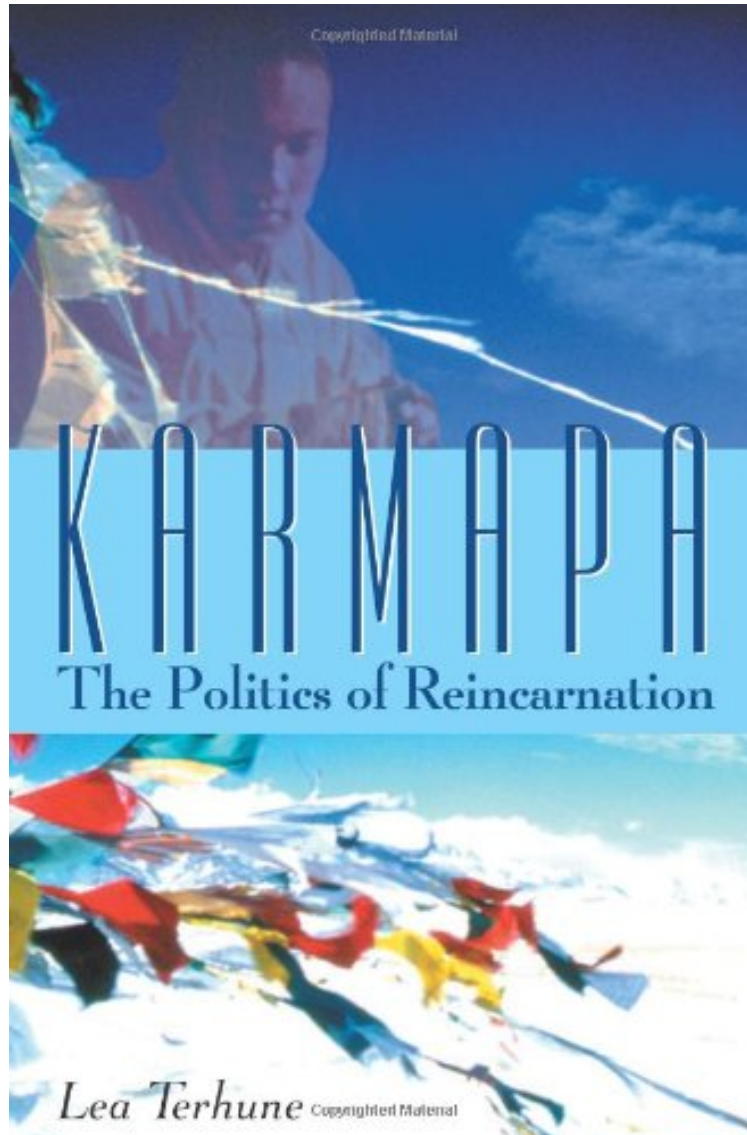


[Download] Karmapa: The Politics of Reincarnation

Karmapa: The Politics of Reincarnation

Lea Terhune

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Lea Terhune : Karmapa: The Politics of Reincarnation before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Karmapa: The Politics of Reincarnation:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Rolling Back the Mist By Leanora M. Terhune A fascinating look at how politics dismantled Tibetan culture. 6 of 10 people found the following review helpful. In Vajrayana a good guy wears a black hat--3.5* By Neal J. Pollock This history of the Karmapas reads more like novel than biography though it provides considerable biography hagiography concerning Karmapas (heads of the Karma Kagyu branch of Tibetan

