

{Inscribed on the World Heritage List in July 2018.}



World Cultural Heritage
Hidden Christian Sites
in the Nagasaki Region

1

Remains of Hara Castle

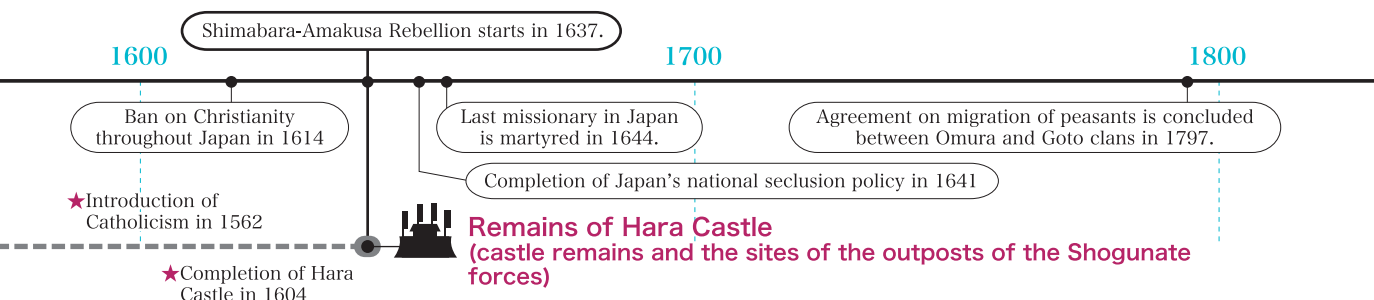
Guide Map



Significance of Remains of Hara Castle

I. Beginning of the absence of missionaries and hiding of Christians

II. Hidden Christians' endeavours to continue their religious faith



Position in 'Hidden Christian Sites in the Nagasaki Region'

- ◎ Remains of Hara Castle bear testimony to what triggered the hiding of Japanese Christians.
- ◎ The remains are the site of the main battlefield during the Shimabara-Amakusa Rebellion, after which the remaining Christians had to find ways out to continue their religious faith by themselves.

《Basic information》

Designation title as cultural assets	Remains of Hara Castle
Designation category	Historic Site designated by the national government
Year of designation	1938
Location	Minamiarimacho, Minamishimabara City, Nagasaki Prefecture

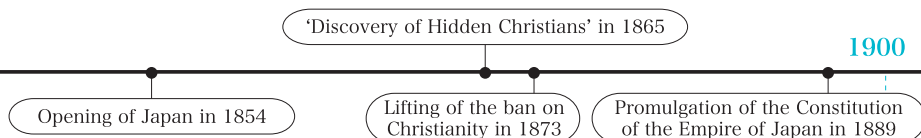
Manners when visiting the castle remains

Please follow proper manners while you enjoy exploring around.

- When you walk in the street, please do not take up the entire street and always walk within the shoulders of the roads.
- Please do not smoke in *Honmaru* area. In other areas, please do not smoke and walk at the same time or litter cigarette butts.
- Since there are no public trash cans, please take home any trash you may have.
- Please use designated restrooms only.

