Buddha: A Very Short Introduction
Michael Carrithers

Print Publication Year: 2001 Published Online: Sep 2013 Publisher: Oxford University Press
Item type: book

The Buddha: A Very Short Introduction examines the complex and sometimes conflicting information that Buddhist texts give about the life and teaching of the Buddha. What can we learn about the social and political background of India in the Buddha's time? How did his thought develop into what constitutes Buddhist thought today? How has Buddhism survived so well through the centuries? What is the contemporary relevance of Buddhism? His teaching prospered throughout the subcontinent of India for more than 1,500 years and by the 13th century ad it had spread. Until the 20th century, the Buddha was probably the most influential thinker in human history.

Buddhism: A Very Short Introduction
Damien Keown

Print Publication Year: 2013 Published Online: Sep 2013 Publisher: Oxford University Press
Item type: book

Buddhism: A Very Short Introduction introduces the reader to the teachings of the Buddha and to the workings of Buddhism in daily life. It looks at the distinctive features of Buddhism, examining who the Buddha was and what his teachings were. By considering how Buddhist thought has developed over the centuries, this VSI considers how contemporary dilemmas can be faced from a Buddhist perspective. This new edition provides new perspectives on Buddhist thought, including up-to-date material about the evolution of Buddhism throughout Asia, the material culture of Buddhism and its importance, new teachings on the ethics of war and peace, and changes to ethnicity, class, and gender.

Buddhist Ethics: A Very Short Introduction
Damien Keown

Print Publication Year: 2005 Published Online: Sep 2013 Publisher: Oxford University Press
Item type: book
Buddhist Ethics: A Very Short Introduction illustrates how Buddhism might approach a range of fascinating dilemmas confronting the modern world, ethical moral issues ranging from abortion and suicide to cloning. The latter half of the twentieth century witnessed a growing interest in Buddhism, and it continues to capture the imagination of many in the West who see it as either an alternative or a supplement to their own religious beliefs. Why is it that ethics has not received as much attention in traditional Buddhist thought as it has in the West? Why are there so few publications on the subject?

Tibetan Buddhism: A Very Short Introduction
Matthew T. Kapstein

Tibetan Buddhism: A Very Short Introduction provides the essential features of Tibetan Buddhist history, teachings, and practice. The Tibetan Buddhist tradition has known over thirteen centuries of continuous development. During that time, it has spread among the neighbouring peoples – the Mongol, Himalayan, and Siberian peoples, Manchus and Chinese – and is now also practised in Europe and America. This VSI considers what this religion teaches; the position of the religious leader, the Dalai Lama, and how his succession will be assured; and political contestation and suppression of Tibetan Buddhism in China.