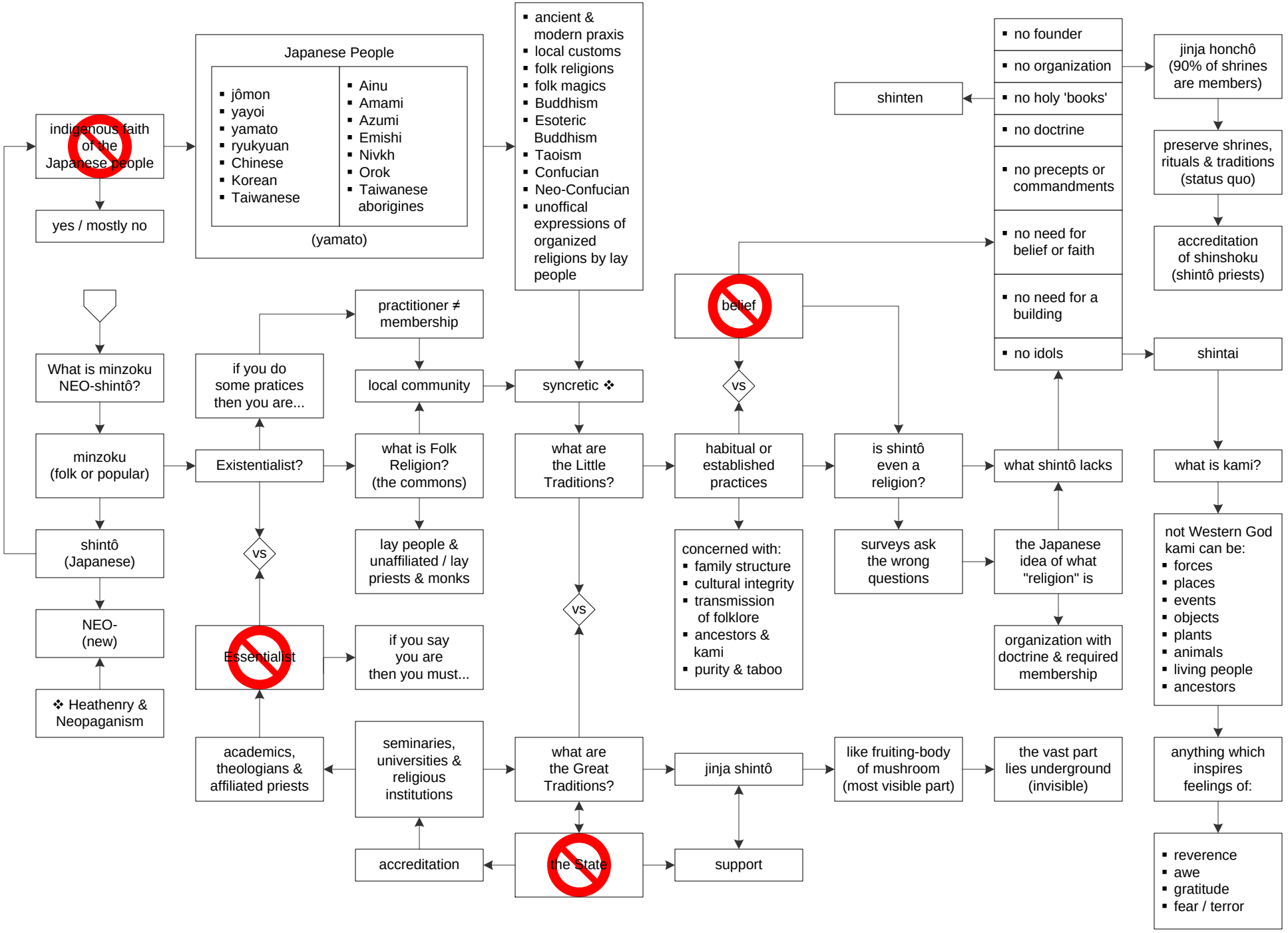
indigenous faith of the Japanese people
yes / mostly no
Japanese People
jômon
yayoi
yamato
ryukyuan
Chinese
Korean
Taiwanese
Ainu
Amami
Azumi
Emishi
Nivkh
Orok
Taiwanese aborigines
(yamato)
ancient & modern praxis
local customs
folk religions
folk magics
Buddhism
Esoteric Buddhism
Taoism
Confucian
Neo-Confucian
unoffical expressions of organized religions by lay people
no founder
no organization
no holy 'books'
no doctrine
no precepts or commandments
no need for belief or faith
no need for a building
no idols
shinten
jinja honchô (90% of shrines are members)
preserve shrines, rituals & traditions (status quo)
accreditation of shinshoku (shintô priests)
shintai
what is kami?
not Western God
kami can be:
forces
places
events
objects
plants
animals
living people
ancestors
anything which inspires feelings of:
reverence
awe
gratitude
fear / terror
What is minzoku NEO-shintô?
minzoku (folk or popular)
shintô (Japanese)
NEO- (new)
❖ Heathenry & Neopaganism
if you do some pratices then you are...
Existentialist?
vs
Essentialist
if you say you are then you must...
practitioner ≠ membership
local community
what is Folk Religion? (the commons)
lay people & unaffiliated / lay priests & monks
belief
vs
habitual or established practices
concerned with:
family structure
cultural integrity
transmission of folklore
ancestors & kami
purity & taboo
is shintô even a religion?
surveys ask the wrong questions
what shintô lacks
the Japanese idea of what "religion" is
organization with doctrine & required membership
syncretic ❖
what are the Little Traditions?
vs
what are the Great Traditions?
jinja shintô
like fruiting-body of mushroom (most visible part)
the vast part lies underground (invisible)
academics, theologians & affiliated priests
seminaries, universities & religious institutions
accreditation
the State
support