The Lotus And The Lion: Buddhism And The British Empire

By J. Jeffrey Franklin

285pp. Buddhism is indisputably gaining prominence in the west, as is evidenced by the growth of Buddhist practice within many traditions and keen interest in meditation and mindfulness. In the Lotus and the Lion, the author traces the historical and cultural origins of Western Buddhism, showing that the British empire was a primary engine for curiosity about and then engagement with the Buddhisms that the British encountered in India and elsewhere in Asia. Victoria and Edwardian England witnessed the emergence of comparative religious scholarship with a focus on Buddhism, the appearance of Buddhist characters and concepts in literacy works, the publication of hundreds of articles on Buddhism in popular and intellectual periodicals, and the dawning of Syncretic Religions that incorporated elements derived from Buddhism. In this fascinating book, the author analyzes responses to and constructions of Buddhism by popular novelists and poets, early scholars of religion, inventors of new religions, social theorists and philosophers and a host of social and religious commentators. The Lotus and the Lion demonstrates that the nineteenth-century encounter with Buddhism subtly but profoundly changed western civilization forever.

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Reviews

Good eBook and helpful one. It really is written in straightforward words and phrases and never confusing. I am just effortlessly could possibly get a enjoyment of looking at a published book.
-- Romaine Rippin

The book is great and fantastic. It absolutely was written very properly and beneficial. It is extremely difficult to leave it before concluding, once you begin to read the book.
-- Lyda Davis II