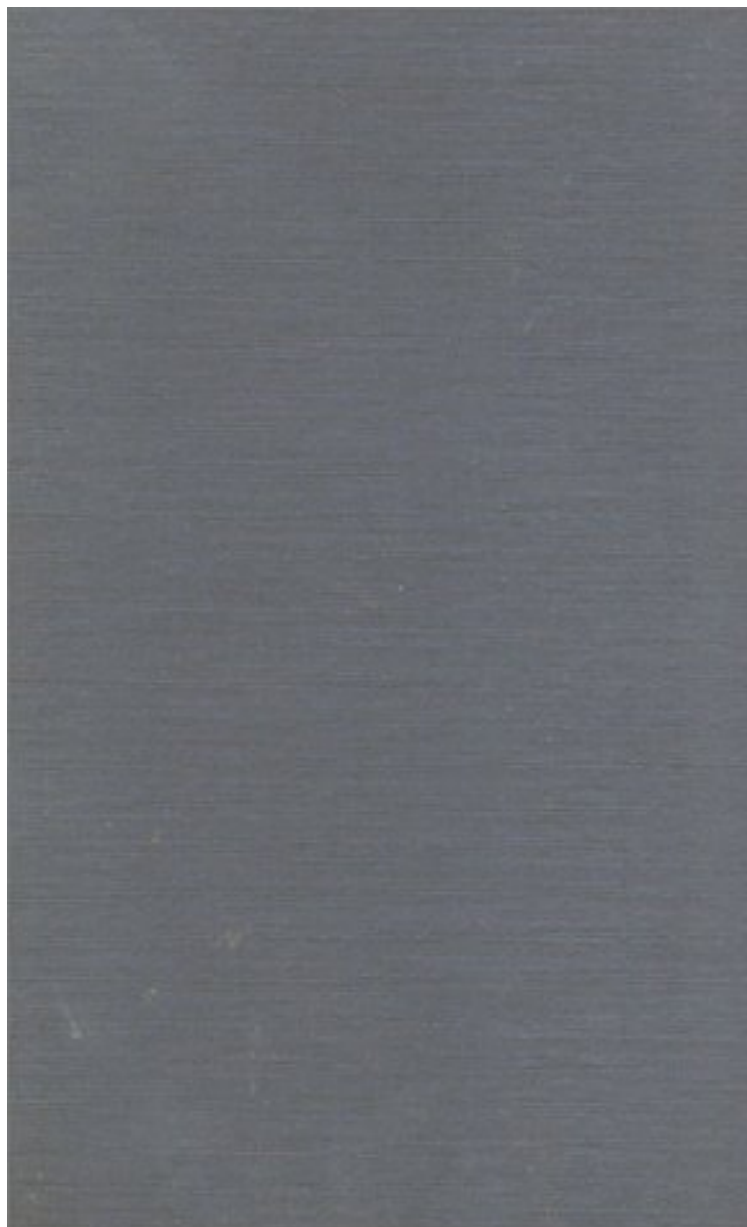



[Mobile book] Introduction to Tibetan Buddhism

Introduction to Tibetan Buddhism

John Powers

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John Powers : Introduction to Tibetan Buddhism before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Introduction to Tibetan Buddhism:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A clear and readable introduction for students and nonspecialists By John in Orlando John Powers's Introduction to Tibetan Buddhism meets a genuine need in providing nonspecialist

students of religion or Asian studies with an overview of this distinctive form of Buddhist belief and practice. In clear and readable language, the book mostly achieves its stated goal of being "a systematic and wonderfully clear presentation of Tibetan Buddhist views and practices." Powers begins with a survey of Buddhist history and doctrine, with a focus on Mahayana philosophy. This whole opening section of the book is very useful, allowing as it does a reader new to Buddhism to pick up the work and be introduced to the tradition as a whole before moving on to consider its Tibetan manifestation. What follows is a brief but informative survey of Tibetan history and a look at some of the holy days, ceremonies, and architectural settings of Tibetan Buddhist practice. Part Three is, it seems to me, the heart of the book, as it engages the distinctive teachings and practices of Tibetan Buddhism, both in the context of wider Mahayana and in contradistinction to it. Powers admirably clarifies the Tibetan understanding of the place of tantra in Buddhism and provides a very easily-understood description of the major forms of tantric practice. Chapter 10, "Death and Dying in Tibetan Buddhism," is admirable for the vividness with which it portrays the Tibetan Buddhist understanding of death in its metaphysical, ontological, and soteriological aspects. Part Four turns to the major schools of Tibetan Buddhism. Here I think the book gets a bit bogged down in a surfeit of detail. Brevity is not one of this section's virtues; indeed, the author occasionally seems to repeat himself from chapter to chapter, restating conceptions or doctrines already associated with one of the previously-discussed schools. This Introduction is highly recommended to undergraduates in Religious Studies or Asian Studies, to general readers with an interest in Asian religions, or to academics needing a primer on Tibetan Buddhism. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. New edition has a lot of very useful additional material. By Colorado Mountain Lady This book is competently written and has material on subjects such as "pliancy" not really discussed in other books. It is a good overview that should and could be read with classic texts including Lam Rim, and also books by HH the Dalai Lama. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An excellent beginning text on Tibet's historical, cultural and religious development. By Robert E. Kauffman Powers gives us a great overview of not only the history of Tibet and its political and cultural role in the region but a nice overview of the major tenet systems. An easy and informative read that provides balanced views on Tibet's political and religious past and present.

For a comprehensive and eminently comprehensible overview of Tibetan Buddhism, look to Power's substantial Introduction to Tibetan Buddhism. Booklist

From Publishers Weekly In this concise though comprehensive work, Powers, a Tibetan Buddhist and professor of religion at Wright State University, begins to fill a void in the large corpus of literature on Tibetan Buddhism by grounding it in political and cultural experience. Not only does he situate it as a contemporary praxis in the context of its own religious history, but he also anchors it as a universal praxis arising out of Tibetan political and cultural history. Powers's discussions of the festivals, holy days and religious symbolism imbedded in Tibetan cultural forms and of the power struggles and foreign influences that contributed to the institution of the Buddhist state, demystify Tibetan Buddhism, yet leave intact the integrity of its praxis. This is a valuable work for those looking to enrich their practice of Tibetan Buddhism and for students just seeking to deepen their understanding of it. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal The best single-volume introduction to Tibetan Buddhist practice and culture. Powers (religion, Wright State Univ.) includes a clear explanation of each of the four schools: Nyingma, Kagyu, Sakya, and Geluk. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. "Notable...superb...the work remains one of the best single-volume introductions available." -- Ashe Journal "With the current crisis in Tibet, John Powers' book...offers a timely chronicle...encompass[es] a broad scope." -- er's Bookwatch "This book is an excellent entry-level approach to the subject." -- CHOICE: The Journal of the American Library Association