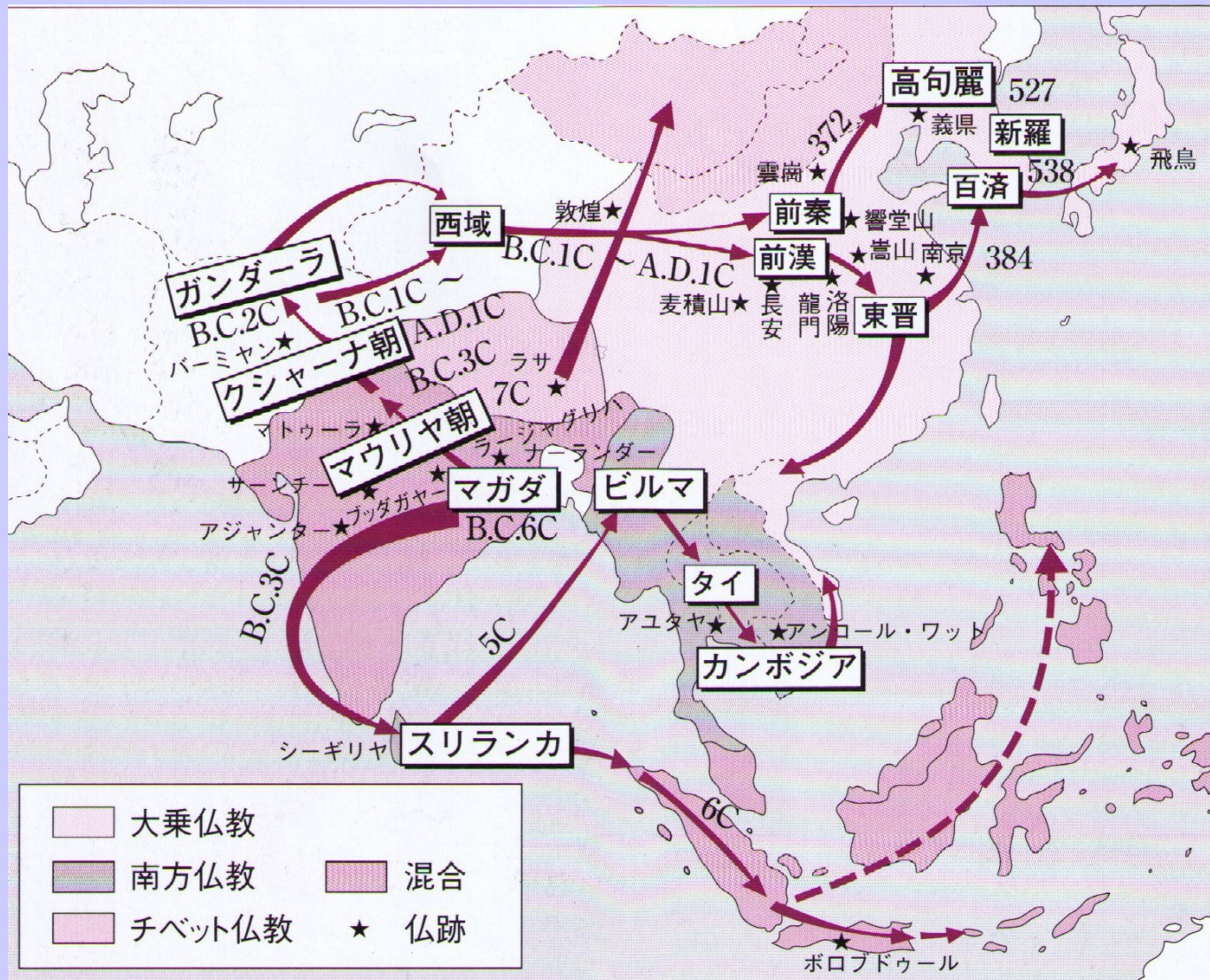


Rout of Buddhism from India to Japan



1. c. AD. Mahayana Buddhism in India

1. - 2. c. Spread to China over *Gandhara & Taklamakan*

Monk Kumārajīva (344 – 413) translated important Sutras into Chinese.

520 Monk Bodhidharma introduced **Zen Buddhism** into China.

538 Spread to Japan over Korea

604 Prince **Shotoku** enacted “17 Articles Constitution”

Monk Xuanzang (602 – 664) traveled to India and translated Mahayana Sutras into Chinese.

