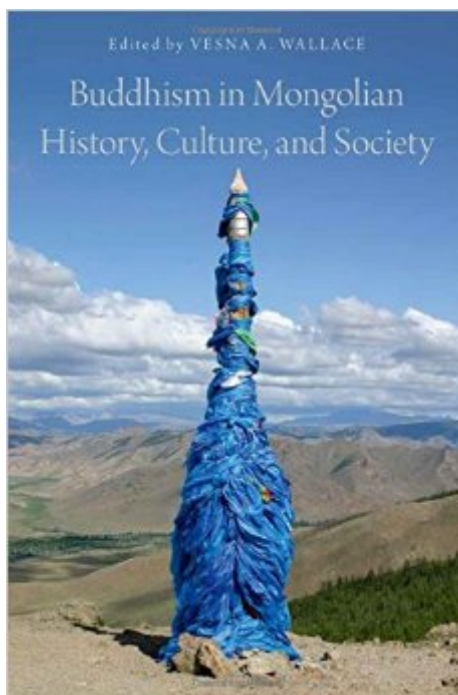


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Buddhism In Mongolian History, Culture, And Society



Synopsis

Buddhism in Mongolian History, Culture, and Society explores the unique elements of Mongolian Buddhism while challenging its stereotyped image as a mere replica of Tibetan Buddhism. Vesna A. Wallace brings together an interdisciplinary group of leading scholars to explore the interaction between the Mongolian indigenous culture and Buddhism, the features that Buddhism acquired through its adaptation to the Mongolian cultural sphere, and the ways Mongols have constructed their Buddhist identity. The contributors explore the ways that Buddhism retained unique Mongolian features through Qing and Mongol support, and bring to light the ways in which Mongolian Buddhists saw Buddhism as inseparable from "Mongolness." They show that by being greatly supported by Mongol and Qing empires, suppressed by the communist governments, and experiencing revitalization facilitated by democratization and the challenges posed by modernity, Buddhism underwent a series of transformations while retaining unique Mongolian features. The book covers historical events, social and political conditions, and influential personages in Mongolian Buddhism from the sixteenth century to the present, and addresses the artistic and literary expressions of Mongolian Buddhism and various Mongolian Buddhist practices and beliefs.

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Customer Reviews

The small but elite club of Mongolia-philes owe a debt of gratitude to Vesna Wallace for editing this introduction about the influence of Buddhism on Mongolian life. This is a collection of essays written by experts in the field, with topics ranging from Mongolian Buddhist literature to wind horses, sacred

mountains, Zanabazar's artwork, Stalinist purges and the conversion of Tibetan deities into Mongolian protectors.. As Johan Elverskog has written, Mongolia has been something of an orphaned-step child when compared to the commercial and academic juggernaut of Tibetan studies. Professor Wallace's book is the prime mover on this topic, and one can only hope that she will soon publish a general overview of Mongolian Buddhism. It would be fantastic to see something like a Sources of Mongolian Tradition to join the ranks of other source materials on Asia. Hats off to Professor Wallace for helping to remedy a glaring hole in the academic literature of Central Asia.

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