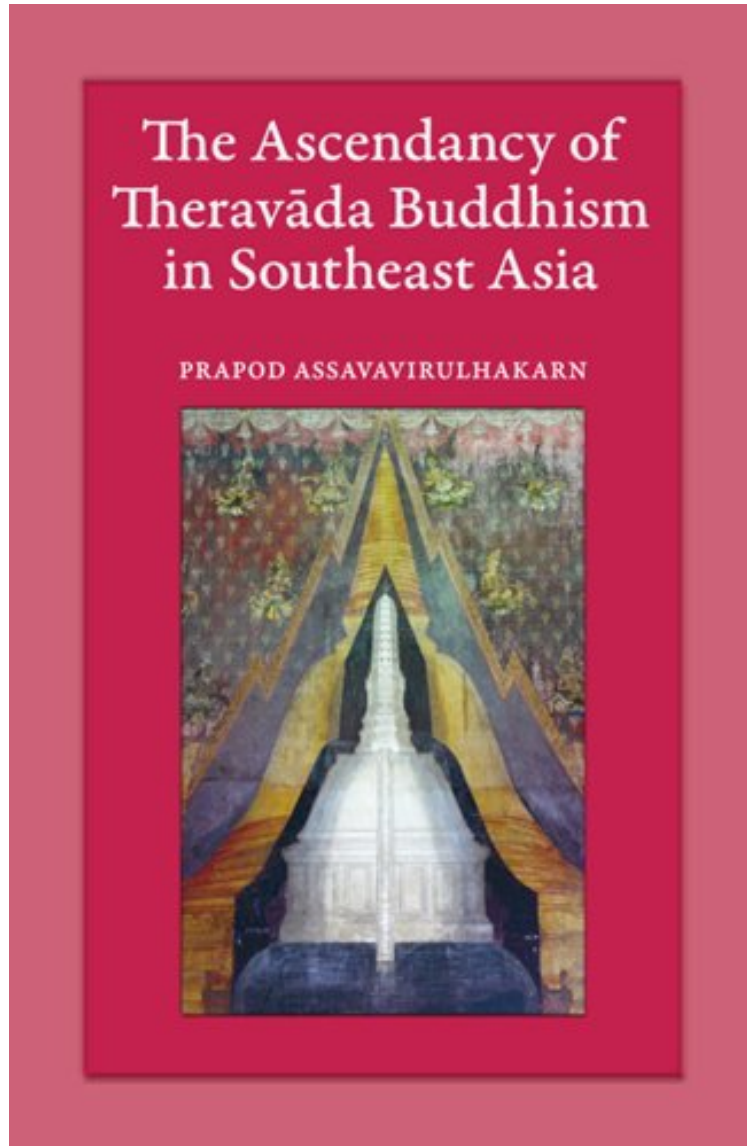


The Ascendancy of Theravada Buddhism in Southeast Asia

Prapod Assavavirulhakarn

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Prapod Assavavirulhakarn : The Ascendancy of Theravada Buddhism in Southeast Asia before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Ascendancy of Theravada Buddhism in Southeast Asia:

This wide-ranging account of early Buddhism in Southeast Asia overthrows dominant theories among both Western

and Asian Scholars. The author argues that Pali-based Buddhism was brought from India and Sri Lanka by merchants, monks, and pilgrims by the fourth century. Several schools flourished alongside Brahmanism, Mahayanism, and local spirit beliefs--in coexistence rather than conflict. There was no "conversion" to Theravada in the eleventh century as the school was already well established. Prapod draws on a broad range of source material including inscriptions, texts, archaeology, iconography, architecture, and anthropology from India, Sri Lanka, China, and the region itself. He highlights the lived tradition of religious practice rather than scriptural sources.

From the Inside Flap
The Ascendancy of Theravada Buddhism is a comprehensive study of the advent of Buddhism in Southeast Asia, especially in Thailand during the first millennium CE. The author, Prapod Assavavirulhakarn, presents new ideas about the ancient cultural geography of South and Southeast Asia, bringing fresh insights to the perennial problem of "Indianization" the translation of ideas, ideals, and technologies from India to societies across the Bay of Bengal.