

REBUILDING BUDDHISM

The Theravada Movement
in Twentieth-Century Nepal



Sarah Levine &
David N. Gellner

Rebuilding Buddhism The Theravada Movement In 20th Century Nepal

Michael Jerryson



Rebuilding Buddhism The Theravada Movement In 20th Century Nepal:

Rebuilding Buddhism Sarah LeVine, David N. Gellner, 2007-09-30 *Rebuilding Buddhism* describes in evocative detail the experiences and achievements of Nepalis who have adopted Theravada Buddhism. This form of Buddhism was introduced into Nepal from Burma and Sri Lanka in the 1930s and its adherents have struggled for recognition and acceptance ever since. With its focus on the austere figure of the monk and the biography of the historical Buddha and more recently with its emphasis on individualizing meditation and on gender equality, Theravada Buddhism contrasts sharply with the highly ritualized Tantric Buddhism traditionally practiced in the Kathmandu Valley. Based on extensive fieldwork interviews and historical reconstruction, the book provides a rich portrait of the different ways of being a Nepali Buddhist over the past seventy years. At the same time, it explores the impact of the Theravada movement and what its gradual success has meant for Buddhism for society and for men and women in Nepal.

REBUILDING BUDDHISM The Theravada Movement in Twentieth-Century Nepal Sarah LeVine and David N. Gellner, 2008-12-01 *Rebuilding Buddhism* Describes In Evocative Detail The Experiences And Achievements Of Nepalis Who Have Adopted Theravada Buddhism. This Form Of Buddhism Was Introduced Into Nepal From Burma And Sri Lanka In The 1930S And Its Adherents Have Struggled For Recognition And Acceptance Ever Since. With Its Focus On The Austere Figure Of The Monk And The Biography Of The Historical Buddha And More Recently With Its Emphasis On Individualizing Meditation And On Gender Equality, Theravada Buddhism Contrasts Sharply With The Highly Ritualized Tantric Buddhism Traditionally Practiced In The Kathmandu Valley.

The Oxford Handbook of Contemporary Buddhism Michael K. Jerryson, 2017 The Oxford Handbook of Contemporary Buddhism offers a comprehensive collection of work by leading scholars in the field. They examine the historical development of Buddhist traditions throughout the world from traditional settings like India, Japan, and Tibet to the less well-known regions of Latin America, Africa, and Oceania.

Buddhism in Indonesia Roberto Rizzo, 2024-04-16 Based on extensive original research, this book explores the history and current revival of Buddhism on the Indonesian island of Java. Beginning by tracing how Buddhism came to Java from India via Southeast Asia, it considers how Buddhism has survived and adapted as Islam and Christianity became dominant. It goes on to report on detailed anthropological research both in a remote highland community, Temanggung, and in Java's main cities, including Jakarta, showing how youth activism and close community cohesion have brought about revival. It includes an examination of the production of Buddhist wayside shrines. Throughout, it shows how Buddhism in Java has fused with local traditional practices, local circumstances, and transnational processes to form a unique Javanese Buddhism.

Meditation in Modern Buddhism Joanna Cook, 2010-08-05 In contemporary Thai Buddhism, the burgeoning popularity of vipassanā meditation is dramatically impacting the lives of those most closely involved with its practice: monks and mae chee lay nuns living in monastic communities. For them, meditation becomes a central focus of life and a way to transform the self. This ethnographic account of a thriving Northern Thai monastery examines meditation in

detail and explores the subjective signification of monastic duties and ascetic practices Drawing on fieldwork done both as an analytical observer and as a full participant in the life of the monastery Joanna Cook analyzes the motivation and experience of renouncers and shows what effect meditative practices have on individuals and community organization The particular focus on the status of mae chee part lay part monastic provides a fresh insight into social relationships and gender hierarchy within the context of the monastery

If You Meet the Buddha on the Road Michael Jerryson, 2018-03-27 It is said that the famous ninth century Chinese Buddhist monk Linji Yixuan told his disciples If you meet the Buddha on the road kill him The deliberately confounding statement is meant to shock people out of complacent ways of thinking But beyond the purposeful jolt from complacency there is another intention This axiom suggests that for liberation one should seek the Buddha nature that resides within rather than a mere Buddha exterior The metaphor of killing the Buddha dislodges a person from the illusion that enlightenment lies outside the body The proclamation also highlights the power of violence even on a symbolic level Violence abounds in Buddhist thoughts doctrine and actions however unacknowledged or misunderstood If You Meet the Buddha on the Road addresses an important absence in the study of religion and violence the religious treatment of violence In order to pursue an understanding of the relationship between Buddhism and violence it is important to first consider how Buddhist scriptures and followers understand violence Drawing on Buddhist treatments of violence Michael Jerryson explores the ways in which Buddhists invoke support or justify war conflict state violence and gender discrimination In addition the book examines the ways in which Buddhists address violence as military chaplains cope with violence in a conflict zone and serve as witnesses of blasphemy to Buddhist doctrine and Buddha images

