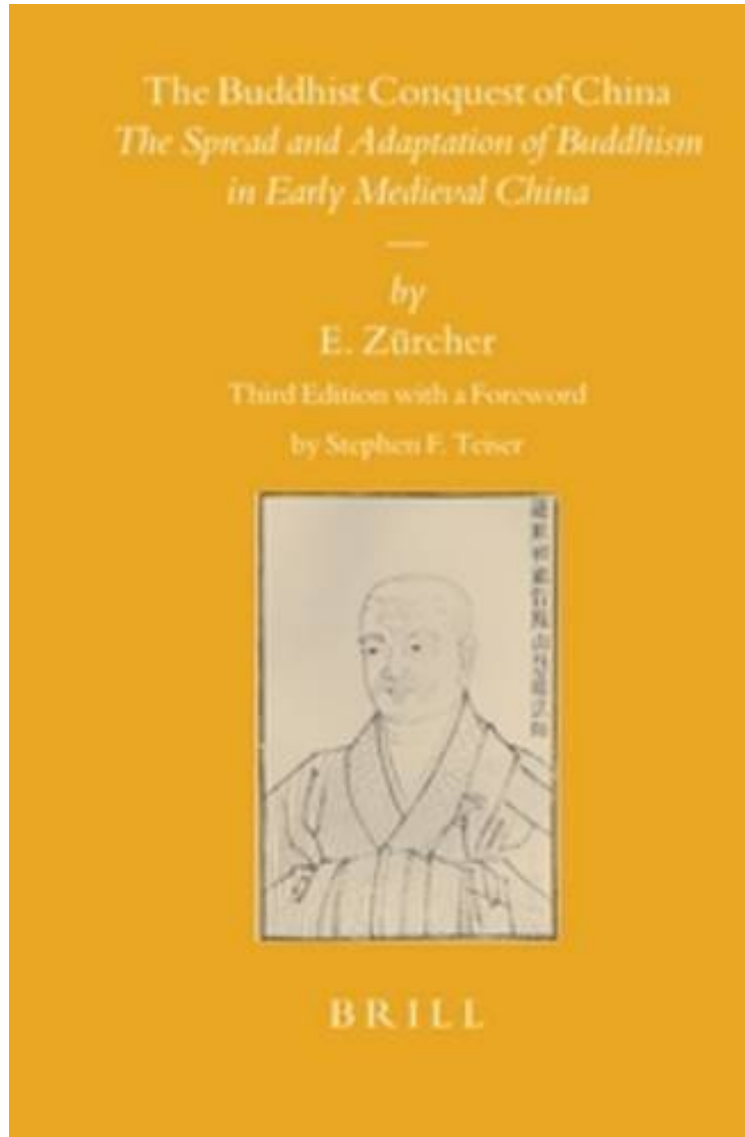


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The Buddhist Conquest of China (Sinica Leidensia)

Zrcher, E.

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Zrcher, E. : The Buddhist Conquest of China (Sinica Leidensia) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Buddhist Conquest of China (Sinica Leidensia):

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. IndispensibleBy Bernard KwanI have been using this book in the course I am taking on Chinese Buddhism at Hong Kong University, and I have to say that the depth of research involved in compiling this book is outstanding and despite being originally published more than three decades ago. This current reprint is as useful as ever in its analysis of early Buddhism in China. It also builds on previous research

and shows how prior theories such as Liang Qichao's theory of Buddhism being disseminated from the south, through the maritime ports, is no longer tenable. The book makes good use of textual analysis and also balances it with a good understanding and depiction of the historical period and the political events that characterized each period, which helps place Buddhism in context as one can start to get lost in the large number of monks and their translations. The part on the period of the three kingdoms was especially good, with the author dealing with each kingdom in turn, and this shed additional light on some of the characters that one may have been acquainted with from the romance of the three kingdom novels - like Cao Cao and Sun Quan and the Sima family. The book is also very useful in that it includes the Chinese characters for all the names and difficult concepts within the text, unlike some books where you have to flip backwards and forwards to a glossary at the back of the book.

"The reprinting in 2007 of a book originally produced nearly fifty years earlier (and based on a doctoral dissertation begun in the early 1950s) is not merely a publishing event. It constitutes a milestone in the academic study of early Chinese Buddhism that shows at once both how far the field has progressed in the past half-century as well as how fundamental the book remains." (From the new Introduction.) At the repeated request of many scholars and students here is a new edition of E. Zürcher's groundbreaking *The Buddhist Conquest of China*. In his extensive introduction Stephen F. Teiser (D.T. Suzuki Professor in Buddhist Studies, Princeton University) explains why the book is still the standard in the field of early Chinese Buddhism. The introduction, newly written for this edition, analyzes the development of the field from the 1950s to the present. This edition is also updated by utilizing Pinyin (rather than the Wade-Giles system of the first two editions) for the transcription of Chinese and by including a thorough bibliography of E. Zürcher's more recent work.

About the Author Erik Zürcher (1928), studied Sinology and Buddhology in Leiden and Paris and received his Ph.D. in 1959. He is Professor of East Asian History Emeritus at Leiden University and has published extensively on early Chinese Buddhism, Taoism, and the reception of Christianity in seventeenth-century China.