

(Free read ebook) A Short History of Buddhism

A Short History of Buddhism

Edward Conze

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Edward Conze : A Short History of Buddhism before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Short History of Buddhism:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Best Book for Understanding Buddhism in a HurryBy Renee ThorpeConze has not been dethroned as foremost authority on the history of Buddhism, and this book is a good starting point for any study in Buddhism, Buddhist art, or general Asian Studies.This readable, meaty, short book will clue you in on who Gautama was, but concentrate mainly on how his teachings have spawned several types of Buddhism, mainly the three catagories of Tantric, Mahayana, and Theravada Buddhism. But many small schisms are mentioned, making it a rather complete history of the religion for such a small book. Geographical and scholarly paths are generally traced, showing a good overview of this religion's spread. It's well organized and a good read.My only dislike is that not enough text is dedicated to an exploration of the life of Gautama (Conze gives about 2 pages only), including his many attempts at enlightenment and the final long confrontation of all his past lives. Possibly this omission is made so as not to bring in too much religious doctrine (this is, after all, a history OF the religion), but I found the lack of coverage annoying and puzzling.

Tracing all the key aspects of 2500 years of Buddhist history - Hinayana, Mahayana, Tantra and Zen - this book provides an introduction to the development of Buddhism from the time of the Buddha to the present day. The author

also wrote *Thirty Years of Buddhist Studies*.