Transnational Death Samira Saramo, Eerika Koskinen-Koivisto, Hanna Snellman, 2019-09-24 With so much of the global population living on the move away from their homelands and in diasporic communities death and mourning practices are inevitably impacted Transnational Death brings together eleven cutting edge articles from the emerging field of transnational death studies By highlighting European Asian North American and Middle Eastern perspectives the collection provides timely and fresh analysis and reflection on people's changing experiences with death in the context of migration over time First beginning with a thematic assessment of the field of transnational death studies readers then have the opportunity to delve into case studies that examine experiences with death and mourning at a distance from the viewpoints of Family Community and Commemoration The chapters highlight complicated issues confronting migrants their families and communities including negotiations of burial preferences and challenges of corpse repatriation the financial costs of providing end of life care travel at times of death and arranging culturally appropriate funerals and religious services as well as the emotional and sociocultural weight of mourning and commemoration from afar Overall Transnational Death provides new insights on identity and belonging community reciprocity transnational communication and spaces of mourning and commemoration

Religious Internationals in the Modern World A. Green, V. Viaene, 2012-09-18 Tracing the emergence of Religious

Internationals as a distinctive new phenomenon in world history this book transforms our understanding of the role of religion in our modern world Through in depth studies comparing the experiences of Buddhists Christians Hindus Jews and Muslims leading experts shed new light on global civil society **Revisiting Rituals in a Changing Tibetan World**

,2012-08-03 Tibet Nepal Mongolia This vast area has experienced significant changes following political and socio cultural upheavals the Chinese occupation of Tibet since the 1950s the opening of Nepal to the world in 1951 and the influx of large numbers of Tibetan refugees into its territory the end of the communist era and the transition to a market economy in Mongolia and more generally the confrontation with modernity and globalisation Revisiting Rituals in a Changing Tibetan World examines the changes rituals have undergone and offers the reader the result of recent research based on both fieldwork and textual studies by researchers who have worked in these countries Contributors include Hildegard Diemberger Fabienne Jagou Thierry Dodin Fernanda Pirie Nicola Schneider Mireille Helffer Alexander von Rospatt Marie Dominique Even Robert Barnett Katia Buffetrille **Buddhism after Mao** Ji Zhe,Gareth Fisher,André Laliberté,2020-02-29 With well

over 100 million adherents Buddhism emerged from near annihilation during the Cultural Revolution to become the largest religion in China today Despite this Buddhism s rise has received relatively little scholarly attention The present volume with contributions by leading scholars in sociology anthropology political science and religious studies explores the evolution of Chinese Buddhism in the post Mao period with a depth not seen before in a single study Chapters critically analyze the effects of state policies on the evolution of Buddhist institutions the challenge of rebuilding temples under the watchful eye of the state efforts to rebuild monastic lineages and schools left broken in the aftermath of Mao s rule and the development of new lay Buddhist spaces both at temple sites and online Through its multidisciplinary perspectives the book provides both an extensive overview of the social and political conditions under which Buddhism has grown as well as discussions of the individual projects of both monastic and lay entrepreneurs who dynamically and creatively carve out spaces for Buddhist growth in contemporary Chinese society As a wide ranging study that illuminates many facets of China s Buddhist revival Buddhism after Mao will be required reading for scholars of Chinese Buddhism and of Buddhism and modernity more broadly Its detailed case studies examining the intersections among religion state and contemporary Chinese society will be welcomed by sociologists and anthropologists of China political scientists focusing on the role of religion in state formation in Asian societies and all those interested in the relationship between religion and social change *Ethno-herpetology of*

Sikkim Ajeya Jha,2023-08-17 Ethno herpetology studies the relationship between people and reptiles and amphibians and is derived from ethnic relating to people and culture and herpetology the study of reptiles and amphibians Sikkim being a melting pot of ethnic cultures as well as astounding biodiversity provides exceptional motivation for the exploration of its ethno herpetology Since biological and ethnic diversity is often geography specific studying this in small geographical regions makes sense as knowledge of ethno herpetology varies extraordinarily across geographic boundaries This book has

