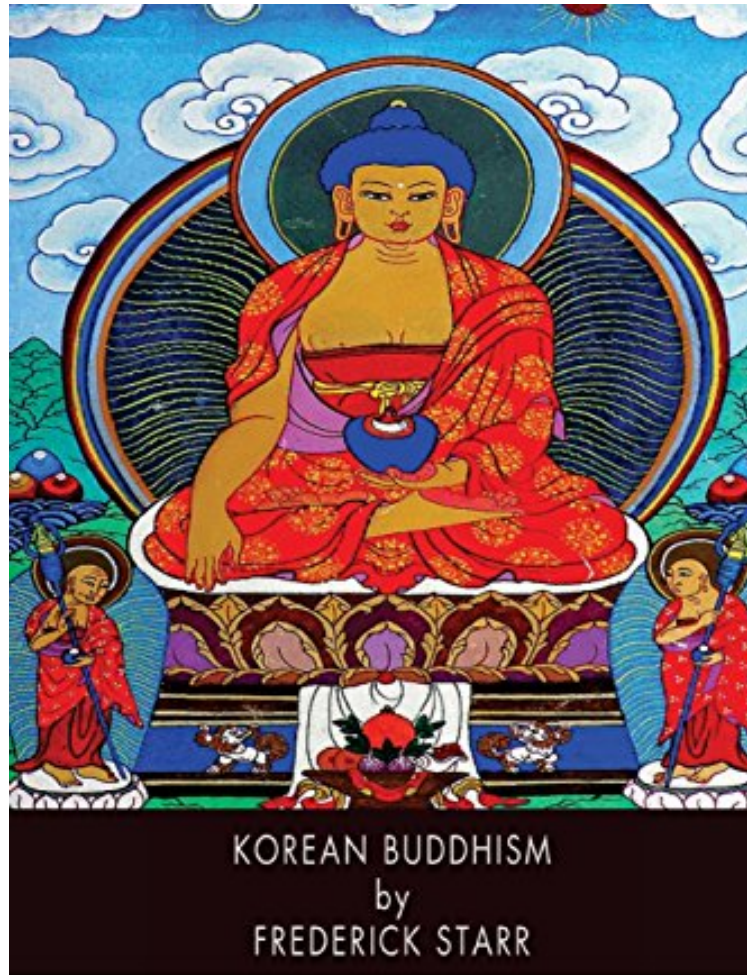


Korean Buddhism

Frederick Starr

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This is a concise but comprehensive history of Buddhism in Korea. In the West, Buddhism is a religion that everyone has heard of but one that few truly understand aside from Buddhists themselves. For almost 2,500 years, Buddhism

has been dominant on the Indian subcontinent, based on the traditions, beliefs, and practices that came about from the teachings of the Buddha (Siddhartha Gautama), the Sanskrit word for the awakened one. Today, three distinct branches of Buddhism have mostly fanned out across Asia, and it is believed that upwards of half a billion people practice Buddhism today, and some of the traditional practices and principles of the religion, including the concepts of karma, reincarnation and the practice of yoga are all commonplace ideas across the world.

About the Author Starr is president of the Aspen Institute.