japanese tradition, **c.660 BC**.
5. The Japanese belief in the kami and the emperors is so strong is that the same family has ruled Japan its entire history (about 2700 years!).



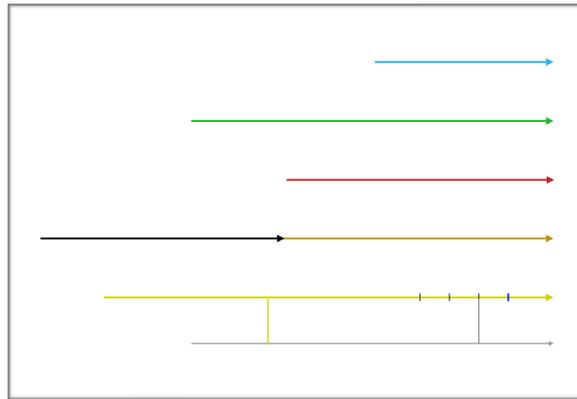
A famous depiction of the first emperor, Jimmu, shown with a bow and a *three-legged* crow—considered a mystical creature in Shintoism.

F. Illustrating Japan's History as Part of World History

1. Because Japan is *not* a cardinal culture, it must be shown on a diagram of World History as an addition to the main diagram of the five cardinal cultures of world history.
2. The best way to do this is to make room for it at the bottom of the diagram, and to add a line there (under China). The line is about the same length as the line for Europe...



- To illustrate further, with the colors of the cultures used before, and with the “tick marks” of Chinese history to help with the spacing, here is a version of the diagram that will help us understand Japanese history more completely. It includes two connecting lines between China and Japan. (See next page.)



- Labeling the anchor facts we have so far, would look like this:

