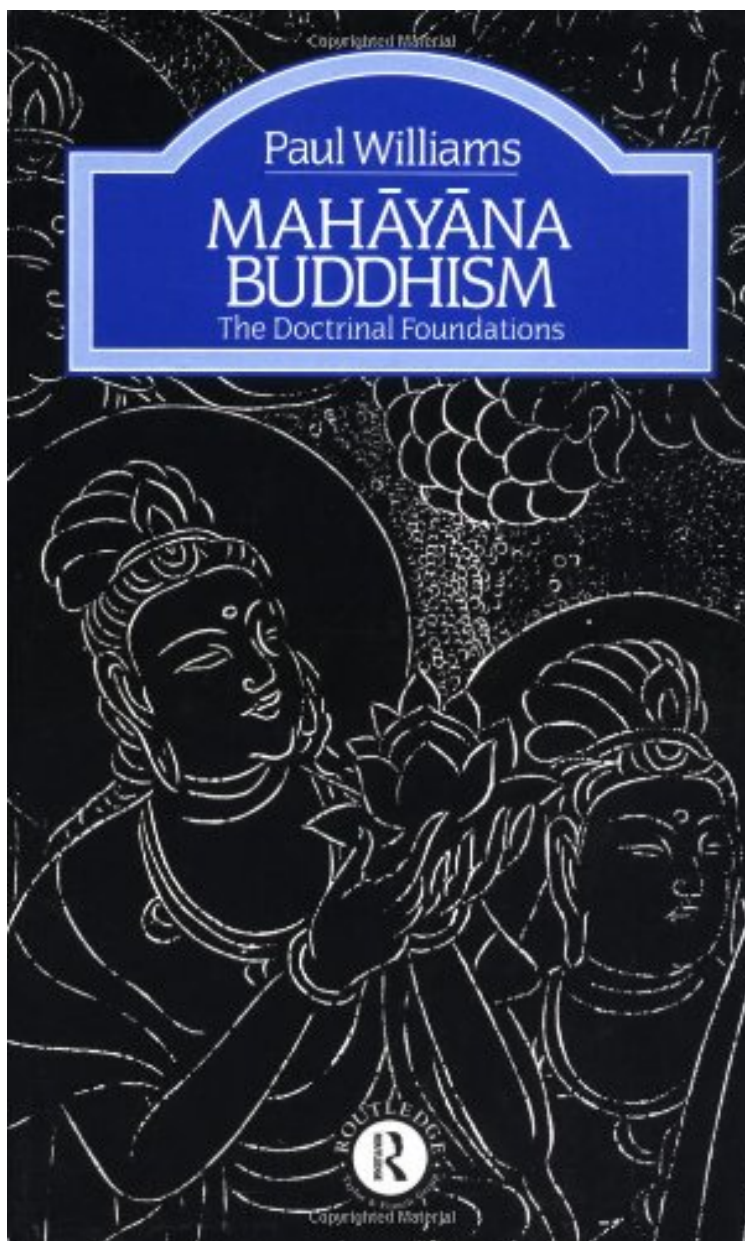


[Mobile library] Mahayana Buddhism: The Doctrinal Foundations (The Library of Religious Beliefs and Practices)

Mahayana Buddhism: The Doctrinal Foundations (The Library of Religious Beliefs and Practices)

Paul Williams

**Download PDF | ePub | DOC | audiobook | ebooks*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#1966207 in Books 1989-07-26 Original language: English PDF # 1 .83 x 5.42 x 8.411, #File Name: 0415025370336 pages | File size: 43.Mb

Paul Williams : Mahayana Buddhism: The Doctrinal Foundations (The Library of Religious Beliefs and Practices)

before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mahayana Buddhism: The Doctrinal Foundations (The Library of Religious Beliefs and Practices):