Buddhism), especially the current controversy over the identity of the 17th Karmapa. Traditionally, the secondary Karma Kagyu lamas find a Karmapa via: clues left behind by a recently deceased Karmapa, dreams, visions, oracles, etc. Following the tragic death of one of them, the others cannot reach accord on the identity of the 17th Karmapa. There appear to be two factions: the Tai Situpa's the Sharmapa's. Terhune was secretary to the Situpa; she seems to attempt fairness but does not succeed. For example, she says on p. 250: "Evening Mahakala prayers are required of the high lama anyone who is serious of leading the spiritual life." This, of course, ignores other traditions--Western, Zen, etc. She seems to lack a higher level of abstraction. There are other books by Situpa supporters as well as one by a Sharmapa supporter a Sharmapa website. It seems impossible for a westerner to reach a satisfactory conclusion based upon only these materials; scientifically there seem to be some errors in each, but it would be interesting to hear the Sharmapa's response to Terhune's saying he'd called the Dalai Lama a Chinese pawn. The situation reminds me of Deborah Tannen's "Argument Culture" based upon polarized views. Most of the allegations court battles seem irrelevant to the main issue--e.g. whether there are one or two Karmapa Black Hats is irrelevant to the identity of the Karmapa. Unfortunately, modern legal political methods failed to determine this, jeopardizing continuation of the Tulku system--where a major reincarnating lama inherits his prior life's assets, duties. Is this why the Dalai Lama indicated he will be the last one? It may reflect the westernization of Buddhism, for better AND worse.³ of 5 people found the following review helpful. An advertisement for Ugyen Trinley By Yeshe 108A book about the Karmapa - the stories about the 16. Karmapa are quite nice. But all she writes about the Karmapa-Controversy" as now there are two men enthroned as 17. Karmapa - Ugyen Trinley and Thaye Dorje. is completely biased. She takes side for the first and polemizes strongly against the second, without presenting hard facts, she accuses strongly the followers of Thaye Dorje. She is introduced as journalist, who worked for the (sometimes not more truthful) CNN, but apart of that she is the personal secretary of Tai Situ, who installed Ugyen Trinley as Karmapa against the will of Shamar Rinpoche, the second highest Lama in the Kagyu School of Tibetan Buddhism after the Karmapa himself. So its clear, that her book is one sided. [karmapaissue.wordpress \[dot\] com/lea-terhunes-book-karmapa-politics-of-reincarnation/](http://karmapaissue.wordpress.com/lea-terhunes-book-karmapa-politics-of-reincarnation/) for a more detailed critic of the book all the best Gerd

While only a young man, Orgyen Trinley Dorje's life has been marked indelibly by devotion, intrigue, and transformation. Karmapa: The Politics of Reincarnation is his amazing story. For Westerners, Tibet is a land of powerful spiritual teachings, staggering mountain vistas, and geopolitical intrigue. The country's resistance to Chinese occupation, and also the growing presence of Tibetan Buddhism in the West, are not just part of our daily news but of the Western consciousness as well. In January 2000, interest hit a peak as fourteen-year-old Orgyen Trinley Dorje was thrust upon the world stage. Recognized as the Seventeenth Karmapa--arguably the second most powerful figure in the Tibetan Buddhist religious hierarchy--he made a dramatic escape from his Chinese Communist overseers to the land of the Buddha's birth, India, so that he could study with the masters of his religious lineage, follow his conscience, and be a leader to his people. Through wide-ranging research and interviews with key figures, including the Karmapa himself, award-winning journalist Lea Terhune unlocks the riveting tale of the Karmapa's disputed incarnation, and traces the roots of the Kagyu tradition and the history of the previous Karmapas in order to illuminate the tale of the young man born to play a key role in the future of Tibet.

