

Militarism and Buddhism in Modern Asia: Unraveling the Intertwined Histories



Buddhism and Violence: Militarism and Buddhism in Modern Asia (Routledge Studies in Religion) by Torkel Brekke

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 2109 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 277 pages



Buddhism, a religion rooted in principles of non-violence and compassion, has often been viewed as incompatible with the concept of militarism. However, the complex and often contradictory relationship between these two forces has played a significant role in shaping the history of modern Asia.

This book, as part of the Routledge Studies in Religion series, delves into the intricate web of interactions between militarism and Buddhism in the region, exploring the ways in which they have influenced and shaped each other.

Historical Perspectives

The book traces the historical roots of the relationship between militarism and Buddhism, examining the ways in which Buddhism has been used to justify and legitimize military campaigns and the role of military leaders in Buddhist societies.

Case studies from countries like Japan, China, and Southeast Asia provide insights into the diverse and often paradoxical ways in which Buddhism has been interpreted and utilized in different military contexts.

Social and Cultural Dynamics

The book also explores the social and cultural dynamics that have shaped the relationship between militarism and Buddhism. It analyzes how Buddhist values and practices have influenced military ethics and behavior, while also examining how military institutions and practices have influenced Buddhist communities.

Through ethnographic research and historical analysis, the book presents a nuanced understanding of the complex interactions between these two spheres of life.

Political Intersections

The book examines the political intersections between militarism and Buddhism, investigating the role of religious institutions and leaders in shaping national identity, foreign policy, and political ideologies.

Case studies from countries like Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand highlight the ways in which Buddhism has been both a source of inspiration and a tool for political mobilization.

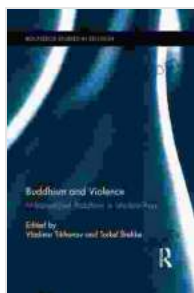
Contemporary Challenges and Future Directions

The book concludes by exploring contemporary challenges and future directions in the relationship between militarism and Buddhism in modern Asia. It examines the increasing role of religion in global politics and the implications for Buddhism in military contexts.

The book also discusses the potential for Buddhism to contribute to peacebuilding and conflict resolution, offering new insights into the transformative potential of religion in a militarized world.

Militarism and Buddhism in Modern Asia: Unraveling the Intertwined Histories is a comprehensive and groundbreaking work that sheds new light on the complex and often contradictory relationship between these two forces. By bringing together leading scholars in the field, it provides a nuanced and multi-faceted analysis of this important topic.

This book is essential reading for anyone interested in the history of religion, military studies, and modern Asian history. It is a valuable resource for scholars, students, and policymakers alike, offering a deeper understanding of the ways in which religion and military power have shaped the development of modern Asia.



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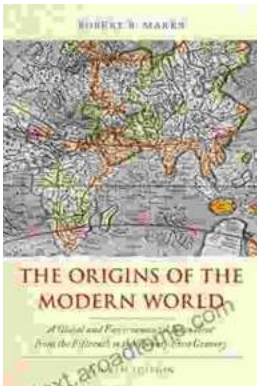
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