Three Stages of Buddhism in Japan

(1) Religion as Holy Ceremonies for the State and the Dynasty

- In Yamato- and Nara-Era
- Buddhism as official state religion

(2) Religion only for the Privileged

- In the Heian-Era
- Buddhism as private religion of the Heian-Nobility
- “*Esoteric Buddhism*” and “*Amitābha* Belief” from China
- A genius monk “*Kūkai*” founded “*Shingon School*”.
- Monk “*Saichō*” founded “*Tendai School*”.

(3) Religion for Everybody

- End of the Heian-Era and the Kamakura Period
- Criticism of “Esoteric Buddhism” in the Heian-Era
- Buddhist teachings in Japanese language
- Religion for Samurai warriors and normal people (farmers)
- “*Shinran*” founded “*True Jōdo School*”.
- “*Dogen*” founded “*Sōtō Zen School*”
- “*Nichiren*” founded “*Nichiren School*”.

What is “Esoteric Buddhism” ?

- “*Vajrayana Buddhism*”, “วัชรยาน”
- Many elements from Hinduism
- Effort to find out “Hidden, true meaning” of Buddha's teachings
- Belief in the possibility to reach “Nirvana” during our life time
“We all are Buddha as we are.”
- Mysterious, and secret methods to reach “Nirvana”
Hard trainings, ceremonies, magical ritual, and even suicide
“Mandala”
- Secret teaching procedure between master and student

Amitābha Buddhism (Byōdō-In; Equality Temple)



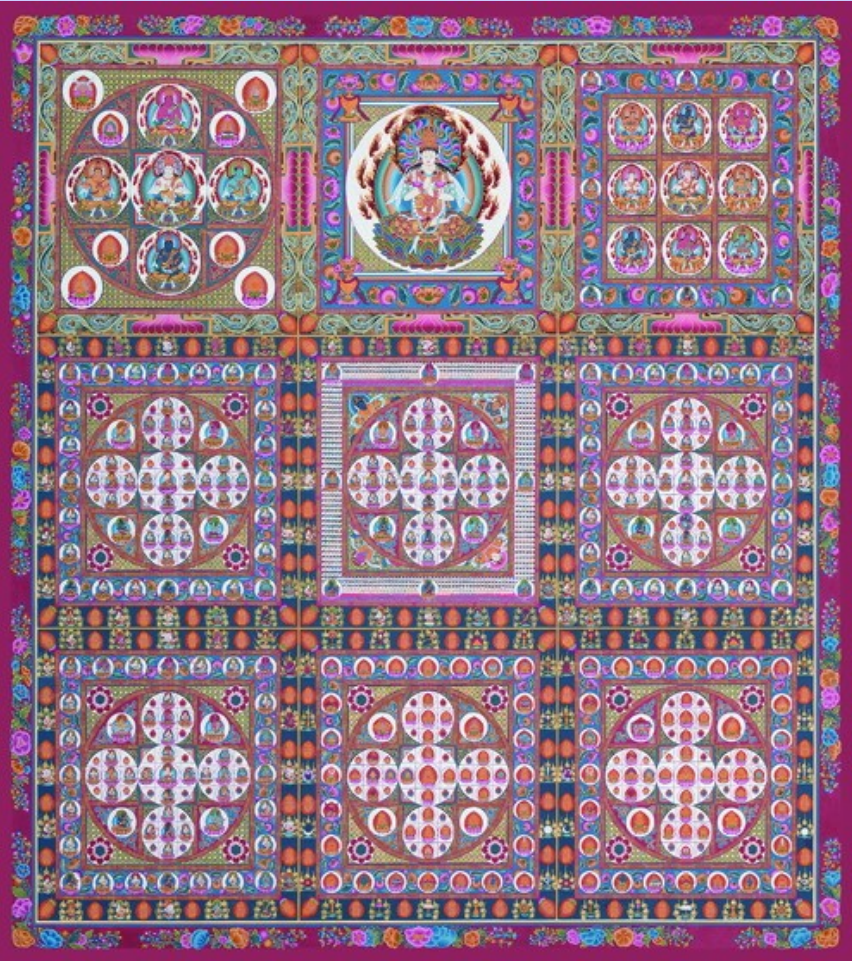
Amitābha Buddha



Amitābha Buddha



Esoteric Buddhism (Chinese/Japanese Mandala)



Esoteric Buddhism (Tibetan Mandala)



Esoteric Buddhism (“Achala”)

