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account of the development of Buddhism in the West; Suggests that Buddhism as we now understand it is often liberally intermixed with modern western ideas and practices

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This book elucidates the complex cross-cultural genealogy of

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themes, ideas, and practices crucial to the creation of a new hybrid form of Buddhism that has emerged within the last 150 years.

Buddhism modernism is not just Buddhism that happens to exist in the modern world but a distinct form of Buddhism constituted by cross-fertilization with western ideas and practices.

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A great deal of Buddhist literature and scholarly writing about Buddhism of the past 150 years reflects, and indeed constructs, a historically unique modern Buddhism, even while purporting to represent ancient tradition, timeless teaching, or the "essentials" of Buddhism. This

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literature, Asian as well as Western, weaves together the strands of different traditions to create a novel hybrid

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"With David McMahan's The Making of Buddhist Modernism, the study of modern Buddhism has reached a new level of maturity. This



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sweeping and sophisticated analysis of the ways in which westerners and Asians alike have constructed new forms of Buddhism under the pressures of modernity is thoroughly disillusioning, in the best sense of the word.

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In the paper "The Making of Buddhist Modernism" the author analyzes separation of worldly materials, rituals, ceremonies, and other widely practiced traditions, which may be taken as binding culture and practices, which are dispensable and

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sometimes  
inconvenient to  
practice it in daily life...

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In this book, David McMahan charts the development of this "Buddhist modernism." McMahan examines and analyzes a wide range of popular and scholarly writings produced by Buddhists

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around the globe. He focuses on ideological and imaginative encounters between Buddhism and modernity, for example in the realms of science, mythology, literature, art, psychology, and religious pluralism.

**The Making of  
Buddhist Modernism  
by David L.  
McMahan, 2008 ...**

"With David McMahan's  
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The Making of Buddhist Modernism, the study of modern Buddhism has reached a new level of maturity. This sweeping and sophisticated analysis of the ways in which westerners and Asians alike have constructed new forms of Buddhism under the pressures of modernity is thoroughly disillusioning, in the best sense of the word.

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**David L McMahan**

The Making of Buddhist  
Modernism David L.  
McMahan New York:  
Oxford University Press  
2008, 320 pp., \$29.95  
paper Buddhism was  
the first major  
missionary religion,  
and by all accounts it  
seems to have spread  
peacefully. The  
merchants and monks  
who transported the  
dharma did not  
accompany conquering  
armies or attempt to



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defeat the local gods.

[...]

## **How Buddhist Is Modern Buddhism? - Tricycle: The Buddhist ...**

Buddhist

exceptionalism

presents Buddhism as uniquely suited to the modern world, but we can sanitize any religion in this modernist way.

Consider modern

Christian humanism,

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which stresses the humanity of Jesus, unites Christian ethics with humanist principles, promotes science, and calls attention to the Judeo-Christian and ancient Greek sources of scientific ideas such as the “laws of ...

**Beyond Buddhist Exceptionalism | Yale University Press Blog**

Background and

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reception. Rahula's book is an example of "Protestant Buddhism," the Sinhalese version of Buddhist modernism. Due to its rational presentation of Buddhism, which suited western expectations, *What the Buddha Taught* is a widely read and highly influential introduction to Buddhist thought. Publication data. Rahula, Walpola *What The Buddha Taught*,

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Oneworld Publications:  
Oxford... Modernism

**What the Buddha  
Taught - Wikipedia**

“The Making of  
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Invited lecture, Franklin  
& Marshall,  
Philadelphia Alumni  
Writers House, March  
31, 2010. “Secularism,  
Re-sacralization, and  
Legitimation in  
Buddhist Modernism.”  
“Reconfigurations of  
the Religious Field”

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conference, Bochum, Germany.

## **Franklin & Marshall - David L. McMahan**

“Buddhism and Human Flourishing is an admirably thoughtful work of comparative practical philosophy and psychology. It is one of the few books from a modern Buddhist perspective that grapples with the realities of historical and cultural context

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doing better than the other, the desire to live a life of competition economically, politically, culturally, or in whatever form - has brought tensions.

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mission of Buddhism in the so-called West.

Such dynamics manifest themselves through the tension between the old/traditional and the

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new/modern. To incorporate Buddhism into the greater cultural-2 David McMahan, The Making of Buddhist Modernism (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008) 7.

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the reformer Taixu and promoted by the Chinese Buddhist reform movement. The cult presents an apparent anomaly: It shows precisely the kind of concern for ritual, supernatural beings, and the afterlife that the reformers supposedly rejected in the name of "modernity."

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