



The Princeton Dictionary of Buddhism

By Robert E. Buswell Jr., Jr. Lopez Donald S.



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With more than 5,000 entries totaling over a million words, this is the most comprehensive and authoritative dictionary of Buddhism ever produced in English. It is also the first to cover terms from all of the canonical Buddhist languages and traditions: Sanskrit, Pali, Tibetan, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean. Unlike reference works that focus on a single Buddhist language or school, The Princeton Dictionary of Buddhism bridges the major Buddhist traditions to provide encyclopedic coverage of the most important terms, concepts, texts, authors, deities, schools, monasteries, and geographical sites from across the history of Buddhism. The main entries offer both a brief definition and a substantial short essay on the broader meaning and significance of the term covered. Extensive cross-references allow readers to find related terms and concepts. An appendix of Buddhist lists (for example, the four noble truths and the thirty-two marks of the Buddha), a timeline, six maps, and two diagrams are also included.

Written and edited by two of today's most eminent scholars of Buddhism, and more than a decade in the making, this landmark work is an essential reference for every student, scholar, or practitioner of Buddhism and for anyone else interested in Asian religion, history, or philosophy.

- The most comprehensive dictionary of Buddhism ever produced in English
- More than 5,000 entries totaling over a million words
- The first dictionary to cover terms from all of the canonical Buddhist languages and traditions--Sanskrit, Pali, Tibetan, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean
- Detailed entries on the most important terms, concepts, texts, authors, deities, schools, monasteries, and geographical sites in the history of Buddhism
- Cross-references and appendixes that allow readers to find related terms and look up equivalent terms in multiple Buddhist languages
- Includes a list of Buddhist lists, a timeline, and maps
- Also contains selected terms and names in Thai, Burmese, Vietnamese, Lao, Khmer, Sinhalese, Newar, and Mongolian

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Buddhism, a term of relatively recent origin, refers to a pan-Asian religious tradition that dates back more than 2,500 years and encompasses much geographical, doctrinal, and linguistic diversity. As the most comprehensive collection of discrete Buddhist terms available, this resource is an outstanding addition to available reference sources. The more than 5,000 entries treat individuals, sacred texts, concepts, schools, deities, and important geographical locations. Brief biographical entries for a selection of important Buddhologists are also included. A few maps and some additional reference tools are included to aid the reader. A listing of historical periods in India, China, Korea, and Japan allows the user to quickly see the Edo period in Japan occurred during the Choson period in Korea. A time line of Buddhism presents important events from across the Buddhist world. Nearly 150 pages are devoted to cross-references from Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Pali, Sanskrit, and Tibetan terms to the form used for the entry. Finally, selected numerical lists from the Buddhist traditions, such as the 2 means of knowledge and the 32 marks of a great man, are provided. Since this work is a dictionary, it lacks entries that, say, introduce Buddhism in a particular country or describe Buddhist monasticism generally. Two other sources, both titled *Encyclopedia of Buddhism* (Macmillan, 2004; Routledge, 2007), fit that bill. The Macmillan set also addresses the intersection of Buddhism with other religious traditions, while the Routledge volume includes content about the academic study of and Western approaches to Buddhism. Although scholarly in its accent and geared to the specialist reader, *The Princeton Dictionary of Buddhism* nicely complements these other two works. Collectively, they form an excellent trio of reference sources. Highly recommended for theological, academic, and large public libraries. --Christopher McConnell

Review

**Winner of the 2015 Dartmouth Medal, Reference and User Services Association of the American Library Association
One of *Choice's* Outstanding Academic Titles Top 25 Academic Books for 2014**

"Buddhism's ancient history and depth of culture are reflective in this volume's extensiveness. . . . Owing to the length and breadth of this volume, this will supersede previously published titles such as Damien Keown's *Oxford Dictionary of Buddhism*."--**Ray Arnett, *Library Journal* (Starred Review)**

"One of the take-a ways is how we're just scratching the surface on what we have translated into English. I almost regret the decision I made about 25 years ago not to shift my focus from training to learning languages so I could be a Buddhist scholar. Particularly, I was struck by how little I know about the Korean tradition! Except for Buswell's work, there's still very little translated into English, as far as I know."--**Dosho Port, *Wild Fox Zen***

"As the most comprehensive collection of discrete Buddhist terms available, this resource is an outstanding addition to available reference sources. . . . Highly recommended for theological, academic, and large public libraries."--**Christopher McConnell, *Booklist***

"[T]he dictionary includes an impressive set of reference tools. . . . Much more than a compilation of the philosophies of elite Buddhist figures, the *Dictionary* deepens our understanding of local traditions and their unique approaches to Buddhist practice, offering glimpses into the many Buddhisms and Buddhist belief systems that have developed over the past two and a half millennia. Both professional and amateur scholars

will want to keep *The Princeton Dictionary of Buddhism* within easy reach."--**Rory Lindsay, *Buddhadharma***

"This encyclopedic dictionary by Buswell and Lopez likely will become an essential resource for students and scholars of Buddhism. It has over 5,000 entries varying in length from a paragraph to a full page."--**Choice**

"This Dictionary of Buddhism . . . deserves recognition as a highly useful and worthwhile contribution to the field. Its breadth of coverage and its clear and convenient style of presentation make it a valuable reference source for researchers, teachers, and students in Buddhist Studies, and for more general readers as well."--**Choong Mun-keat, *Reviews of Books***

"This is a one-of-a-kind reference book that will not be replicated in this generation's lifetime."--**Brad Lee Eden, *Reference Reviews***

"*The Princeton Dictionary of Buddhism* is a huge contribution to the field of Buddhist studies in English. . . . The ease with which concepts can be searched and connected, the ambitious scope, accessible writing style, and detailed scholarship combine to make this single volume dictionary an invaluable reference tool for scholars, students, and practitioners of Buddhism."--**Leesa S. Davis, *Sophia***

"Thoroughly enjoyable to anyone who wants to know anything and everything about Buddhism. . . . The Dictionary offers a sense of completeness and comprehensiveness in understanding taxonomies and terminologies used in Buddhism."--**Anup Kumar Das, *International Institute for Asian Studies Newsletter***

From the Back Cover

"This is without a doubt the most comprehensive, authoritative, and useful dictionary of Buddhism that there is. In reading it, I learned more about my field, in a serendipitous way, than I have from any other single book."--**John S. Strong, Bates College**

"This will become the new standard reference in the field. Every scholar and graduate student in Buddhist studies will want a copy, as will every college instructor assigned to teach an introduction to Buddhism course. I wish I had had a work like this when I first began teaching. This is a truly monumental contribution to the field."--**Lori Meeks, University of Southern California**

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Maurice Miller:

Nowadays reading books are more than want or need but also be a life style. This reading behavior give you lot of advantages. The huge benefits you got of course the knowledge your information inside the book that improve your knowledge and information. The knowledge you get based on what kind of guide you read, if you want send more knowledge just go with schooling books but if you want feel happy read one together with theme for entertaining for example comic or novel. The The Princeton Dictionary of Buddhism is kind of guide which is giving the reader unpredictable experience.

Karen McCarthy:

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