

PRON' S.V.
THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY IN JAPAN
(1549-1873 YEARS): PERIMPOSSIBILE

The author analyzes the main history points of the formation and propagation of Christianity in Japan(XVI-XIX centuries) by using the materials of literature scholars from USA, UK, Japan, Russia. History of Japan Christianity is quite intricate, extremely interesting and instructive. Now, there are about 1.5 million Christians in this country. All these circumstances are explaining the relevance and novelty of the subject.

Some scholars consider that Spanish are the forerunners of Christianity in Japan("for the first time the Japanese were introduced to Christianity in the XVI century, when in 1548, three Catholic priests arrived together with the Spanish merchants"). Second convinces that this mission belongs to the Portuguese, when in 1543 the Chinese boat (with three Portuguese) had reach the island of Tanegashima. Superiority of the Portuguese in the "opening of Japan" (and in the spread of Christianity) is proved by many monuments of artistic culture.

It seemed that the idea of Christ was popular in Japan, but the power had started struggle and in 1612 it was prohibited by law. By the middle of the XVII century, Christianity in Japan was almost eliminated. The second period of Christianity in Japan was in the middle of the XIX century.

In 1862 the first Catholic Church was built in Lokahami .In 1872 the ban on Christianity canceled. In May 1873(Tokyo) was established an Orthodox Society. Development of Christianity in Japan has experienced a lot of ups and downs.