

**THE TRIUMPH OF PERSEVERANCE:  
*KAKURE KIRISHITAN* IN JAPAN AND ITS INSCRIPTION ON  
THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST**

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**Abstract:** For about two and a half centuries, a Japanese group from the Nagasaki and Amakusa regions maintained its Catholic faith and local syncretism in the face of national prohibition and risk of death. This article seeks to identify the historical trajectory of the process whereby the Hidden Christian sites became inscribed as World Heritage Sites. Proceeding chronologically, this paper begins with the first phase of Catholic spread until the ban (1539–1614), then covers the prohibition phase (1614–1873), and concludes with the lifting of prohibition and the inscription (1873–2018).

**Keywords:** World Heritage Site, *Kakure Kirishitan*, Japan, Nagasaki, Christianity.

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