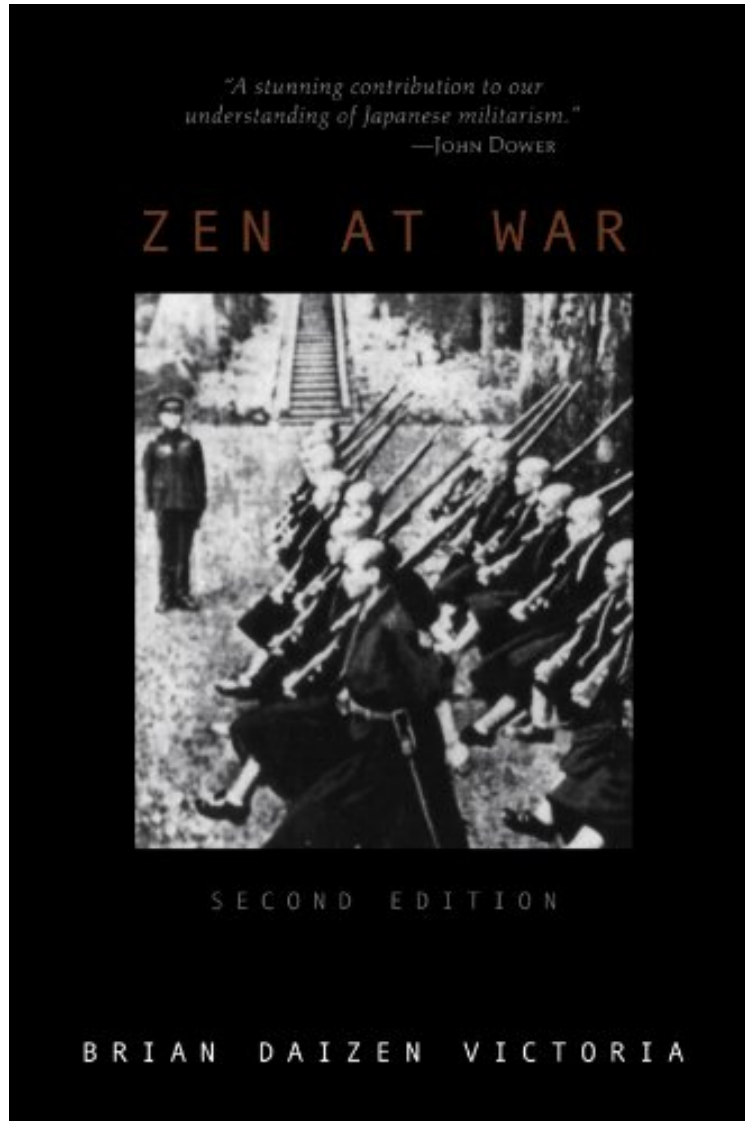


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Zen at War (2nd Edition)

Brian Daizen Victoria

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#110385 in Books Brian Daizen Victoria 2006-06-22Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.18 x .76 x 6.13l, .91 #File Name: 0742539261304 pagesZen At War | File size: 29.Mb

Brian Daizen Victoria : Zen at War (2nd Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Zen at War (2nd Edition):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The shock value is not so great, as I've been aware of the basic contents ...By William KThe shock value is not so great, as I've been aware of the basic contents for sometime. Japan is an island and the Japanese are an insular people. The emphasis in their culture is group conformity. Zen is not the transformer of personality as it was once marketed, and it should not surprise us to learn that Zen leaders in Japan

followed the lead of the Japanese government and Army into widespread war. 5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating history By Madame and Demoiselle Dybala I think most of us have an image of Zen Buddhism as gentle, kind, non-violent. And maybe it is in its teachings. But this study shows that followers of Zen Buddhism in Japan prior to WWII were as subject to the human condition as the rest of us. Big surprise. The war mongering and violence these people perpetrated is no better or worse than what the rest of us who profess to follow a religious path come to. Think of "Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition." We do what we would not do. I think it is typical, too, that when we read about the philosophies or religions of another culture, we tend to see the best and forget to put it in a human context. All over the world, there are wonderful Christians, wonderful Muslims, wonderful Jews, wonderful Zen Buddhists, wonderful Tibetan Buddhists, wonderful Hindus, etc. etc. But it is also just as equally true that you can find serial murderers in each group, mean spirited people, violent people, hateful people, and bigoted people. It is just the way reality cuts through the heart of things. So, I truly enjoyed this book. What I especially liked was the painstaking research that still produced a very readable work. And it is always enlightening to see the way spiritual words can be twisted to serve this world. I highly recommend this book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A real eye opener By Kozen Well written, cruelly honest and it shattered my notion of Buddhist behavior. I am sad that the facts happened and thankful to have read about them. As a Buddhist, it was a reminder that we must be ever looking at our own practice. Do read this book.

