Diagrams on schisms and influence relationships among sectarian Shintō groups and Shintō-derived new religions

The similarities in the doctrines and activities among sectarian Shinto and Shintō-derived new religions become easier to comprehend when we understand the periodic schisms and influence relationships that exist among them. However, we must exercise caution as broadly speaking two patterns exist. The first pattern is a product of the differences in the administration of religions in the prewar and postwar periods. In the prewar period, more than a few small Shinto congregations found it convenient to place themselves under the umbrella of one of the thirteen major sects already officially sanctioned as a religious corporation given the strict conditions that obtained for being recognized as a Shinto sect. Many of these small churches became independent religious corporations immediately after the war ended when it became easier to obtain such status. The second pattern pertains to the emergence of extremely influential sects. Certain sects have produced extremely large numbers of offshoots or groups influenced by them. This pattern may be observed throughout both the prewar and postwar periods, with the largest numbers of such breakaway groups having been produced by Tenrikyō, Ōmotokyō, and Sekai-kyūsei-kyō. Also, many new religions were formed under the strong influence of Tenrikyō and Ōmotokyō, even if they did not split from those groups directly.

The diagrams of schisms and influence relationships show those sects that became independent from Ontakekyō, Shintō-taikyō, and Fusōkyō—three of thirteen officially recognized prewar sects—after the war as well as those sects (including those groups with influence relationships) that have broken away from Tenrikyō, Ōmotokyō, and Sekai-kyūsei-kyō. While there also are a few instances of groups that splintered from the seven other recognized prewar sects, these cases have been omitted. Also, while Tenrikyō was one of the thirteen recognized prewar sects, its characteristics as a sect and the process of sectarian splintering are of a different nature from what is seen in the case of Ontakekyō or the other sects. To show every single splinter group and the like would be too complicated, so the diagram shows mainly those groups that are mentioned in the *Encyclopedia of Shintō*. The diagram is based on a similar figure titled, "Schisms and influence relationships," that appears in Inoue Nobutaka, et al., eds., *Shin-shukyō-jiten* (Dictionary of new religions).

* Solid lines indicate sectarian divisions or indepandence ; Dotted lines indicate influential relationships.

[Examples of separation from the thirteen sects of Shinto before WW $\rm II$]

