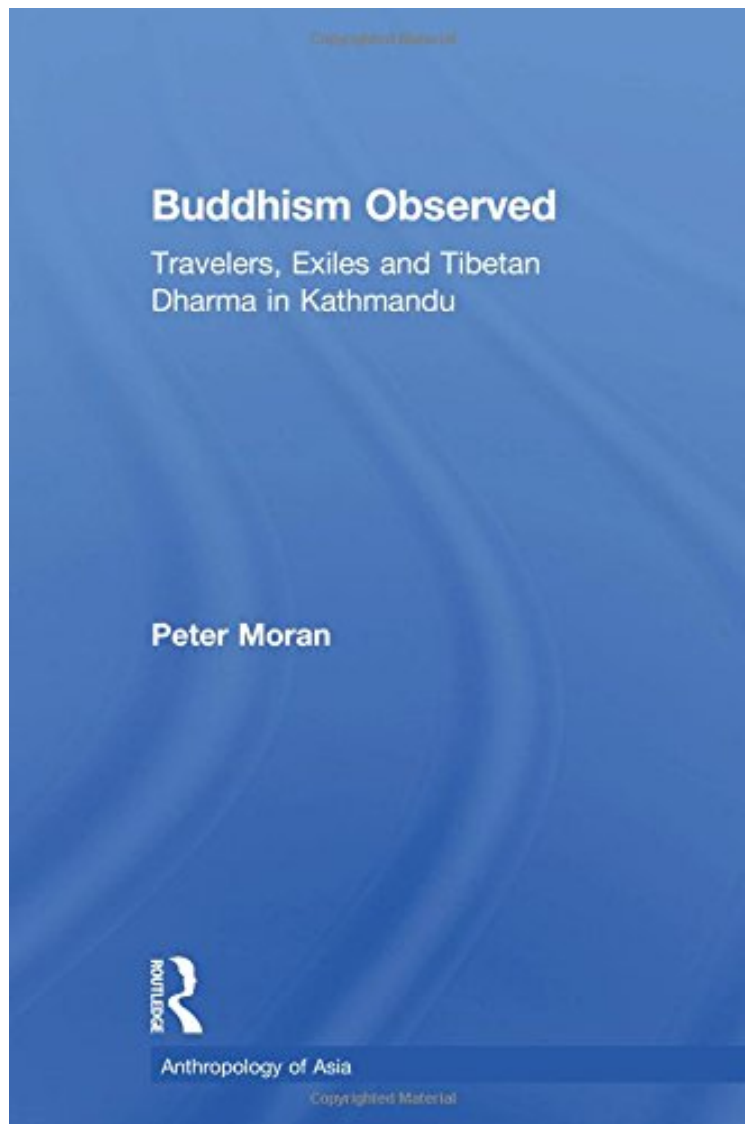


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Buddhism Observed: Travellers, Exiles and Tibetan Dharma in Kathmandu (Anthropology of Asia)

Peter Moran

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Peter Moran : Buddhism Observed: Travellers, Exiles and Tibetan Dharma in Kathmandu (Anthropology of Asia) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Buddhism Observed: Travellers, Exiles and Tibetan Dharma in Kathmandu (Anthropology of Asia):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Book; Robber-Baron Pricing
By Brad4dYes, this is an insightful and interesting book which gives a good outline (but certainly not the last word) on the complexities of Tibetan exile integration into the Western image and into Nepali society (actually, Nepal is itself a multicultural society with many separate, often inimical groups). The Tibetans have made several contributions to Nepali society, have integrated reasonably well (although, as the author points out, not without problems), and have added another element of diversity. The author writes well enough to expand the audience beyond the academic anthropological community -- it helps us understand the varied pressures and issues of an exile community, and that's good because so many people throughout the world have become exiled, and they might be able to learn from a "successful" exile community. Where I have MAJOR issues with this offering is the outrageous, unreasonable pricing. When this review was written, the price for this book was over \$100 -- I recently returned from Kathmandu and saw it consistently sold, brand new, in reputable bookstores for less than \$13 (and book prices were generally similar to what you'd find in the US). I support intellectual property rights and fair pay for authors and booksellers, and goodness knows I have contributed greatly to their incomes over the years, but even outdoor gear makers or Wall Street banks won't charge a 1,000% markup for very long. Capitalism, at best, provides more efficient and widespread services that people want, but at worst, rips people off with prices like this. It does not enhance the reputation of or the authors of this book, or anyone associated with the pricing. Sorry for the ranting and raving, but again, I have given enough money to authors and publishers over the years to feel justified.
5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Great insight into the culture of Kathmandu
By JenniferThis is one of the most interesting and insightful books I've read about Nepal and Tibetan culture. Moran's shrewd observations of the interactions between Westerners and the Tibetan refugee community reflect the breadth and depth of his experiences in the region. An enlightening and enjoyable reading experience- I recommend this book to academics, as well as those simply interested in Buddhism and the cultures of South Asia.

How do contemporary Westerners and Tibetans understand not only what it means to be 'Buddhist', but what it means to be hailed as one from 'the West' or from 'Tibet'? This anthropological study examines the encounter between Western travellers and Tibetan exiles in Bodhanath, on the outskirts of Kathmandu, Nepal and analyses the importance of Buddhism in discussions of political, cultural and religious identity. Based on extensive field research in Nepal, *Buddhism Observed* questions traditional assumptions about Buddhism and examines the rarely considered phenomenon of Western conversions to a non-Western religion. Scholars of Anthropology, Religion and Cultural Studies will find here a refreshing insight into how to approach 'other' societies, religions and cultures.

'The book offers a valuable, well-organized, and persuasive picture of an important relationship in the history of modern Buddhism.' - *Social Anthropology*
About the AuthorPeter Moran is Director of academic programs in Kathmandu for both Trinity College, USA and the International Honors Program, Boston University, USA. He is also the academic director at the Centre for Buddhist Studies at Kathmandu University.