

## Recent Religion - June 2021

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Concept of Punna In Early Buddhism / D. Saddhasena  
S. Godage & Brothers (Pvt) Ltd., Colombo, Sri Lanka. 2020  
272p.  
9786240005937  
\$ 20.00 / null  
380 gm.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=769004>

Some Religious Experiences / Risiman Amarasinghe  
S. Godage & Brothers (Pvt) Ltd., Colombo, Sri Lanka. 2020  
140p.  
9786240007528  
\$ 12.00 / null  
190 gm.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=769005>

Svayambhupurana : Translation of Svayambhucaityabhattacharakoddesa / Kamal  
Prakash Malla  
Ratna Pustak Bhandar, Kathmandu, Nepal 2021  
xviii, 106p.  
Includes Index  
9789937332545  
\$ 15.00 / null  
200 gm.

This volume provides a translation of one of the most important texts in the history of the Newar Buddhist tradition. As rendered into clear English by one of Nepal's greatest modern scholars, Kamal Prakash Malla, its 10 chapters recount the origin of the Kathmandu Valley as a sacred Buddhist territory, how this holy Himalayan oasis became a center of Mahāyana-Vajrayana tradition arrayed around the great Svayambhu Stūpa. The text also reveals the visits of various Buddhas, bodhisattvas, and sage-teachers who became central figures in local history.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=762465>

Dharma Diplomacy : Buddhism in India and China / Vaishnavi Pallapothu  
KW Publishers Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi. 2021  
xiv, 55p.; 23cm.  
9789389137866  
\$ 9.50 / null  
250 gm.

The fourth largest religion in the world, Buddhism has over 520 million followers worldwide. India and China are home to sites of religious and historical value for the followers of Buddhism. In India, which is the home and birthplace of Buddhism, the religion is viewed by leaders and civil society members around the country, particularly in the political and academic spheres, as a way of not only strengthening cultural and economic ties with various Southeast Asian countries, but also as a means of fostering connections and preserving the religious and cultural practices of Tibetan Buddhist refugees in India. In contrast, China's increasing claims that Buddhism is a Chinese concept by releasing propaganda that it is an "ancient Chinese religion" is being furthered by building temples and promoting tourist trails, not only within the country but also in Southeast Asia. Preserving domestic stability, diffusing hostility in Tibet and acquiring access to influential Buddhist organizations seem to be China's goals at present. This occasional paper takes a deep dive into these contrasting standpoints and potential sources of friction as a result of both nations' contrarian approaches. Additionally, the paper also seeks to explore opportunities for cooperation and friendship between the two nations. It seeks to investigate China's intentions behind its policies, decisions and propaganda centered on Buddhism, as well as India's efforts in building a Buddhist tourist circuit and enhancing its soft power, with the help of the same. In doing so, the paper looks at the myriads of initiatives undertaken by India and China with respect to Buddhist tourism, and examines how the two nations' Buddhist diplomacy shape relations with the rest of Southeast Asia.

<https://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=768002>

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Buddhist Revitalization and Chinese Religions in Malaysia / Tan Lee Ooi (Series Ed) Martin Ramstedt

Amsterdam University Press, Amsterdam, Netherlands 2020

210p. ; 156x234x19.05mm.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9789463726436

\$ 105.00 / HB

498 gm.

Buddhist Revitalization and Chinese Religions in Malaysia tells the story of how a minority community comes to grips with the challenges of modernity, history, globalization, and cultural assertion in an ever-changing Malaysia. It captures the religious connection, transformation, and tension within a complex traditional belief system in a multi-religious society. In particular, the book revolves around a discussion on the religious revitalization of Chinese Buddhism in modern Malaysia. This Buddhist revitalization movement is intertwined with various forces, such as colonialism, religious transnationalism, and global capitalism. Reformist Buddhists have helped to remake Malaysia's urban-dwelling Chinese community and have provided an exit option in the Malay and Muslim majority nation state. As Malaysia modernizes, there have been increasing efforts by certain segments of the country's ethnic Chinese Buddhist population to separate Buddhism from popular Chinese religions. Nevertheless, these reformist groups face counterforces from traditional Chinese religionists within the context of the cultural complexity of the Chinese belief system.

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