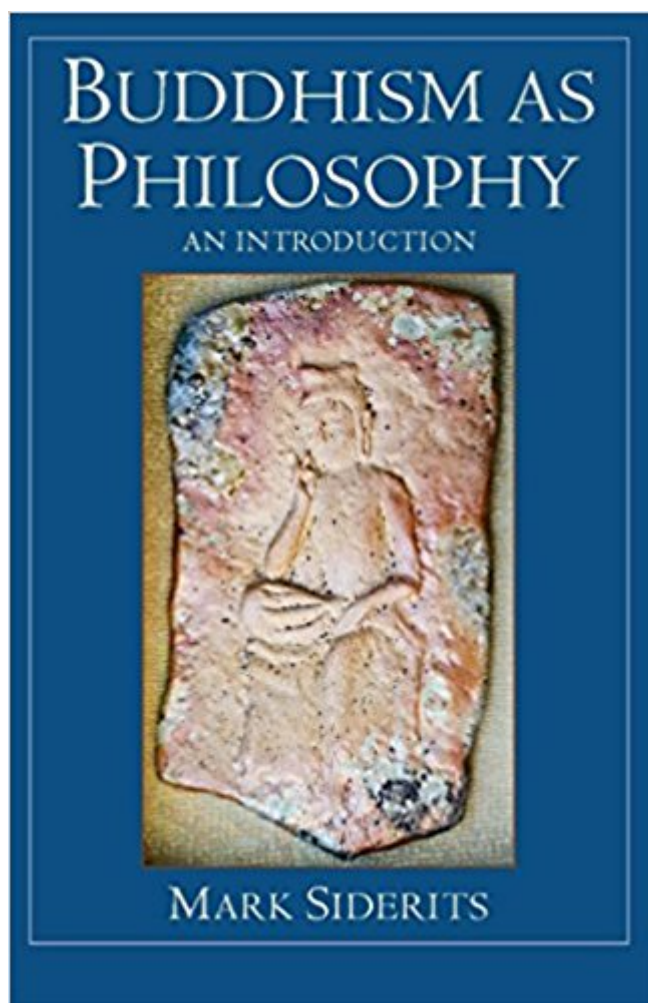


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Buddhism As Philosophy: An Introduction



Synopsis

In this clear, concise account, Siderits makes the Buddhist tradition accessible to a Western audience, offering generous selections from the canonical Buddhist texts and providing an engaging, analytical introduction to the basic tenets of Buddhist thought.

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Customer Reviews

In my own attempts to teach Asian philosophy to American undergraduates, I have often felt the lack of a book like this one. To my knowledge, no other text leads students to question critically the assertions of Buddhist philosophers and to evaluate the arguments for them. Moreover, existing books often include only a few short selections from original Buddhist texts. This volume provides students with the opportunity to wrestle with the richness and complexity of the primary sources. Mark Siderits [is] one of the most important scholars of Buddhism in the world. No living author has done more to make Buddhist ideas intelligible and relevant to contemporary debates in analytic philosophy. --Charles Goodman, Binghamton University There has long been a great need for a book like this one. Siderits shows the grace of a wonderful teacher and hits exactly the right tone for his intended audiences. [He] moves easily between the Buddhist schools of thought and Western philosophical traditions. The coverage of schools and problems is, moreover, exactly right. I can think of no other field of such great interest that lacks such an obviously needed resource. Siderits' book fills that gap. --Owen Flanagan, Duke University [Both] philosophical and analytic, this book is superb. . . . The quality of the writing, its elegance and clarity, is very high. Technical vocabulary is used as needed but always carefully explained. --Bryan W. Van Norden, Vassar College

In this clear, concise account, Siderits makes the Buddhist tradition accessible to a Western audience, offering generous selections from the canonical Buddhist texts and providing an engaging, analytical introduction to the basic tenets of Buddhist thought. "In my own attempts to teach Asian philosophy to American undergraduates, I have often felt the lack of a book like this one. To my knowledge, no other text leads students to question critically the assertions of Buddhist philosophers and to evaluate the arguments for them. Moreover, existing books often include only a few short selections from original Buddhist texts. This volume provides students with the opportunity to wrestle with the richness and complexity of the primary sources. "Mark Siderits [is] one of the most important scholars of Buddhism in the world. No living author has done more to make Buddhist ideas intelligible and relevant to contemporary debates in analytic philosophy." --Charles Goodman, Binghamton University "There has long been a great need for a book like this one. Siderits shows the grace of a wonderful teacher and hits exactly the right tone for his intended audiences. [He] moves easily between the Buddhist schools of thought and Western philosophical traditions. The coverage of schools and problems is, moreover, exactly right. I can think of no other field of such great interest that lacks such an obviously needed resource. Siderits' book fills that gap." --Owen Flanagan, Duke University "[Both] philosophical and analytic, this book is superb. . . . The quality of the writing, its elegance and clarity, is very high. Technical vocabulary is used as needed but always carefully explained." --Bryan W. Van Norden, Vassar College Mark Siderits is Professor of Philosophy, Illinois State University. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This is a good introductory book on Buddhist Philosophy, written with the perspective of a Western student in mind. Throughout the book, block quotes with translations of primary sources guide the discussion. The arguments are clearly laid out.

I am a student of Buddhism for some time now but never understood the reasoning behind some of the core tenets. This book clarifies the concepts in a very clear way. You will come to appreciate the Buddha's genius by reading this book carefully. The author has done a phenomenal job in explaining. I am now looking forward to reading the author's other books.

The author presents Buddhism as a test of philosophic ideals and definitions. Highly instructive, excellent depth, and the book stays on message from cover to cover.

Very good book. Not easy reading, but very suitable for Westerners and those not familiarized with Buddhism. I guess you need to be familiar with philosophy texts though. I recommend it.

This is a top-notch, accessible and reliable guide to the philosophy of Buddhism.

Fascinating.

Disjointed content, and, at points, completely unreadable. I had high hopes after reading the reviews (which usually do not steer in the wrong direction), but the deeper I dwelled into this mass of incoherent gibberish, the more I regretted the \$9.99 I spent. Two stars on account of the usefulness of a small amount of the material (no matter how haphazardly it was presented), but the bulk of what was presented was ... really, really bad. I've been a Buddhist for over 20 years, and interested in its philosophy, but I just cannot recommend this book.

It can get a bit technical at times, but I suppose that was the intention. It's still very good and I'd recommend it.

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