"Ten years ago, the world witnessed the startling spectacle of maroon-robed Tibetan monks hurling stones, soda bottles and curses at each other at the gates of a Buddhist institute in New Delhi. The scuffle in the Indian capital was over a 7-year-old boy, Orgyen Trinley Dorje, enthroned two years earlier in a monastery in Tibet as the seventeenth incarnation of the Karmapa, the head of the Karma Kagyu stream of Tibetan Buddhism. With that conflict as a backdrop, Lea Terhune, an India-based American journalist and a longtime student of Tibetan Buddhism, has written an absorbing portrait of the Karmapa--in his current and previous lifetimes--in her book Karmapa: The Politics of Reincarnation... This story is important for Tibet-watchers because the Karmapa one day could succeed the Dalai Lama as the public voice of Tibet." (The Associated Press)"Lea Terhune, a journalist based in India, has focused on the controversial figure of the new Karmapa, [who is] after the Dalai Lama, arguably the most important personage of Tibetan Buddhism. Considering the complexities involved, she did a good job, and her book is a valuable resource for anyone wanting to grok the situation." (Georg Feuerstein, Traditional Yoga Studies Interactive)"Engaging, and easy-to-read... Orgyen Trinley Dorje--recognised by mainstream Tibetan Buddhism as the 17th Karmapa--is the latest in a lineage of incarnate lamas that pre-dates the Dalai Lamas and kicked off the tulku tradition. The story behind his epic escape would probably be rejected as too far-fetched by publishers of fiction. Lea Terhune flashes into a comprehensive overview of the Tibetan Buddhist religion and politics of pre-Communist Tibet as a precursor to the story of the Karmapas, which she recounts in painstaking historical detail. She is thorough, efficient and respectful. Lea's book is as close as you'll get to an authorised Karma Kagyu version of events. For the lay-reader unfamiliar with the machinations of Tibetan Buddhist hierarchies she lays it all out, so that by the end of the book you would know a lot more about a previously opaque area of human experience." (World Tibet Network News)"Terhune is an experienced journalist and has worked for CNN, Radio Deutsche Welle and Voice of America. This shows through in

her impartial story-telling and the depths she has gone to collect the facts and intricacies underlying the 'politics' lying below the surface of the Karmapa's recognition. She draws on numerous interviews conducted over years with the majority of the story's key figures--including the Karmapa himself. She unlocks the mysteries underlying the recognition process and the historical background for the incarnate lineage tradition. At the same time she carefully builds the ground work for her insightful analysis of the politics surrounding the process. She goes centuries back in time to draw out the threads and tendrils of history that nuance Tibetan temporal and spiritual politics to this day.

Karmapa: The Politics of Reincarnation presents a riveting tale and Terhune upholds the highest journalistic ethics throughout its telling." (Ashe Journal)"For all the detailed insight into the process of finding and maintaining the lineage of Karmapas, Lea Terhune has woven in the personal side of the process of choosing reincarnations so effectively, that the book reads as a good novel. I spent several late nights with this fast-paced book keeping me company; it was hard to put down!" (Bella Online: The Voice of Women)"Consider the plot line: an unusual teenager--intense, magnetic--daringly eludes his captors, who have been preventing him from enacting his role as an important leader. Imagine a treacherous escape across nine hundred miles of icy, mountainous terrain. Imagine disguises, helicopters, near misses, near connections--and, at last, our exhausted hero reaching apparent safety. No sooner is his escape accomplished, however, than he faces a rival who claims to be the true leader. This blockbuster tale is no movie, but a true story that continues to unfold in real time. Karmapa covers the material in a methodical way. Terhune lays out a comprehensive, footnoted examination of the history and politics of the Karmapas. Her systematic approach to the material includes a glossary, an index, and several appendices. One appendix describes the Black Hat ceremony, at which the Karmapa is believed to transform himself into the Bodhisattva of Compassion... Ogyen Trinley, the current Karmapa, is charismatic, wise beyond his years, and from all indications, has the X-powers to make sure the Tibetan cause remains big-screen, front-page material." (Tricycle)About the AuthorLea Terhune is a professional writer and journalist based in India, where she has lived since 1982. Currently editor of SPAN (a magazine of the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi), she has also worked as a correspondent and producer for CNN International, ABC News Radio, and Voice of America. Her work has appeared in The Far-Eastern Economic , Asiaweek, International Herald Tribune, San Francisco Chronicle, Yoga Journal, and ABCNews.com. She lives in New Delhi.