

**Location:** According to a 1988 article in the *Christian Science Monitor*, some 5,000 Japanese people remain in China as a result of the Japanese occupation of Manchuria in the 1930s and 1940s.<sup>1</sup> The total of 5,000 does not include transient Japanese businessmen and officials who presently work in China but only those people who have been displaced in China for more than half a century. This figure is expected to lower, as many have taken advantage of the services of *Nii No Kai* (The Rainbow Group) — a Tokyo-based volunteer group who arrange for the war-displaced to be returned to Japan. *Nii No Kai* helped relocate 2,600 Japanese from China between 1972 and 1988. There is no single cohesive Japanese community or village in China. They are scattered throughout towns and villages in what was formerly called Manchuria, now the northeastern Chinese provinces of Heilongjiang, Jilin, and Liaoning.

**Identity:** Despite having adapted to Chinese language and culture, some Japanese in China have stubbornly retained their ethnic identity and have longed to return to their homeland. Yu Kita Otosaka, a mother of four who returned to Japan in 1974, said, “I must not forget how well the Chinese people treated me, though I had fleas and lice all over... but I always wanted to come back to this homeland.”<sup>2</sup>

**Language:** All displaced Japanese were forced to learn Mandarin in order to survive in China. Consequently, many of their

children are now unable to speak Japanese.

**History:** As a result of the *hakkio-ichiu* (the whole world under one roof) policy, 300,000 Japanese troops invaded northeast China in 1932.<sup>3</sup> Until 1945 they occupied a vast territory, which they renamed Manchkuo. Their rule was a reign of terror. “Undisciplined soldiers looted, raped and killed as they desired. Thousands of Chinese girls were gang raped, then killed for sport.... The only safe place was with foreigners. When soldiers were about, mission schools, hospitals and homes were jammed with Chinese women and girls.”<sup>4</sup> Due to the sudden defeat and withdrawal of the Japanese forces, many orphans and women were left behind in China.

**Customs:** After the war ended, most of the Japanese women who were

left behind married Chinese men and settled down to raise children, with many of their traditional Japanese customs being abandoned.

**Religion:** The belief of most Japanese in China is a mixture of Mahayana Buddhism and ancestor worship. Many others, because of the influence of Communism, are now atheists.

**Christianity:** There are no known Christians among the Japanese in China, although the recent revival among the Han Chinese in Heilongjiang Province may have touched the lives of some displaced Japanese. Living in Chinese communities for several decades, at least one-fourth of the Japanese in China are estimated to have heard the gospel. The Japanese Bible is unavailable in China, but most can no longer read the Japanese script anyway.



**Population in China:**  
 5,000 (1988)  
 5,700 (2000)  
 6,580 (2010)  
**Location:**  
 Heilongjiang, Jilin, Liaoning  
**Religion:** Buddhism  
**Christians:** None Known

## Overview of the Japanese

**Countries:** Japan, Brazil, USA, Peru, Canada, Mexico, Argentina, Singapore, Germany, Paraguay, United Kingdom, Taiwan, Dominican Republic, United Arab Emirates, Panama, Mongolia, Philippines, and Thailand

**Pronunciation:** “Nee-hong-o”

**Other Names:** Nihongo

**Population:** 5,000 (1988 *Christian Science Monitor*); 125,182,000 in Japan (1993); 1,200,000 in Brazil (1993); 804,000 in USA (1993); 109,000 in Peru; 43,000 in Canada; 35,000 in Mexico<sup>5</sup>

**Location:**  
*Heilongjiang: Jilin; Liaoning*

**Status:** Unidentified; Probably included under Han Chinese

**Language:**  
 Sino-Tibetan, Japanese

**Dialects:** 0

**Religion:** Mahayana Buddhism, No Religion, Ancestor Worship

**Christians:** None known

**Scripture:** Bible 1883; New Testament 1879; Portions 1837

**Jesus film:** Available

**Gospel Recordings:**  
 Japanese #0096

**Christian Broadcasting:**  
 None in China

**ROPAL code:** JPN00



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