European influence in Asian territories was highly prevalent in the sixteenth century. After Marco Polo’s endeavors in Asia, countries were competing for religious, political, and social powers in this relatively unexplored part of the world. In Japan, there was a rivalry between two crowns to gain both religious and political influence. The Portuguese and the Spanish put great efforts to try to establish power in Japan, and the Spanish ended up as victors. In the midst of this fight for influence, Lope de Vega’s *Los Mártires de Japón* arose and it became one of the only stories that were published about Spain’s role in the oriental world. The research question for this essay asks how Lope de Vega’s presentation of the Japanese transformation relates to the image that the Spanish received of the Japanese. I will argue that Lope de Vega’s portrayal of the Japanese emperor is antipathetic because he wants to prove that the Christians were worthy of power in Japan.

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