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Very clear writing style - great! By Melinda McAdams After a few years of practicing Buddhism and reading Dharma books, I am reading this as my first scholarly text, and I'm very impressed by it. It certainly is NOT an introduction for beginners, but Williams is careful to include just enough explanation to keep me reading without feeling a need to resort to Wikipedia (heh!). His footnotes (endnotes) are amazing -- the book proper is only 266 pages, followed by 121 pages of endnotes. I'm skipping most of these, but when I do dip into them, I'm even more impressed by Williams's unusual ability to stick to a central idea and successfully separate out the interesting surrounding ideas (which need not muddy up the main text). I also appreciate his ability to steer clear of Western philosophy. He is presenting the history, central texts and teachings, and disputes of the Mahayana with well-focused discipline. He does this with clarity, occasional stunning insights, and sometimes even a touch of humor! (I especially like it when he refers to "old and basic" ideas of Buddhism; he seems to have a particularly good sense of his audience for this book.) It's very nice to get a sense of how certain issues were divisive (or not) without being lost in excessive detail about each and every school's (or lineage's) take on the matter. That is not to say Williams is treating the subject superficially but rather another indication of his clear focus. Don't consider this book if you know very little about Buddhism at present. But if you are well-grounded in the teachings and have some idea of the "place" of Mahayana, and you want to experience an academic approach to the subject, this book will not disappoint you. P.S. I'm reading (more than halfway through) the new second edition. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Nice reference book By Chris BI would recommend this book mainly to practitioners who already have an understanding of Buddhism. However, if you have practiced for a while and you are looking for a book that explains and summarizes different aspects and traditions within Mahayana, this might be for you. Specifically this book addresses (divided into wisdom / compassion): Prajnaparamita Sutras Madhyamaka Cittamatra Buddha-nature Hua-yen (Flower Garland tradition) Lotus Sutra Bodies of Buddhas and path of the bodhisattvas Faith and devotion Most of the segments are about 10 to 30 pages long: long enough to give me a sense where to direct my studies or search when I am attempting to expand on a teaching. It is not necessarily an easy read, but worthwhile. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I would recommend this book for all those who are willing to ... By Francisco I would recommend this book for all those who are willing to have a deep knowledge about Buddhism. After reading many books about meditation, and comments about sutras by people like D. Lama and T. Deshimaru, M. Ricard, J Kornfied I thought that it was mandatory to look for the history that was behind those texts that many buddhism's writers talk about. This book was the right answer for my inquietud.

Originating in India, Mahayana Buddhism spread to Central Asia, Tibet, Mongolia, China, Japan and other countries of East Asia. In Tibet and East Asia, Mahayana eventually became the prevalent form of Buddhism. Western interest in Mahayana has increased considerably over the last twenty-five years, reflected both in the quantity of scholarly material produced and also in the attraction of Westerners towards Tibetan Buddhism and its teachings. This book aims to provide in one volume an up-to-date and accurate account of the principles of Mahayana Buddhism as they are found in both the Indo-Tibetan and East Asian forms of Mahayana. It seeks to introduce and reflect some of the recent scholarly work in the field, and in particular the book is concerned to convey the diversity and richness of Mahayana Buddhism, a diversity which prevents any attempt at simple definition.

The work is in fact an admirable introduction to the Mahayana traditions, both for the undergraduate student and others who wish to explore the 'Great Vehicle.' Such a useful, up-to-date overview fills a real need. Moreover, its thorough references can be used as a basis for further study and research. Religious Studies This will without doubt become a standard textbook on the Mahayana. Argument and assertions are throughout backed up by reference to primary sources and there are citations or quotations from texts on almost every page. Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society About the Author Paul Williams is Professor of Indian and Tibetan Philosophy and Co-director of the Centre for Buddhist Studies at the University of Bristol. The author of six books and an editor of a further eight, he is a former President of the UK Association for Buddhist Studies. Among his other books for Routledge is Buddhist Thought: A Complete Introduction to the Indian Tradition (2000).