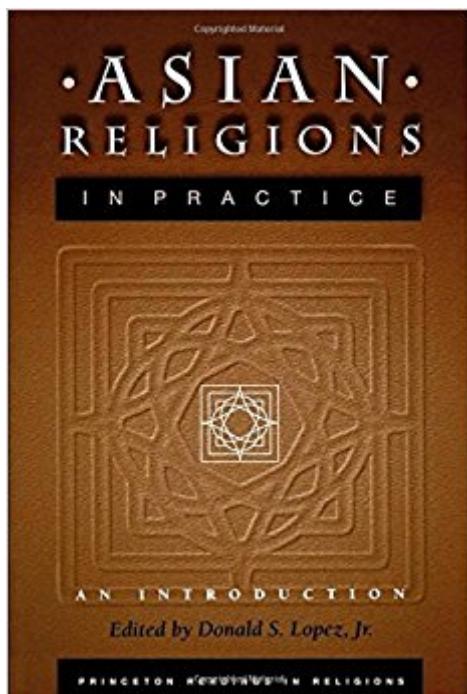


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Asian Religions In Practice: An Introduction (Princeton Readings In Religions)



Synopsis

Princeton Readings in Religions is a new series of anthologies on the religions of the world, representing the significant advances that have been made in the study of religions in the last thirty years. This volume brings together the introductions to the first five volumes of this acclaimed series: Religions of India in Practice (1995), Buddhism in Practice (1995), Religions of China in Practice (1996), Religions of Tibet in Practice (1997), and Religions of Japan in Practice (1999). The introductions to these volumes have been widely praised for their accessible, clear and concise overviews of the religions of Asia, providing both historical context and insightful analysis of Hinduism, Jainism, Sikhism, Islam, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Shinto, and Bon, as well as many local traditions. The authors of the chapters are leading scholars of Asian religions: Richard Davis (India), Stephen Teiser (China), George Tanabe (Japan), and Donald Lopez (Buddhism and Tibet). They bring together the best and most current research on their topics, while series editor Donald Lopez provides an introduction to the volume as a whole. In addition to providing a wealth of detail on the history, doctrine, and practice of the religions of Asia, the five chapters offer an opportunity for sustained discussions of the category of "religion."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The following was written as a sort of "after the discussion of the book response" to the professor. Through seeing what responses I had, and the issues I picked up on especially you can gain a better understanding of the book. In general, it's good point is that it covers a lot of ground, and it

covers "practice" not "philosophy" or "history". It's low points... the Japan chapter was particularly poorly synthesized, the two chapters by Lopez ignored Korea (and it's major contribution to Buddhism), the typographical errors, and the short length for such a major topic. It's about "Asian" religions, but entirely focused on Indian religions, almost entirely Mahayana Buddhism, no mention of SE Asian religiosity or changes to practices there, no mention of newer religions in for example Vietnam or the interesting interpretation of Islam in Indonesia. To improve, rewrite the Japan chapter, fix the typos, add a chapter on Korea and a chapter on Vietnam, and SE Asian Buddhism and SE Asian Islam. On the other hand, this book is a collection of the introductory essays for five other books, and you can just buy the five and get lots more details, I'm sure. In fact, I felt disappointed by this book. Throughout the book, Lopez, the primary author, neglects the impact of Korea on Buddhism, and the books seems to imply that in Korean religions; in shamanism, Buddhism and Korea's interpretation of Zhu Xi Neo-Confucianism there is nothing new to say, or original or different. The message of the book is that yet again, if you know China and Japan, you've got Korea covered. Perhaps just on an emotional level is makes me angry to no end when Korea is unreasonably ignored, and I felt like a scholar of Lopez's repute should never have done so.

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