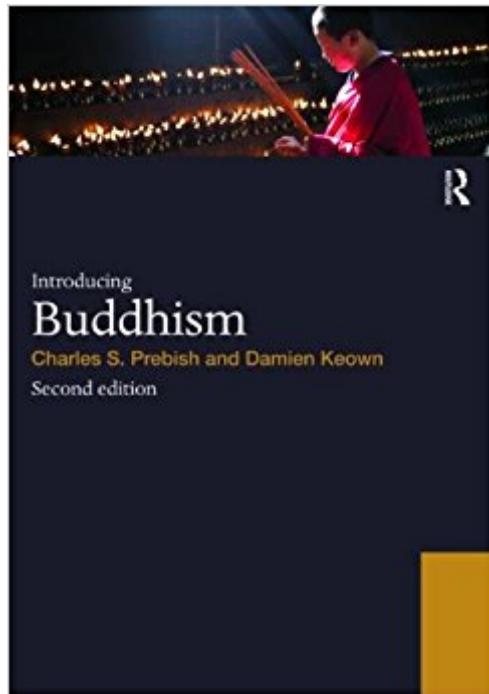


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# Introducing Buddhism (World Religions)



## **Synopsis**

Introducing Buddhism is the ideal resource for all students beginning the study of this fascinating religious tradition. It explains the religion's key teachings and traces its historical development and geographical spread from its foundations up to present day. Charles S. Prebish and Damien Keown, two of today's leading Buddhist scholars, devote a chapter each to the major regions where Buddhism has flourished - India, South-east Asia, East Asia and Tibet. In addition, contemporary concerns are discussed, including important and relevant topics such as Engaged Buddhism, Buddhist Ethics, Buddhism and the Western World and Meditation. This new edition includes more material on the different schools of Buddhism including explanations in graphic form, monastic life, popular religion, Buddhist ethics, ritual, the Bodhisattva Path, the Jatakas, the transmission of Buddhism, and class, gender and race. Introducing Buddhism includes illustrations, extracts from original sources, summary boxes, questions for discussion, suggestions for further reading and a companion website at [www.routledge.com/textbooks/9780415550017](http://www.routledge.com/textbooks/9780415550017) Charles S. Prebish is Charles Redd Chair of Religious Studies at Utah State University. Damien Keown is Professor of Buddhist Ethics at Goldsmith's College, University of London. They are the editors of the Encyclopedia of Buddhism (Routledge, 2007). Â

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

What follows focuses on only one question, that of Buddhist origins. I have just received my copy of

the paperback 2nd edition of "Introducing Buddhism" (2010) by Prebish and Keown, and am looking forward to working through it. Where I am coming from. Early this year i) I began again practicing 'mindfull meditation', reading various Buddhist authors, also Thomas Keating, and ii) and started a rather freeform study of Buddhist origins and the story of its constant re-invention through the centuries down to what has been happening since it began having major impact in 'the West'; in Germany, France and England, and then in North America. (Way back when, its influence in China was such that there were Buddhist emperors; and in the process it went through a major reinvention). My own studies through many decades have been focused on trying to keep up with biblical scholarship, to which I added as a response to 9/11 a year's 'cram' on Islam, its origins and historical development. Now, at this late stage of my life, I am ready to start a more focused study of Buddhism, using "Introducing" to follow its many reinventions but not, alas, to get a good grasp of its historical origins. Tags. Historical Methodology, Buddhism, Comparative Religion It is disappointing to see that, after four years of reviews and discussion, the flawed second chapter, entitled "The Buddha", has not been substantially reworked for this new edition. It makes a good start with the sentence, "The problems in uncovering traces of the 'historical Buddha' are similar to those faced in the search for the 'historical Jesus'", but then its 'downhill all the way'.

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