III. Hidden Christians' endeavours to maintain their religious communities

IV. The transitional phase triggered by contact with missionaries, leading to the end of Hidden Christians' hiding



History

- ◎ Arima, the Christian feudal lord, completed Hara Castle in 1604.
- ◎ The Arima clan moved out of Shimabara, and a new lord named Matsukura constructed another castle. Therefore, Hara Castle was abandoned in 1618.
- ◎ Peasants in the Arima domain and in Amakusa area on the opposite shore continued the Christian faith even after the Christian feudal lords left these areas and the ban on Christianity was implemented.
- ◎ Suffering from excessive taxes imposed by the Matsukura clan, as well as famine, in 1637 Japanese Christians in Arima and Amakusa revolted against their lords, and they were besieged together in the abandoned Hara Castle.
- ◎ This event is known as the Shimabara-Amakusa Rebellion.
- ◎ Almost all of some twenty thousand rebels were killed in the castle by the Shogunate forces. The stone walls and other structures in the castle were completely demolished after its capture, for fear that the castle could be used for another rebellion.
- ◎ Recent archaeological excavation at the castle remains has revealed not only the sites of temporary huts, but also countless human bones and Christian devotional tools including crucifixes and medals.
- ◎ Such archaeological evidence attests to the fact that the peasants in Arima and Amakusa maintained their Christian faith in an organised manner even after Christianity had been prohibited.
- ◎ As a result of the rebellion, the Shogunate regarded Christianity as a major threat to its rule over Japan. In 1639, it prohibited all visits by Portuguese ships that could possibly be used to smuggle missionaries into Japan, and established Japan's national seclusion policy, called *Sakoku*. The last missionary was martyred in 1644, and the remaining Hidden Christians had no other choice but to maintain their faith by themselves.

Wide-area map around Remains of Hara Castle

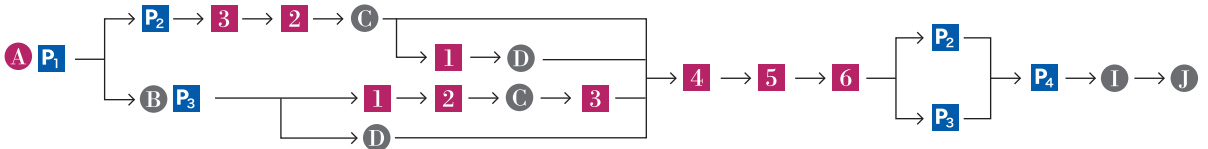


Enlarged map of Remains of Hara Castle

6 Main enclosure (*Honmaru*)



<Recommended route>



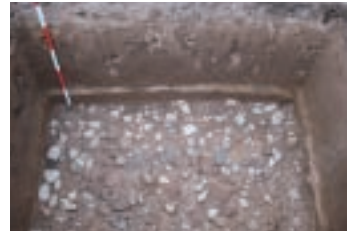
.....	Boundaries of the component		Rest space
-----	On foot		Exhibition
—————	On foot or by car, etc.		Shop
	Important spot		Restaurant
	Guidance facility		Hot spa
	Other spot		Remains of castle building
	Parking space		Viewing spot
	Toilets		Tomb or graveyard
	Guide and information office		Monument, etc.

Introduction to important spots in Remains of Hara Castle

1 Oteguchi gate



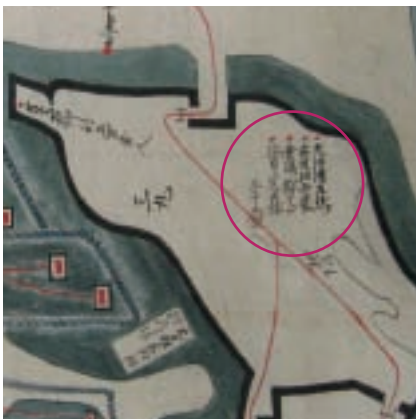
A picture of battles in Shimabara, Hizen Province (Housed in Hosa Library of Nagoya City Museum.)



①

Oteguchi was the main entrance of the castle. Archaeological excavation revealed remains of pebbled passageways. Bullets and human bones were also unearthed, indicating that battles took place here during the Shimabara-Amakusa Rebellion.

2 Third enclosure (*Sannomaru*)



An image of Hara Castle in Arima-ura, Takaki District, Hizen Province (Housed in the Nagasaki Museum of History and Culture.)



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The *Sannomaru* is located in the north part of the castle site. According to old records, this enclosure was guarded by 3,500 people from Futsu and Dozaki Villages at the time of the rebellion. Within this enclosure, there is a memorial monument ② intended to soothe the soul of Itakura Shigemasa, an envoy of the Tokugawa Shogunate sent to Hara Castle to put down the rebellion. He was killed during the rebellion.

3 Sites of the Shogunate forces' outposts



There were several outposts used to attack the castle during the rebellion. From north to south, the forces of the Hosokawa, Tachibana, Matsukura, Arima, Nabeshima, Terasawa and Kuroda clans were stationed.