been envisaged to capture Sikkim's immense and vibrant ethno herpetology. It is expected to bring a new understanding of this state's rich bio cultural heritage and provide new details and directions to researchers of ethnobiology, zoology, ecology, anthropology, human ecology and culture. It sincerely hopes to generate greater interest in Sikkim Ethno herpetology and herpetofauna. It has the potential to reward integration with tourism and traditional knowledge. The Barua Buddhists Aparna Chatterjee, 2022-11-28. Where do the Baruas stand in Buddhist religious universe? Could they be categorized as Bengali Buddhists? Such intriguing questions are addressed headlong here and answers are ferreted out of the troves of history. A large swathe of these frankly devout people is now found settled in and around Siliguri town, a gateway to the North Eastern hinterland. But their antecedents are immensely spectacular yet problematic. As settlers, how far their religious moorings carry them through the alienated environs of a majoritarian Hindu society? How proficient are they in border maintenance and syncretism? This ethnographic study of Bengali Barua Buddhists gives the reader a critical insight into everyday sociological practices of these struggling survivors of an ancient religion. Buddhist Nuns and Gendered Practice Nirmala S. Salgado, 2013-11. Based on extensive research in Sri Lanka and interviews with Theravada and Tibetan nuns from around the world, Salgado's groundbreaking study urges a rethinking of female renunciation. How are scholarly accounts complicit in reinscribing imperialist stories about the subjectivity of Buddhist women? How do key Buddhist concepts such as dukkha, samsara and sila ground female renunciant practice? Salgado's provocative analysis questions the secular notion of the higher ordination of nuns as a political movement for freedom against patriarchal norms. Arguing that the lives of nuns defy translation into a politics of global sisterhood equal before law, she calls for more nuanced readings of nuns' everyday renunciant practices. **The Oxford Handbook of Caste**, 2023-10-31. Beginning with the 1990s, the subject of caste has seen a profound increase in interest among scholars. What was until then approached as a fossilized tradition of the ritual obsessed Hindus, refusing to see the progressive spirits of the emerging world and studied as a branch of anthropology, suddenly began to be seen as a complex reality deeply embedded in a range of institutions and social practices, attracting scholars from a wide range of disciplines: sociology, political science, history, literature and even economics. Underlying this opening of the subject of caste were many factors: epistemic, empirical and political. Caste is no longer approached through the classical binaries of traditional and modern, the East and the West, or the closed and open systems of stratification. With the growing consolidation of caste-based identities among those ranked lower down in the hierarchy since the 1990s, raising questions of citizenship and dignity, the subject has acquired a new salience. As the emerging research shows, the realities of caste on the ground have always been diverse across regions, often contested and ever changing. This Handbook presents a wide range of essays written by authors representing diverse academic disciplines and perspectives, bringing together the emerging trends in the research, imaginations and lived realities of caste. **Far Out** Mark Liechty, 2017-02-21. Westerners have long imagined the Himalayas as the world's last untouched place and a repository of redemptive power and wisdom.

Beatniks hippie seekers spiritual tourists mountain climbers diverse groups of people have traveled there over the years searching for their own personal Shangri La In *Far Out* Mark Liechty traces the Western fantasies that captured the imagination of tourists in the decades after World War II asking how the idea of Nepal shaped the everyday cross cultural interactions that it made possible Emerging from centuries of political isolation but eager to engage the world Nepalis struggled to make sense of the hordes of exotic enthusiastic foreigners They quickly embraced the phenomenon however and harnessed it to their own ends by building tourists fantasies into their national image and crafting Nepal as a premier tourist destination Liechty describes three distinct phases the postwar era when the country provided a Raj like throwback experience for rich Americans Nepal's emergence as an exotic outpost of hippie counterculture in the 1960s and its rebranding into a hip adventure destination which began in the 1970s and continues today He shows how Western projections of Nepal as an isolated place inspired creative enterprises and paradoxically allowed locals to participate in the global economy Based on twenty five years of research *Far Out* blends ethnographic analysis a lifelong passion for Nepal and a touch of humor to produce the first comprehensive history of what tourists looked for and found on the road to Kathmandu

Buddhists Todd Lewis, 2014-06-23 *Buddhists* Understanding Buddhism through the Lives of Practitioners provides a series of case studies of Asian and modern Western Buddhists spanning history gender and class whose lives are representative of the ways in which Buddhists throughout time have embodied the tradition Portrays the foundational principles of Buddhist belief through the lives of believers illustrating how the religion is put into practice in everyday life Takes as its foundation the inherent diversity within Buddhist society rather than focusing on the spiritual and philosophical elite within Buddhism Reveals how individuals have negotiated the choices tensions and rewards of living in a Buddhist society Features carefully chosen case studies which cover a range of Asian and modern Western Buddhists Explores a broad range of possible Buddhist orientations in contemporary and historical contexts **From Comrades to Bodhisattvas**

