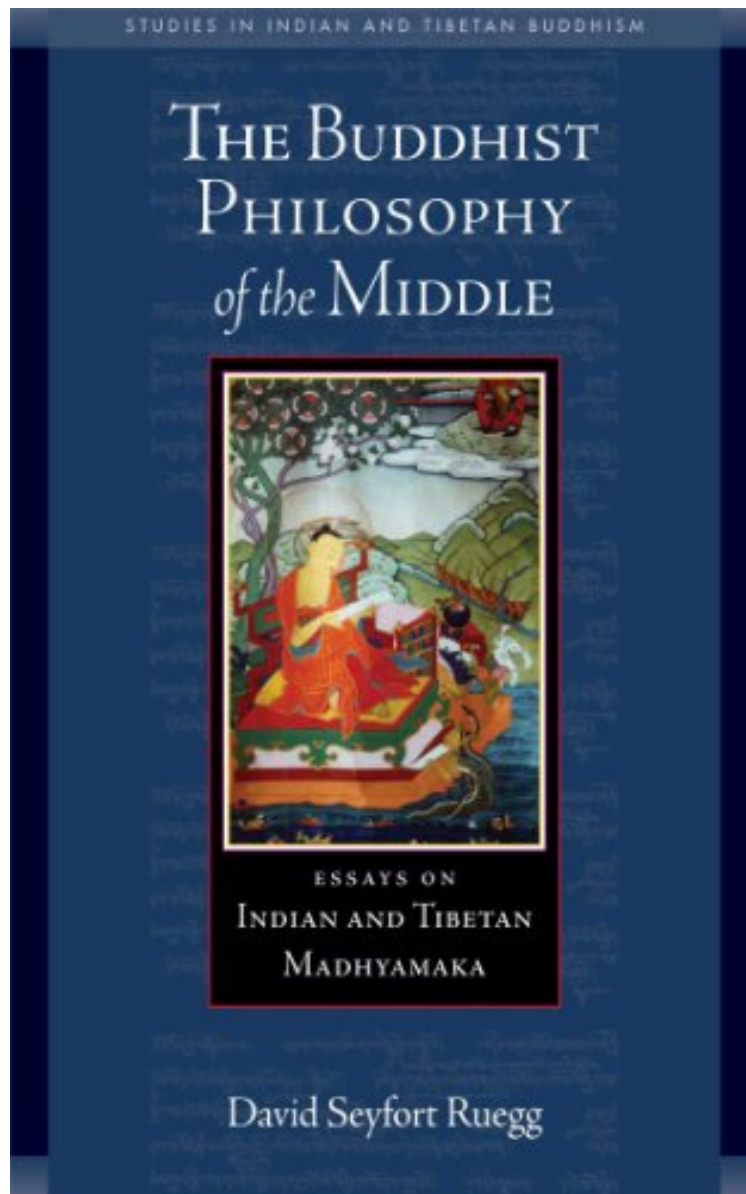


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The Buddhist Philosophy of the Middle: Essays on Indian and Tibetan Madhyamaka (Studies in Indian and Tibetan Buddhism)

David Seyfort Ruegg

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David Seyfort Ruegg : The Buddhist Philosophy of the Middle: Essays on Indian and Tibetan Madhyamaka (Studies in Indian and Tibetan Buddhism) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Buddhist Philosophy of the Middle: Essays on Indian and Tibetan Madhyamaka (Studies

in Indian and Tibetan Buddhism):