A compelling history of the contradictory, often militaristic, role of Zen Buddhism, this book meticulously documents the close and previously unknown support of a supposedly peaceful religion for Japanese militarism throughout World War II. Drawing on the writings and speeches of leading Zen masters and scholars, Brian Victoria shows that Zen served as a powerful foundation for the fanatical and suicidal spirit displayed by the imperial Japanese military. At the same time, the author recounts the dramatic and tragic stories of the handful of Buddhist organizations and individuals that dared to oppose Japan's march to war. He follows this history up through recent apologies by several Zen sects for their support of the war and the way support for militarism was transformed into 'corporate Zen' in postwar Japan. The second edition includes a substantive new chapter on the roots of Zen militarism and an epilogue that explores the potentially volatile mix of religion and war. With the increasing interest in Buddhism in the West, this book is as timely as it is certain to be controversial.

Praise for the first edition: Zen at War is a wake-up call for all Buddhists. Victoria has shown in a passionate and well documented way that Buddhism is not immune to the kind of distortions that have been used throughout human history by virtually all of the world's religions to justify so-called holy war.... (John Daido Looi, Roshi, Abbot of Zen Mountain Monastery; author of The Heart of Being: Moral and Ethical Teachings of Zen Buddhism) Praise for the first edition: In this carefully documented study, Brian Victoria discloses the incredible intellectual dishonesty of Japanese Buddhists who perverted their religion into a jingoistic doctrine of support for the emperor and imperial expansion during the period 1868-1945. Good job! We must face this dark side of our heritage squarely.... (Robert Aitken, retired Roshi, Honolulu Diamond Sangha) Zen at War is an incendiary book and an essential cautionary tale for anyone wanting to apply Buddhist teachings. Brian Victoria is a genuinely radical historian who asks followers of Zen and by extension all Buddhists to look beyond the pristine, other-worldly image the tradition has presented and understand the deep compromises that came from its relationship with power. Much more than an exposé, Zen at War challenges Buddhists to think through the ethical consequences of venerated doctrines and examine them in light of the Buddha's original teaching. Despite the efforts of some Zen apologists to minimize the significance of Brian Victoria's findings, the first edition lit a fire under Zen and the new edition adds fuel by extending the book's critique back into Buddhist history. It is an important contribution to western Buddhism. (Vishvapani, editor of Dharma Life magazine) An important and well-written work . . . This new edition significantly expands the text . . . Especially important is Victoria's well-documented contention that Buddhist involvement with buttressing political establishments is not new but can be traced to the time of King Ashoka in ancient India. . . Finally the author calls all Buddhists to thoughtful consideration and repudiation of "Nation-Protecting Buddhism" as a betrayal of the essential teachings . . . Recommended. (CHOICE) Victoria's extensive research- along with translations of lengthy quotations- substantially adds to our knowledge of the relationship between Buddhism and Japanese nationalism and imperialism....the content is often very interesting... (Journal of Asian Studies) Praise for the first edition: Zen at War is a stunning contribution to our understanding of Japanese militarism and the broader issue of war responsibility as it continues to be addressed (and ignored) in contemporary Japan. Victoria's great sensitivity to the perversion and betrayal of Buddhism's teachings about compassion and nonviolence makes his indictment of the role played by Imperial War Buddhists in promoting ultranationalism and aggression all the more striking and all the more saddening. (John Dower, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; author of War Without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War) Praise for the first edition: Zen at War is a wake-up call for all Buddhists. Victoria has shown in a passionate and well documented way that Buddhism is not immune to the kind of distortions that have been used throughout human history by virtually all of the world's religions to justify so-called holy war. (John Daido Looi, Roshi, Abbot of Zen

Mountain Monastery; author of *The Heart of Being: Moral and Ethical Teachings of Zen Buddhism*)Praise for the first edition:In this carefully documented study, Brian Victoria discloses the incredible intellectual dishonesty of Japanese Buddhists who perverted their religion into a jingoistic doctrine of support for the emperor and imperial expansion during the period 1868-1945. Good job! We must face this dark side of our heritage squarely. (Robert Aitken, retired Roshi, Honolulu Diamond Sangha)From the Back CoverZen at War is a wake-up call for all Buddhists. Brian Victoria has shown in a passionate and well documented way that Buddhism is not immune to the kind of distortions that have been used throughout human history by virtually all of the worlds religions to justify so-called holy wars. John Daido Looi, Roshi, Abbot of Zen Mountain Monastery Author of *The Heart of Being* Zen at War is a stunning contribution to our understanding of Japanese militarism and the broader issue of war responsibility as it continues to be addressed (and ignored) in contemporary Japan. Brian Victoria's great sensitivity to the perversion and betrayal of Buddhism's teachings about compassion and non-violence makes his indictment of the role played by Imperial Way Buddhists in promoting ultranationalism and aggression all the more strikingand all the more saddening. Professor John W. Dower, Harvard University Author of *War Without Mercy: Race and Power in the Pacific War* In this carefully documented study, Brian Victoria discloses the incredible intellectual dishonesty of Japanese Buddhists who perverted their religion to a jingoistic doctrine of support of the emperor and imperial expansion during the period 1868-1945. Good job! We must face this dark side of our heritage squarely. Robert Aitken, Roshi, Honolulu Diamond Sangha Author of *The Mind of Clover* and *The Practice of Perfection*About the AuthorBrian D. Victoria is a Soto Zen priest and director of the Buddhist Studies Program in Japan at Antioch College. He has published widely in both Japanese and English, including *Zen Master Dogen*, which he co-authored, and *Zen War Stories*.