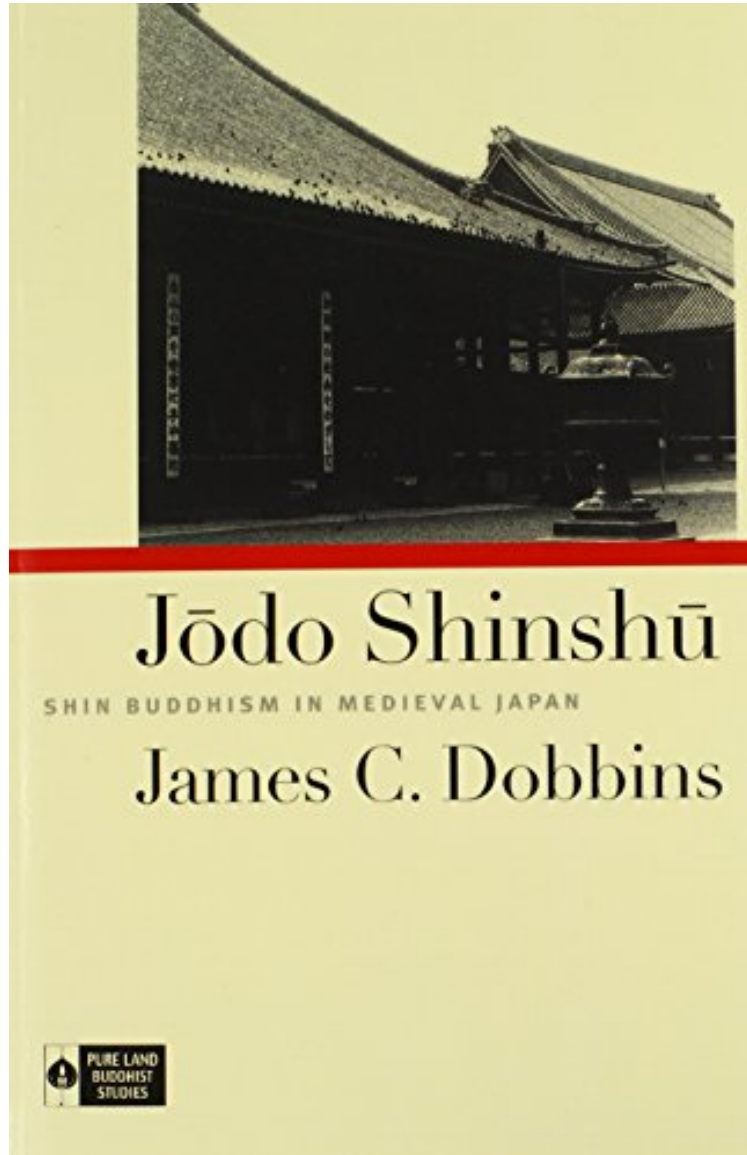


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Jodo Shinshu: Shin Buddhism in Medieval Japan (Pure Land Buddhist Studies)

James C. Dobbins

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James C. Dobbins : Jodo Shinshu: Shin Buddhism in Medieval Japan (Pure Land Buddhist Studies) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jodo Shinshu: Shin Buddhism in Medieval Japan (Pure Land Buddhist Studies):

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The narrative feels more like a story than an academic tome By c.a.

leibowWow. For any one who wants to understand the origins and the context in which Jodo Shinshu came to be, this is the book. Well written and documented. The narrative feels more like a story than an academic tome. I still go back to it from time to time. 12 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Excellent analysis of the development of Joudo ShinshuuBy A CustomerThe book provides detailed and profound information on the development of the Joudo Shinshuu sect of Japanese buddhism, which is the biggest of Japan's buddhist sects today and also the one whose beliefs arguably bear the most resemblance to those of Christianity. The orthodox view of Joudo history held by the members of the sect itself is covered as well as the "historical" view through the eyes of the scholar. The important - that is to say unique - parts of the Joudo belief are covered in detail, especially the process of the establishment of Amida as a kind of saviour whose mercy paves those who rely upon him the way to rebirth in the Pure Land - in sharp contrast to other sects of buddhism, which focus upon satori (enlightenment) through one's own efforts - mainly meditation (jou), study (e) and the strict observance of the rules for buddhist monks (kai). The evolution of Joudo belief and organization from the time of its founders Hounen and Shinran through the middle ages is also looked at in detail. Overall a convincing analysis of this interesting Japanese sect by a renowned scholar, aiming at an audience of scholars and people interested in facts and solid argumentation instead of mainstream esoteric ballyhoo.

This work combines the biography of the founder of Shin Buddhism with a detailed study of the complex development of the religion, from its simple beginnings as a small, rural primarily lay Buddhist movement in the 12th century to its rapid growth as a powerful urban religion in the 15th century.

"The most complete and important book on the early history of Shin Buddhism to appear in English. . . . No other work in English combines the biography of the founder with such a detailed study of the complex development of Shin Buddhism from its simple beginnings as a small, rural primarily lay Buddhist movement in the 12th century to its rapid growth as a powerful urban religion in the 15th century."About the AuthorJames C. Dobbins is Fairchild Professor of religion and East Asian studies at Oberlin College.