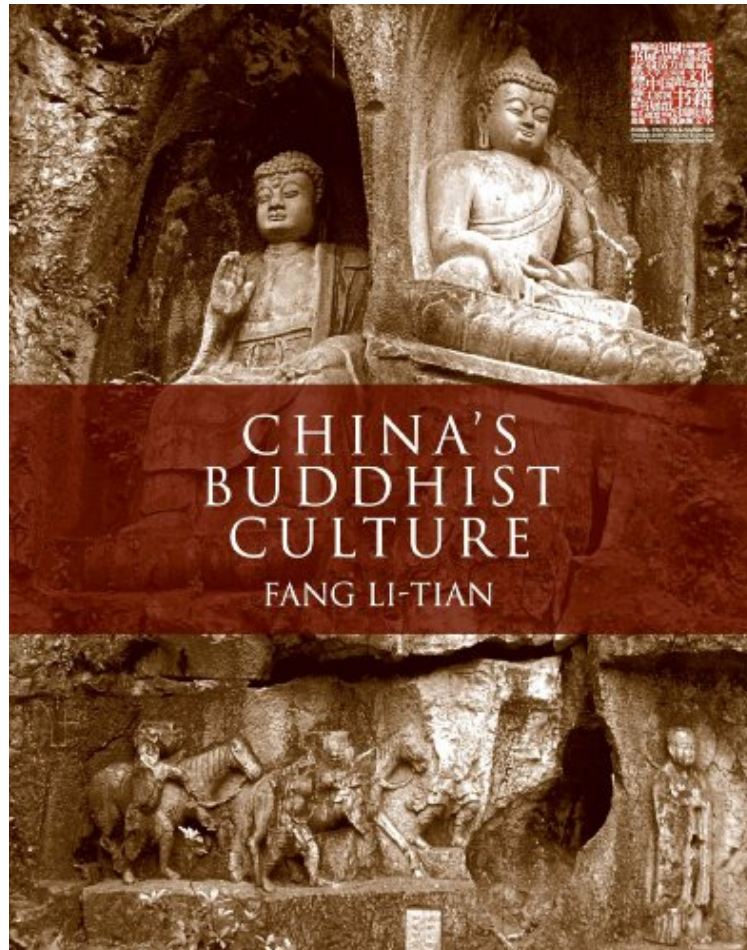


China's Buddhist Culture

Fang Li-Tian

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#5834151 in Books 2009-10-12Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.25 x 7.25 x .50l, .0 #File Name: 9814281425144 pages | File size: 69.Mb

Fang Li-Tian : China's Buddhist Culture before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised China's Buddhist Culture:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Simplistic. Full of generalizations.By S. T. BorsmanIf Fang Li-tian is truly one of the best Buddhist scholars in mainland China (as the book's promo declares), then this is depressing, indeed. I assume this book is intended for an undergraduate audience. That's fine, and there really is a need for a general, academic book on Chinese Buddhism for that audience. However, this textbook is definitely not it. The book seems to have a polemical slant (either from the author or translator): For example, when referring to worship of Buddhas and bodhisattvas, the author comments, "Such idol worshiping was once quite common." Buddhist funeral rites are referred to as, "sometimes tedious, backward, and even mysterious." I can't help but feel there is a Communist Party agenda here. Best avoided.

This book elaborates and elucidates the concepts and characteristics of China's Buddhist culture with special emphasis on two aspects: (1) the historical evolution of Chinese Buddhism as well as related ancient books, records, basic doctrines, systems and protocols, and famous historical and cultural sites; and (2) the influence of Buddhism on such aspects of Chinese culture as politics, ethics, philosophy, literature and art, and folk customs, as well as the differences and similarities between Buddhism and both Confucianism and Taoism. This book further summarizes the structure, core beliefs, internal and external relations, root of evolution, and peculiarity of China's Buddhist culture system. This book aims to provide an in-depth understanding of the historical status of Buddhism and its important role in the evolution of Chinese culture. **KEY FEATURES-** Written by one of the best scholars of Buddhism in mainland China.- Elaborates on the influence of Buddhism on Chinese politics, ethics, philosophy, literature, art, and folk customs.- Provides an in-depth understanding of the historical status of Buddhism and its important role in the evolution of Chinese culture

About the AuthorFang Li-tian is the director of the Institute for the Study of Buddhism and Religious Theory and a professor with the Department of Religious Studies in the School of Philosophy, Renmin University of China. Prof. Fang has successively held the positions of vice chairman and advisor of the Religious Society of China, standing vice-chairman of the Society for History of Chinese Philosophy, editor-in-chief of the Journal of the History of Chinese Philosophy, editor-in-chief of the Journal of Religious Study, and commissary of the Commission of Social Sciences, the Ministry of Education. Prof. Fang has relentlessly written and published numerous books since 1964. He has authored 13 monographs and 260 papers and co-authored 16 publications. These publications are considered to be representative of the best works on Buddhist philosophy in China after the 1980s. In 1986, Prof. Fang was awarded the coveted China Book Prize for his book *Buddhist Philosophy*, which was considered one of the most popular Buddhist readings in China during that time. In 2003, Prof. Fang received the Sixth China National Book Award for the book *The Essence of Chinese Buddhist Philosophy* (two volumes), which was highly praised as a new milestone in the study on Chinese Buddhist philosophy.