15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Worthwhile, but mixed feelings about it
By A reader
The Studies in Indian and Tibetan Buddhism series is an invaluable resource for anyone interested in Buddhism, and Ruegg is one of the most eminent scholars in the field, so when I saw that he had a volume in the series forthcoming I was very excited. I was envisioning a sort of masterful capstone work on Madhyamaka. Alas, this is not it - what we have here are reprints of some of his essays from various scholarly journals. Don't get me wrong, a lot of people will find this helpful and the material itself is valuable. But if you, like me, have access to JSTOR, there is very little value added with this volume. I already had nearly all of the articles herein. Furthermore, there is only a brief two or three page preface, and no introduction! I would have expected at least a fifteen page introduction - a little new material to justify the cost. In addition, although lists the language as English, you also may want to note that no less than a fifth of the essays are in French. It's hard to understand how they justify a \$40 list price for a paperback with no new material, and which makes no effort to make the old material accessible to the general English-reading audience to which it is marketed. That said, I consider my purchase a charitable donation to Wisdom Publications, which is, after all, a nonprofit that I am happy to support. In general the Studies in Indian and Tibetan Buddhism series is amazing, so the publisher may be forgiven for falling short after having set the bar so high.

Madhyamaka, the "philosophy of the middle," systematized the Buddha's fundamental teaching on no-self with its profound non-essentialist reading of reality. Founded in India by Nagarjuna in about the second century CE, Madhyamaka philosophy went on to become the dominant strain of Buddhist thought in Tibet and exerted a profound influence on all the cultures of East Asia. Within the extensive Western scholarship inspired by this school of thought, David Seyfort Ruegg's work is unparalleled in its incisiveness, diligence, and scope. The Buddhist Philosophy of the Middle brings together Ruegg's greatest essays on Madhyamaka, expert writings which have and will continue to contribute to our progressing understanding of this rich tradition.

"Since the nineteenth century, Indo-Tibetan Madhyamaka philosophy has held a special fascination for many in the West—for those who work in the fields of Buddhist studies and comparative philosophy as well as for Buddhist practitioners. Madhyamaka analysis probes essential issues in the philosophy of language, the philosophy of mind (how we think about the world), ontology (how we think the world is constituted), and epistemology (how we know the world). D. Seyfort Ruegg's multiple incursions into this subtle mode of thinking have been path-breaking and, I dare say, of unique importance to anyone investigating Madhyamaka ideas." (Leonard van der Kuijp, Harvard University)
"In a scholarly career spanning more than fifty years, David Seyfort Ruegg has produced seminal studies on a remarkable range of figures, texts, and issues in Indian and Tibetan thought. His essays on Madhyamaka—many of them classics in the field—are gathered together here for the first time, reminding us of Professor Ruegg's enduring contributions to the field of Buddhist studies." (Donald S. Lopez, University of Michigan)
"Throughout his scholarly life, Professor David Seyfort Ruegg has returned time and again to the Madhyamaka tradition of Buddhism, an apex in the intellectual culture of India and Tibet. The meticulous and lucid analysis in his pioneering studies has contributed substantially to the progress of our understanding of Madhyamaka—its history, philology, literature, philosophy, and cultural influence. Without a doubt, his articles collected here, written between 1963 and 2006, will greatly advance this philosophical tradition finding its rightful place as one of the treasures of human thought and reflection." (Ernst Steinkellner, University of Vienna)
About the Author
David Seyfort Ruegg was born in 1931 in New York. His university education was primarily in Paris, where he studied Indology under Jean Filliozat and Louis Renou and Tibetology under Marcelle Lalou and Rolf Stein. Seyfort Ruegg's work has ranged over most aspects of Indian and Tibetan Studies. However two interests come back repeatedly: the philosophy of the Buddha nature (tathagatagarbha) and the philosophy of the middle (madhyamaka). Seyfort Ruegg has held professorial positions in several major universities—Leiden, Seattle, Hamburg, and now the School of Oriental and African Studies of the University of London. A Sanskritist and a Tibetologist, he has at one time or another held chairs in Indian Philosophy, Buddhist Studies, and Tibetan. Tom J.F. Tillemans is Professor Emeritus of Buddhist Studies in the Faculty of Oriental Languages and Civilizations at the University of Lausanne in Switzerland. With a focus on Buddhist logic and epistemology, Madhyamaka philosophy, and comparative philosophy, he was from 1998-2006 co-editor of the Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies. Born in 1950 in the Netherlands and raised in Canada, he now serves as a senior project editor for the 84000 project tasked with translating the scriptures of the Tibetan Buddhist canon. He divides his time between Switzerland and British Columbia, Canada.