

фактория в Дэсима. Но нельзя не признать, что японцам все-таки повезло, что из всех европейцев посредниками между ними и западом оказались голландцы. Ведь если бы хозяевами фактории в Дэсима стали англичане или русские, японцам пришлось бы пойти на большие уступки, чем те, которых добились голландцы. С другой стороны, если бы информация о западе шла через более отсталые государства, такие, как Испания или Португалия, японцам вряд ли удалось много узнать о достижениях науки. А голландцы, несмотря на падение мощи государства в XVIII веке, располагали в Лейдене крупным медицинским центром. Под их влиянием в Японии развивались такие науки, как медицина, философия, астрономия. Кроме того, был составлен японско-голландский словарь, а в 1789 году даже открыта школа голландского языка. Однако, как я уже говорила, количество и качество сведений, поступавших в Японию, было недостаточным для полноценного развития науки и различных отраслей производства. Отчасти причиной тому была необразованность или недостаточная квалифицированность европейцев, посещавших Японию, отчасти - изоляционистская политика, проводимая правительством, частично - наличие языкового барьера между представителями обеих сторон. Также мне бы хотелось отметить, что все заимствования были хорошо обдуманы и избирательны. Японцы усваивали только то, что соответствовало их убеждениям, сочеталось с древними японскими традициями и не вызывало ломку всей прежней системы. Поэтому заимствования проводились половинчато, трансформировались, попав на японскую почву, подстраивались под местные обычаи и традиции. Во всяком случае, до второй половины XIX века Япония продолжала оставаться аграрной страной, в которой царили феодальные порядки, и наука которой не отражала каких-либо систематизированных знаний.

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WESTERN ENIGMAS

I'd like to speak about some mysterious events in the history of the West. When I was a child history of the medieval Europe attracted me very much. There was something fetching in it. I mean inquisition, witches, magic, devotions and etc. Today I'd like to give you some information about inquisition, crusades and the epoch of Vikings.

First of all some words about the inquisition should be said. The history of the inquisition is the secret history. The church had every reason to hide, ignore or distort all the facts of terrible deeds of the inquisition. The inquisition created atmosphere of fear, terror and uncertainty among the population of the medieval Europe. Very often people preferred to commit suicide instead of being caught by the inquisition. The majority of denunciations were based on fictions or ridiculous suspicions. Doesn't it remind you something in the history of our country?..

And now a few words about crusades. At the end of the 11th century there was a struggle for authority between the church and the state in the Western Europe. In the year of 1095 the Pope Urban the 2nd summoned all the people to go to the East in order to win Jesus' coffin back from the faithless and to clear the Holy Land from them. Forgiveness was promised to everyone who took part in that crusade. And only 3000 from 25000 people survived. But the aim of the 1st crusade was achieved. The aim of the 2nd crusade was to win lost Edessa back. And it wasn't achieved. The 3d crusade was successful and Jerusalem fell. The result of the 4th crusade was downfall of Constantinople.

In the Scandinavian countries the period of the 9th, 10th and 11th centuries is called the Epoch of Vikings. The native land of the Vikings was Northland. There were badlands and bad harvests were very often. The Scandinavian had a very cruel custom. In lean years babies, and 1st of all girls,

were carried away to forest and left there to die. There also existed a blood feud. The Vikings had a great number of slaves. Beauty and youth attracted them only as goods.

A ship played an important role in the life of the Vikings. They thought of it as (of) their house. And sometimes a man was born in a ship and died also there many-many years later.

And in conclusion I'd like to tell you about the mystery of Stonehenge. The best-known stone-circle named Stonehenge dates from between 1900 and 1600 BC. It is made of many upright stones, standing in groups of twos. Every stone weighs about 7 tons. No one can tell how these large stones were moved, or from what places they were brought. Stonehenge is still a mystery.

Archaeologists think that Stonehenge was just a place for religious ceremonies. Now they think it was also a kind of calendar. There is a hypothesis that some other civilization with a much higher level of knowledge coded main principles of life in the henges, and the British and other world nations developed according to these principles.

According to the official information, there are no such constructions anywhere else. And to sum it all up I'd like to say that today I touched only a very small part of all mysterious events in the history of the West. And if I was able to awake your interest in this topic, I'm very glad. And you can try to find more information.

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KIMONO – TRADITIONAL JAPANESE FASHION

Japanese fashion consists of a mixture of both traditional and modern styles. I would like to tell you about traditional Japanese fashion. Kimono is a traditional