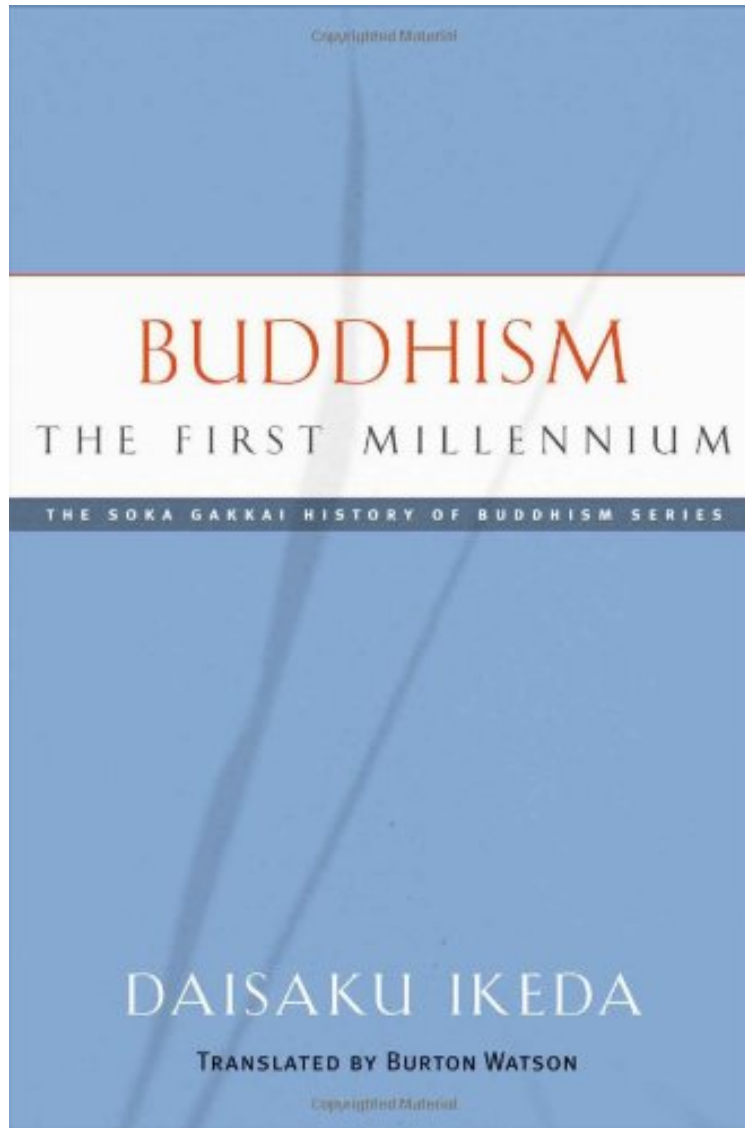


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Buddhism: The First Millennium (Soka Gakkai History of Buddhism)

Daisaku Ikeda

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Daisaku Ikeda : Buddhism: The First Millennium (Soka Gakkai History of Buddhism) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Buddhism: The First Millennium (Soka Gakkai History of Buddhism):

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Buddhism Brought to Light By AKABOTE People often talk about 'karma' and usually with a negative connotation; but they seldom ask or wonder what karma is and how is it produced.

People when asked what they think of when they hear the word "Buddha", often say what generally comes to mind "is the statue of the little fat man with the bald head". This book and the others that I have listed, clarifies the examples I mentioned and much, much more. Buddhism: The First Millenium offers a concise and informative explanation that reveals how Buddhism spread and became a teaching followed by millions of individuals the world over; after the passing of it's founder. Daisaku Ikeda, the author writes in a manner that is scholarly but in terms that are easy to understand and comprehend. This particular book is the second in a series of three that take into account a historical overview as to how Buddhism came into being. The first book, The Living Buddha; the second book that I am commenting on now and the third book, The Flower of Chinese Buddhism allows the reader to access Buddhism from what I believe is an objective viewpoint from the author. The writing appears to be geared towards informing and bringing to light a teaching or religion that is often talked about but not really understood. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By JW Very good reading! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Three Stars By Gail M. Lehman A bit too didactic for me

Beginning with the events immediately following the dark days after the death of Shakyamuni and continuing over a period of 1,000 years, this dynamic tome covers a vast and complex series of events and developments in the history of Buddhism. Through a thorough examination of its early development in India, a new light is cast on little-known aspects of Buddhist history and its relevance to the understanding of Buddhism today. Topics include the formation of the Buddhist canon, the cultural exchange between the East and West, and the spirit of the Lotus Sutra.

From Publishers Weekly Drawing on Japanese scholarship as well as close reading of Buddhist scriptures, Ikeda analyzes how a movement in turmoil after the death of the Buddha began to codify its teachings and split into two streams, the Theravada ("Teaching of the Elders") and the Mahayana ("Great Vehicle"). He acknowledges the speculative nature of this task due to the "fragmentary bits of information" that have survived, but draws conclusions about the complex development of Buddhist thought by examining historical evidence and classic texts like the Vimalakirti Sutra. Ikeda shows how Mahayana philosophy emerged as a reform movement that followers believed was closer than Theravada to the true wisdom of the Buddha. Founder and president of Soka Gakkai International (SGI), a world-wide lay organization based on teachings of Nichiren Buddhism, Ikeda draws attention to Mahayana's emergence as a lay movement and to the importance of the Lotus Sutra. This thoughtful if sectarian introduction to Buddhism's origins describes how a movement interprets its founder's teachings, determines them to be authentic, and attempts to remain true to those ideals. An earlier version of this translation by scholar Burton Watson was published in 1977. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Language Notes Text: English, Japanese (translation) About the Author Daisaku Ikeda is the author and coauthor of more than 60 books on a wide range of topics, including the history of Buddhism and Buddhist philosophy. He is the founding president and leader of the Soka Gakkai International, one of the largest lay Buddhist organizations in the world with members in more than 190 countries and territories. He is the recipient of the United Nations Peace Award, the Rosa Parks Humanitarian Award, and the International Tolerance Award of the Simon Wiesenthal Center. Burton Watson is a translator of Chinese and Japanese literature. A former professor at Columbia, Stanford, and Kyoto Universities, his translations include Chuang Tzu: Basic Writings, The Lotus Sutra, and The Vimalakirti Sutra, among others. He received the PEN Translation Prize in 1981.