4 Ninomarudemaru enclosure

※As the site of Ninomarudemaru is private property, please view it from the neighbouring viewing spot.



A picture scroll of the Shimabara-Amakusa Rebellion (Housed in Namban Bunkakan.)



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The Ninomarudemaru enclosure is the hill that extends to the west from the castle. It was the front line of the battles where the besieged rebels on the higher ground and the Shogunate forces on the lower ground confronted most aggressively. The

Shogunate forces built fences to defend against attacks from the rebel group besieged in the castle. This is also where the Shogunate forces invaded the castle for the final full-scale attack.

5 Second enclosure (*Ninomaru*)



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The *Ninomaru*, located between the first **6** and third **2** enclosures, had the larger area than any other enclosures of the castle. According to an old document, 5,700 peasants were besieged and their houses were densely located here during the rebellion.

Images of Historic Battles and Castles (Housed in the National Archive of Japan.)

6 Main enclosure (*Honmaru*)



The *Honmaru* was the most important part of the castle and it was surrounded by stone walls, whose technique started to be introduced on a full scale in Japan around the end of the 16th century. After the rebellion was suppressed, the Shogunate forces issued an order to demolish the castle, according to historical records. Archaeological excavation has revealed many traces of destruction of the stone walls.

7 Site of the main gate of the *Honmaru*

※Casts of unearthed human bones and devotional items were made during archaeological excavation to create the replicas now exhibited in the Arima Christian Heritage Museum (A).



Human bones revealed in archaeological excavation
(a picture taken during the excavation process)

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The main gate was the first entrance to the *Honmaru*. Archaeological excavation in this area confirmed many human remains buried under the stone walls destroyed by the Shogunate forces. The human bones were identified to be those of adult men, women and children, demonstrating that local peasants took part in the rebellion with their entire family.

8 Site of Uzumi-mon gate



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This gate was the second entrance to the *Honmaru* but thoroughly destroyed after the rebellion. Its remains here are exhibited in a manner to help visitors understand the three stages of the destruction.

- The first stage was when large stones from the stone walls were dropped to the ground.
- The second stage was when smaller stone rubble and pebbles used to support those large stones were dropped on the first stage.
- The third stage shows when the site was covered with soil from the surrounding land.

9 Sites of semi-underground huts built by besieged rebels



Remains of semi-underground huts (a picture taken during the excavation process)



① Present state of the site



Semi-underground huts depicted in 'Shimabara Jinzu Byobu' (Housed in the Asakura City Akizuki Museum.)

Archaeological excavation in this western part of the *Honmaru* confirmed the remains of makeshift semi-underground huts built by the rebel group during the rebellion. Charcoal, human bones and Christian devotional items were also discovered here. Those semi-underground huts are depicted in a picture 'Shimabara Jinzu Byobu'.

10 Site of Honmaru-mon gate



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Honmaru-mon gate was the final gate leading to the main enclosure (*Honmaru*), where Masuda Shiro, the general commander of the rebels, settled during the rebellion according to an old record. The *Honmaru* was surrounded by stone walls, whose technique started to be introduced on a full scale in Japan around the end of the 16th century. Archaeological excavation has revealed that the upper part of the stone walls was destroyed after the rebellion.

11 Site of the tower



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A tower of about three stories is thought to have stood within the main enclosure as shown in old pictorial maps describing scenes of the rebellion. Excavation surveys have uncovered a part where a stone wall protruded in a rectangular shape on the south side of the main enclosure, and this location is considered to be the site of the tower.

12 Site of the chapel



A building marked with a cross in a painting of the Shimabara-Amakusa Rebellion (*'Harajo Koizu'*, housed in the Historiographical Institute of the University of Tokyo.)



