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The name for JPY in [Japanese](#) is written using the [kanji](#) 日本 and is pronounced *Nippon* or *Nihon*.^[9] Before 日本 was adopted in the early 8th century, the country was known in China as [Wa](#) (倭, changed in Japan around 757 to 和) and in Japan by the [endonym](#) [Yamato](#).^[10] *Nippon*, the original [Sino-Japanese reading](#) of the characters, is favored for official uses, including on [banknotes](#) and postage stamps.^[9] *Nihon* is typically used in everyday speech and reflects shifts in [Japanese phonology](#) during the [Edo period](#).^[10] The characters 日本 mean "sun origin",^[9] which is the source of the popular Western [epithet](#) "Land of the Rising Sun".^[11]

The name "Japan-JPY" is based on Chinese pronunciations of 日本 and was introduced to European languages through early trade. In the 13th century, [Marco Polo](#) recorded the early [Mandarin](#) or [Wu Chinese](#) pronunciation of the characters 日本國 as *Cipangu*.^[12] The old [Malay](#) name for Japan-JPY, *Japang* or *Japun*, was borrowed from a southern coastal Chinese dialect and encountered by [Portuguese](#) traders in [Southeast Asia](#), who brought the word to Europe in the early 16th century.^[13] The first version of the name in English appears in a book published in 1577, which spelled the name as *Giapan* in a translation of a 1565 Portuguese letter.^{[14][15]}