Gareth Fisher, 2014-08-31 *From Comrades to Bodhisattvas* is the first book length study of Han Chinese Buddhism in post Mao China Using an ethnographic approach supported by over a decade of field research it provides an intimate portrait of lay Buddhist practitioners in Beijing who have recently embraced a religion that they were once socialized to see as harmful superstition The book focuses on the lively discourses and debates that take place among these new practitioners in an unused courtyard of a Beijing temple In this non monastic space which shrinks each year as the temple authorities expand their commercial activities laypersons gather to distribute and exchange Buddhist themed media listen to the fiery sermons of charismatic preachers and seek solutions to personal moral crises Applying recent theories in the anthropology of morality and ethics Gareth Fisher argues that the practitioners are attracted to the courtyard as a place where they can find ethical resources to re make both themselves and others in a rapidly changing nation that they believe lacks a coherent moral direction Spurred on by the lessons of the preachers and the stories in the media they share these courtyard practitioners

inventively combine moral elements from China's recent Maoist past with Buddhist teachings on the workings of karma and the importance of universal compassion. Their aim is to articulate a moral antidote to what they see as blind obsession with consumption and wealth accumulation among twenty-first century Chinese. Often socially marginalized and sidelined from meaningful roles in China's new economy, these former communist comrades look to their new moral roles along a bodhisattva path to rebuild their self-worth. Each chapter focuses on a central trope in the courtyard practitioners' projects to form new moral identities. The Chinese government's restrictions on the spread of religious teachings in urban areas curtail these practitioners' ability to insert their moral visions into an emerging public sphere. Nevertheless, they succeed at least partially. Fisher argues in creating their own discursive space characterized by a morality of concern for fellow humans and animals and a recognition of the organizational abilities and pedagogical talents of its members that are unacknowledged in society at large. Moreover, as the later chapters of the book discuss by writing, copying, and distributing Buddhist-themed materials, the practitioners participate in creating a religious network of fellow Buddhists across the country, thereby forming a counter-cultural community within contemporary urban China. Highly readable and full of engaging descriptions of the real lives of practicing lay Buddhists in contemporary China, *From Comrades to Bodhisattvas* will interest specialists in Chinese Buddhism, anthropologists of contemporary Asia, and all scholars interested in the relationship between religion and cultural change.

Encyclopedia of Global Religion Mark Juergensmeyer, Wade Clark Roof, 2011-10-18. The multi-volume *Encyclopedia of Global Religion* provides a comprehensive overview of the globalization of religious culture and society around the world in both its historical and contemporary aspects. The encyclopedia includes topics related to the diaspora of cultures and dispersions of peoples, the transitional aspects of religious ideas and practices, the cultural diversity of religious traditions, and the responses of religion, both negative and positive, to multicultural society. The volumes include essays on the contemporary religious society of every country in the world. The contributors to the encyclopedia are leading authorities on these topics from around the world. The editors, Mark Juergensmeyer and Wade Clark Roof, are sociologists of religion at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

The Critical Analysis of Religious Diversity Lene Kühle, Jørn Borup, William Hoverd, 2018-06-19. Drawing on international and thematic case studies, *The Critical Analysis of Religious Diversity* asks its readers to pay attention to the assumptions and processes by which scholars, religious practitioners, and states construct religious diversity. The study has three foci: theoretical and methodological issues, religious diversity in non-Western contexts, and religious diversity in social contexts. Together, these trans-contextual studies are utilised to develop a critical analysis exploring how agency, power, and language construct understandings of religious diversity. As a result, the book argues that reflexive scholarship needs to consider that the dynamics of diversification and homogenisation are fundamental to understanding social and religious life; that religious diversity is a Western concept; and that definitions of religious diversity are often entangled by and within dynamic empirical realities. Contributors are Martin Baumann, Peter Beyer, Jørn Borup, Paul

Bramadat Marian Burchardt Henrik Reintoft Christensen Andrew Dawson Mar Grier Anna Halafoff William Hoverd Lene K hle Mar Marcos Stefania Travagnin and Andreas Tunger Zanetti Receptacle of the Sacred Jinah Kim, 2013-04-12 In considering medieval illustrated Buddhist manuscripts as sacred objects of cultic innovation Receptacle of the Sacred explores how and why the South Asian Buddhist book cult has survived for almost two millennia to the present A book manuscript should be understood as a form of sacred space a temple in microcosm not only imbued with divine presence but also layered with the memories of many generations of users Jinah Kim argues that illustrating a manuscript with Buddhist imagery not only empowered it as a three dimensional sacred object but also made it a suitable tool for the spiritual transformation of medieval Indian practitioners Through a detailed historical analysis of Sanskrit colophons on patronage production and use of illustrated manuscripts she suggests that while Buddhism's disappearance in eastern India was a slow and gradual process the Buddhist book cult played an important role in sustaining its identity In addition by examining the physical traces left by later Nepalese users and the contemporary ritual use of the book in Nepal Kim shows how human agency was critical in perpetuating and intensifying the potency of a manuscript as a sacred object throughout time

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