Some historical records state that the rebel group built a chapel at the *Honmaru* and delivered Christian sermons in it during the siege. Archaeological excavation in the northern part of the *Honmaru* revealed the remains of a building, as well as Christian devotional tools such as medals and crucifixes. Although it is difficult to identify the specific location due to the complete destruction of the castle by the Shogunate forces, it is possible that the chapel stood around here within the *Honmaru*.



Christian devotional tools found in archaeological excavation (medals housed in the Arima Christian Heritage Museum)



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Crucifixes made of materials that had been used for bullets by the besieged Christians

13 Display of destruction state of stone walls



On the stone walls in the northern part of the *Honmaru*, one can see traces of destruction after the rebellion. The destroyed stone walls are exhibited on the site as they were so that visitors can visually understand the destruction state.

①

Comparison of the related area: past and present

Past



'Harajo Koizu', housed in the Historiographical Institute of the University of Tokyo.

Present



Introduction to other spots associated with Remains of Hara Castle

A Arima Christian Heritage Museum



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- Address: 1395 Otsu, Minamiarimacho, Minamishimabara City, Nagasaki Prefecture TEL: +81-957-85-3217
- Opening hours: 9:00 to 18:00
- Closed on Thursday and from 29th Dec. to 3rd Jan.
- Entry fee:
 Individuals: adults (300 JPY), high school students (200 JPY), elementary/junior high school students (150 JPY), Group tours (20 or more people): adults (250 JPY), high school students (150 JPY), elementary/junior high school students (100 JPY)
 ▼For those who have a physically disabled certificate or similar document:
 Individuals: adults (150 JPY), high school students (100 JPY), elementary/junior high school students (70 JPY)
 Group tours (20 or more people): adults (120 JPY), high school students (70 JPY), elementary/junior high school students (50 JPY)

This museum introduces the history of Hinoe Castle and Hara Castle. The history comprises two parts: 1) the history's blessedly bright side—the glory of the Christian feudal lord, Arima clan, and the story of Tensho Embassy sent to Rome; and 2) the dark side—the suppression of Christians and the Shimabara–Amakusa Rebellion. This museum displays a wide range of exhibits, including Chinese ceramics discovered in Remains of Hinoe Castle, Christian devotional tools and replicas of human bones unearthed in Remains of Hara Castle.

B Harajo Spa Masago



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If you visit Remains of Hara Castle by vehicle, please park your vehicle in the parking lot of this facility.

The facility provides a number of services including a gift shop offering such goods as specialty products of Minamishimabara City, a large hot spring bath providing a sweeping view of Mt. Unzen and Amakusa Islands, and a restaurant.

- Address: 133 Tei, Minamiarimacho, Minamishimabara City, Nagasaki Prefecture TEL: +81-957-85-3155
- U R L / <http://www.harajoumasago.jp/>

C Monument commemorating Itakura Shigemasa



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Itakura Shigemasa was sent to put down the Shimabara–Amakusa Rebellion as a general commander of the Tokugawa Shogunate forces, but he was killed in the attack on Hara Castle in 1638. Although his memorial monument was created in 1681, the Shogunate did not give permission for the installation of the monument. It was eventually set up in the current location in 1797.

D Viewing spot facing Yushima Island



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Leaders of the rebels often huddled on Yushima Island in the Ariake Sea located in the east of Remains of Hara Castle. Therefore the island is also called Dangojima, literally meaning the island of huddles. In such huddles, Masuda Shiro was elected general commander for Shimabara–Amakusa Rebellion according to historic documents. A monument of the huddles was built on the top of the island. Two Christian tombs also remain on the island.

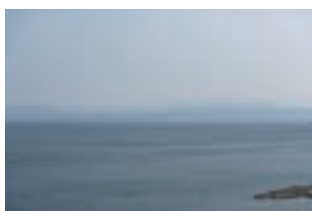
E Honekami Jizo statue



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In 1766, about 130 years after the Shimabara-Amakusa Rebellion, the chief Buddhist priest of Ganshinji Temple in Kitaarima Village and local representatives collected remains of the dead which had been left at Remains of Hara Castle, regardless of whether they were enemies or allies, and erected the *Honekami Jizo* statue to soothe their souls.

