

Japanese Media Echoing Communist Anti-Religious View of Unification Church

Knut Holdhus
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Kevin M. Doak, author and professor of East Asian languages and cultures at Georgetown University, Washington DC, says that the Japanese communists are doing their best to exploit the Abe assassination to "smear the former [Unification Church](#) and the LDP", the governing party.



Doak, whose current focus of research is questions connected to politics and religion in modern Japan, was interviewed by the Tokyo-based newspaper Sekai Nippo in an article published on 10th May 2023.

In the interview by the paper's Yosuke Yamazaki the professor said,

"The communists are trying to suppress all religions, especially the former [Unification Church](#). This is because the old [Unification Church](#), which originated in Korea, is anti-communist. Many members of the LDP are also anti-communists.

The purpose of the campaign by the JCP [Japanese Communist Party] is to extinguish anti-communism. If they annihilate the former [Unification Church](#), they will annihilate any other religion, just like Communist China.

This is because the communist state considers religion to be an obstacle in its quest to control everything."

In the article, professor Doak, who is often interviewed by Japanese newspapers and journals, points out that Japanese media seems to echo "the thinking of the brutal people in the Chinese government that religion is outdated and superstitious and should be suppressed, and that the people would be freer if they only listened to the state."

A media campaign largely orchestrated by leftwing forces opposed to the former [Unification Church](#), portrays according to Doak, religion as dangerous. By pointing out the many "ties" between religion and politicians, the anti-religious activists seem to suggest a view much favoured by the Chinese Communist Party, that lawmakers should have nothing to do with religion.

The American academic is puzzled by a Japanese media uncritically embracing totalitarian China's view on religion. He calls for "a positive press that religion is not a destructive, anti-social phenomenon, but something that makes society healthier."

Kevin M. Doak has served as co-editor of The Journal of Japanese Studies and on the executive board of the Society for Japanese Studies.

Featured image above: Dr. Kevin M. Doak, author and professor of East Asian languages and cultures at Georgetown University, Washington DC. Published with permission.



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In a Nutshell

The Unification Church

Name: Unification Church

Founded: 1954 in Seoul, South Korea

Founder: Sun Myung Moon (1920-2012)

Faith: The Unification Principles, a series of revelations Father Moon received from 1935 to 1944.

See: [Brief about the teachings](#). See: [In a nutshell](#)

Goal: A Kingdom of Heaven on Earth, a harmonious world family, where everyone can experience peace, security, freedom and love.

Distribution: Largest in South Korea and Japan, but widespread throughout the free, democratic world. Representatives to 120 countries already in 1975

Europe: First representative here in 1965.

Discontinued: 1997. The Family Federation for World Peace and Unification took over many of the tasks of the Unifications Church.

Frequently asked questions: See: [Faq](#)

History:

The Unification Church was **founded** by **Sun Myung Moon** (1920-2012) and a handful of followers in 1954 in Seoul as the "Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity".

It was established based on **Sun Myung Moon's vision** of creating a big global family under **God**, where all people become like brothers and sisters in a world of freedom, peace, happiness and love.

The Unification Church was dissolved 43 years later, in 1997. The **Family Federation for World Peace and Unification** took over many of the Unification Church's functions.

Father Moon first turned to the Christian world, which he believed should have a central role in the work to realize such a vision. Large parts of Christian teachings coincide with his own message. At that time, he explained what he was teaching, by frequent use of Bible quotations. Many Christians then also began to follow **Father Moon**.



The movement began to be called the "Unification Church", which is far easier to say than the original long name. **Sun Myung Moon** himself also began to use this name, although he never intended to establish any church.

Those who opposed him, eventually began to call the movement a sect. However, a narrow-minded, introverted sect that believes it has a monopoly on the truth, is about as far from his vision as you can get.

Because the leaders of the Christian world in Korea were not open to his message and did not cooperate with him, he decided to create his own organization.



The Unification Church was the first of several organizations that came into being as the movement grew

The Unification Church was the first of several organizations that came into being as the movement grew



and became what we call the Unification Movement, of which the Unification Church was the

central part.

However, the Unification Church was discontinued in 1997. Then **Father Moon** declared that it had served its purpose. He claimed that the age of the different religions was over, and that we therefore no longer needed a movement that had been founded for the unification of world christianity.

The required foundation had been laid for a much larger and universal movement more in line with his original **vision**. Therefore, from the end of the 90s, he started to set up many peace organizations. The **Family Federation for World Peace and Unification** took over many of the tasks of the Unification Church. In many countries, e.g. in the USA and Japan, people continued, often for purely practical reasons, to use the name Unification Church long after 1997.

The **Family Federation** sees the family as the key to world peace. If there is harmony in the family, there can also be harmony in society and the world in general.

So the name, and also the times we live in, have changed, but the goal is still the same: to create a big global family under **God**, where all people become like brothers and sisters in a world of freedom, peace, happiness and love.



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