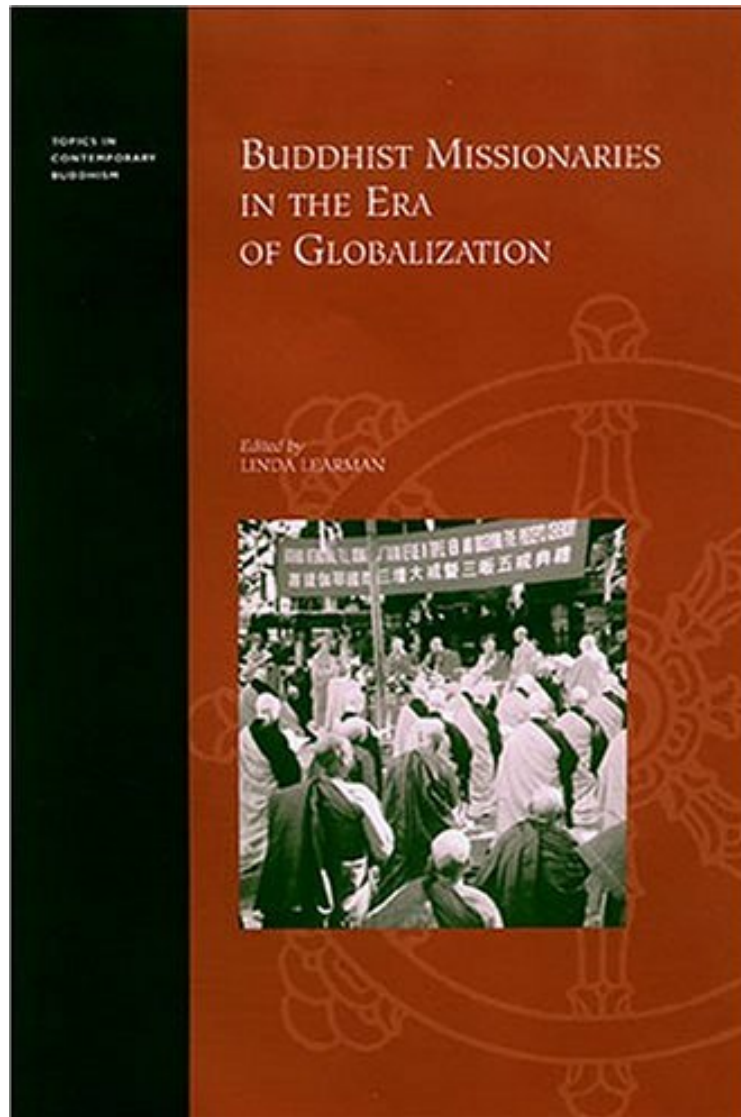


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Buddhist Missionaries in the Era of Globalization (Topics in Contemporary Buddhism)

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From Brand: Univ of Hawaii Pr : Buddhist Missionaries in the Era of Globalization (Topics in Contemporary Buddhism) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Buddhist Missionaries in the Era of Globalization (Topics in Contemporary Buddhism):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. "For the good of many folk, for the happiness of many folk, don't two of you go by one road."By Crazy FoxBuddhism is commonly characterized as one of the first missionary

religions, if nothing else so as to structure the story of its spread from India outwards. While this manner of putting things may not be as uncontroversial as I would have assumed (as the editor, Linda Learman, explains in the Intro), still, it is hard not to notice the religion's growing presence in the world at large. What is usually lacking though is a careful scholarly appraisal of this phenomenon, which makes this solid, substantial collection of articles welcome indeed. While the topics and specializations are suitably varied (despite a slight tilt towards Brazil and Taiwan), most are informed by an anthropological approach to religious studies and all of them do ample justice to different varieties of missionary work and the tensions between maintaining a certain "exotic" distinctiveness and accommodating to a new cultural context--an issue perhaps best encapsulated by Tanabe's contribution. Reliable and readable. Articles included in this volume: 1. "Dharmapala's Dharmaduta and the Buddhist Ethnoscape" by Steven Kemper 2. "The Theravada Domestic Mission in Twentieth-Century Nepal" by Sarah LeVine 3. "Grafting Identity: The Hawaiian Branches of the Bodhi Tree" by George J. Tanabe, Jr. 4. "Hiding in Plain Sight: The Invisibility of the Shingon Mission to the United States" by Richard K. Payne 5. "Globalization and the Pursuit of a Shared Understanding of the Absolute: The Case of Soka Gakkai in Brazil" by Peter B. Clarke 6. "Being a Zen Buddhist Brazilian: Juggling Multiple Religious Identities in the Land of Catholicism" by Cristina Rocha 7. "Spreading Buddha's Light: The Internationalization of Foguang Shan" by Stuart Chandler 8. "The Compassion Relief Diaspora" by C. Julia Huang 9. "Uniting Religion and Politics in a Bid for Autonomy: Lamas in Exile in China and America" by Gray Tuttle

This insightful volume dispels the common notion that Buddhism is not a missionary religion by revealing Asian Buddhists as active agents in the propagation of their faith. It presents at the same time a new framework with which to study missionary activity in both Buddhist and other religious traditions. Included are case studies of Theravada, Chinese, and Tibetan Buddhist teachers and congregations, as well as the Pure Land, Shingon, Zen, and Soka Gakkai traditions of Japan. Contributors examine both foreign and domestic missions and the activities of emigrant communities, showing the resources and strategies garnered by late-nineteenth- and twentieth-century Buddhists who worked to uphold and further their respective traditions, often under difficult circumstances. Based on anthropological fieldwork and historical research, the essays break new ground and provide better analytical tools for studying mission activity than previously available. They provide instructive comparisons with Anglo-American Protestant missionary thinking and offer insights into the internal dynamics of Sri Lankan and Japanese missions as they make their way in Protestant and Catholic societies. Also included are nuanced studies of two major missionary figures in late twentieth-century Chinese Buddhism and a fascinating look at the present Dalai Lamas relationships with his devotees and the American government, viewed through an exposition of the abiding tradition within Tibetan Buddhism that combines mission activity with the political goals of exiled lamas. Contributors: Stuart Chandler; Peter B. Clarke; C. Julia Huang; Steven Kemper; Linda Learman; Sarah LeVine; Richard K. Payne; Cristina Rocha; George J. Tanabe, Jr.; Gray Tuttle.

About the Author Linda Learman is a Ph.D. student in anthropology at Boston University. Contributors: Stuart Chandler; Peter B. Clarke; Peter N. Gregory; C. Julia Huang; Steven Kemper; Linda Learman; Sarah LeVine; Richard K. Payne; Cristina Rocha; George J. Tanabe, Jr.; Gray Tuttle.