F Viewing spot facing Amakusa



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From the main enclosure you can see the Amakusa Islands in the east to the south. Peasants in Amakusa crossed the sea to participate in the Shimabara-Amakusa Rebellion.

G Monument commemorating Amakusa Shiro



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Amakusa Shiro, also known as Masuda Shiro, led the rebels as general commander. His parents were from Oyano of Amakusa, and his father, Masuda Jinbei, was a vassal of Konishi Yukinaga, one of Christian feudal lords. The stone now used as this monument was once a part of stone wall in a private house in Nishiariie of Minamishimabara City. It was moved to Remains of Hara Castle, closely associated with him.

H Tombstone of Saburi Kyunojo



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Saburi Kyunojo, a vassal of the Ikeda clan (the feudal lords of present-day Tottori Prefecture), was sent to Hara Castle to suppress the rebellion. When the Shogunate forces launched an all-out attack, Saburi took the lead in invading the castle; however, he finally died at the *Honmaru* (main enclosure). Legend says that at the moment of his death, Saburi took his sword to inscribe his name and the date on a stone he found by his side. That stone is now his tombstone.

I Monument built by Suzuki Shigenari



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This monument was built ten years after the Shimabara-Amakusa Rebellion. The founder is Suzuki Shigenari, the first magistrate of Amakusa, which became demesne of the Shogunate after the rebellion. He took part in the rebellion for the shogunate. According to historic documents, a meeting took place during the rebellion near the site of the monument between representatives of rebels and Shogunate forces.

J Viewing spot facing the *Honmaru*



The *Honmaru* is on a coastal terrace—a 30-meter high sea cliff. The castle's location bespeaks the Arima clan's intention of effectively using the sea for military purposes.



※This image is for illustrative purposes only.

Remains of Hinoe Castle



Ⓜ

Hinoe Castle was built on a hill utilising natural terrain, a typical style in Japan. It was used as residence by the Arima clan. Hinoe Castle is a representative site that played an important role in the interchange between the Christian Lord Arima and European missionaries, and it therefore had a close relationship with the Christian communities formed in the Arima domain.

