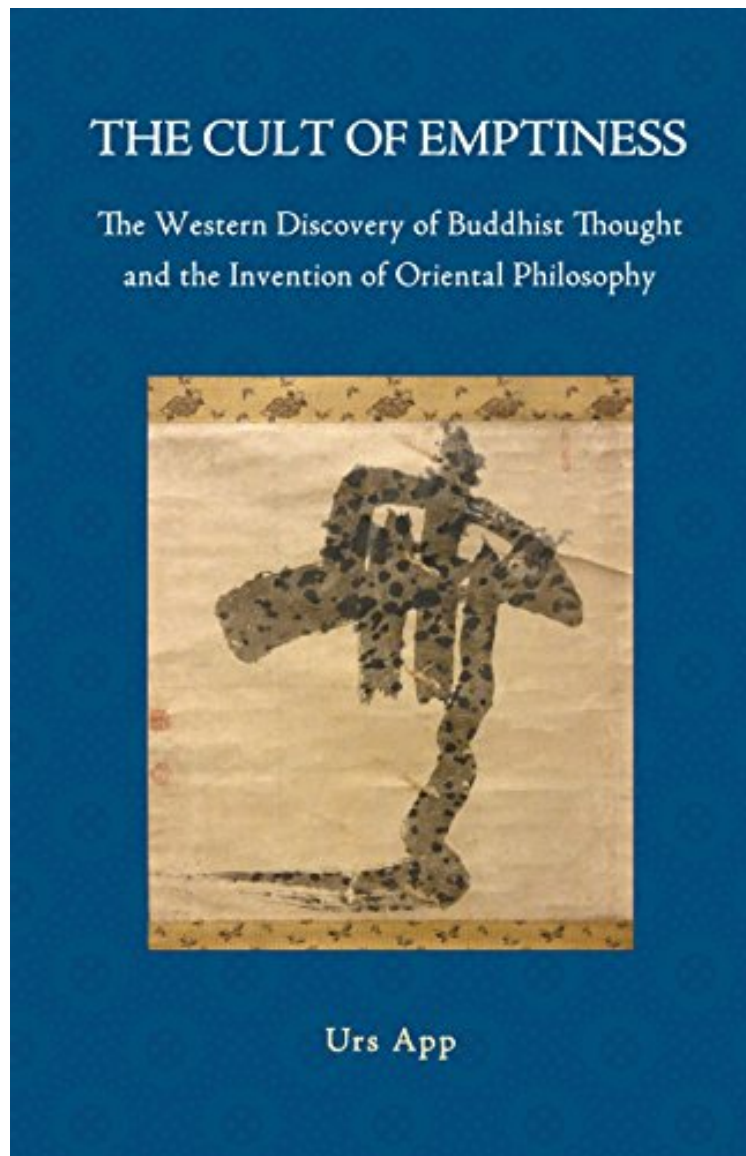


(Mobile ebook) The Cult of Emptiness. the Western Discovery of Buddhist Thought and the Invention of Oriental Philosophy

## The Cult of Emptiness. the Western Discovery of Buddhist Thought and the Invention of Oriental Philosophy

*Urs App*

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#2502737 in Books 2014-07-12 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x .69 x 5.511, .86 #File Name: 3906000125306 pages | File size: 70.Mb

**Urs App : The Cult of Emptiness. the Western Discovery of Buddhist Thought and the Invention of Oriental Philosophy** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Cult of Emptiness. the Western Discovery of Buddhist Thought and the Invention of Oriental Philosophy:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. original research and dramatically presented  
By Lee Roser  
The Cult of Emptiness covers two centuries of how the West came to understand, and misunderstand, a tradition quite dissimilar to its own. Urs App presents an unfolding drama of intellectual events which gave a slow, evolving shape to the wisdom of the East as seen through the eyes of various Western investigators and writers. Much of the material presented is for the first time. This book goes well with Urs App's well-reviewed magnum opus: The Birth of Orientalism. Both of these literary works are skillfully written and packed with documented details gained from what is clearly many years of intense work and original scholarship.

Whereas the discovery by Europeans of the continents of our earth has been the subject of countless studies and its protagonists (such as Columbus) are universally known, research on the European discovery of our globe's "spiritual continents" - its religions and philosophies - is still in its infancy. The Christian West's discovery of Asia's largest religion and fount of philosophies, Buddhism, is a case in point: though it triggered one of the most significant and influential spiritual and cultural encounters in world history, even the most basic questions remain unanswered. What did Europeans first learn about Buddhist thought? When and where did this discovery take place and who was involved in it? What kind of Buddhism did they study, how did they understand or misunderstand it, and what were the repercussions of such discoveries in Europe? Based on a wide range of sources in European and Asian languages, Urs App -- the author of *The Birth of Orientalism* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2010) -- identifies the protagonists of the first Western encounter with Buddhism and shows how their interpretation of Buddhist doctrines led to the invention of a single "Oriental philosophy" reigning from Egypt to Japan: an atheist philosophy anchored in "nothingness" and "emptiness" that was revealed by the Buddha to his closest disciples on his deathbed. Leading thinkers of the Enlightenment came to regard this philosophy as the most ancient form of atheism, the ancestor of Greek philosophy, the precursor of Spinoza, and the fount of mysticism as well as countless heresies including monism, pantheism, quietism, and gnosticism.

"A most fascinating book ... App traces Western awareness of Buddhism to the 16th century and demonstrates how these encounters spawned an awareness of philosophical systems outside of the European tradition. The story of what was known and how that knowledge was used and manipulated is absolutely amazing."(Prof. J. Silk, Leiden Univ.)  
"I just bought a copy of "The Cult of Emptiness"-- it's an absolutely fascinating book, a real gem. I am learning so much from it."(Prof. Stanley Weinstein, Prof. emeritus of Buddhist Studies, Yale)