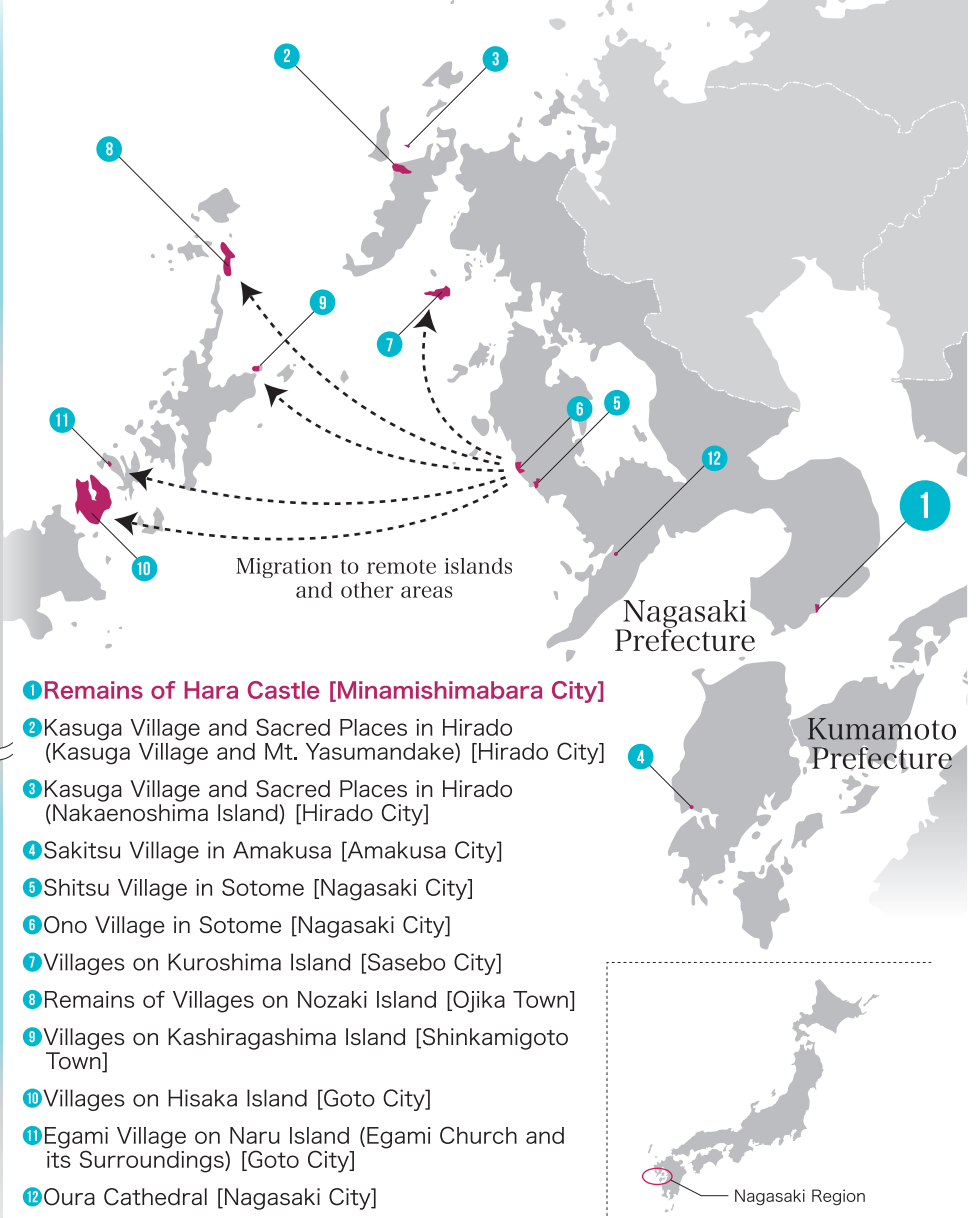
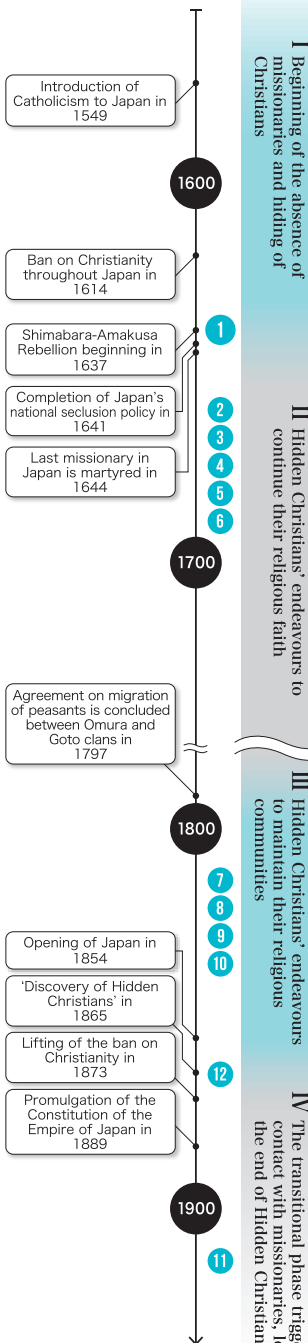
《Basic information》

Designation title as cultural assets	Remains of Hinoe Castle
Designation category	Historic Site designated by the national government
Year of designation	1982
Location	Kitaarimacho, Minamishimabara City, Nagasaki Prefecture



※This image is for illustrative purposes only.

12 components of 'Hidden Christian Sites in the Nagasaki Region'



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Issued by Prefectures of Nagasaki and Kumamoto, Cities of Nagasaki, Sasebo, Hirado, Goto, Minamishimabara and Amakusa, and Towns of Ojika and Shinkamigoto

Hidden Christian Sites Search <http://kirishitan.jp/en>

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United Nations
 Educational, Scientific and
 Cultural Organization



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