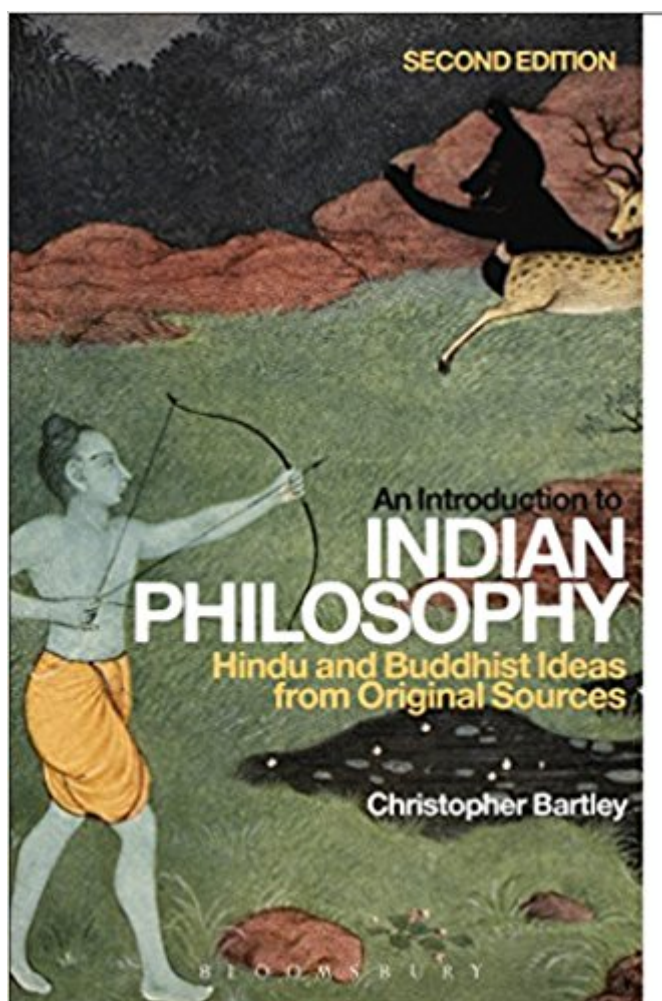


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An Introduction To Indian Philosophy: Hindu And Buddhist Ideas From Original Sources



Synopsis

Introducing the topics, themes and arguments of the most influential Hindu and Buddhist Indian philosophers, *An Introduction to Indian Philosophy* leads the reader through the main schools of Indian thought from the origins of Buddhism to the Saiva Philosophies of Kashmir. By covering Buddhist philosophies before the Brahmanical schools, this engaging introduction shows how philosophers from the Brahmanical schools—including Samkhya, Yoga, Nyaya, Vaisheshika, and Mimamsa, as well as Vedanta—were to some extent responding to Buddhist viewpoints. Together with clear translations of primary texts, this fully-updated edition features:

- A glossary of Sanskrit terms
- A guide to pronunciation
- Chronological list of philosophers & works

With study tools and constant reference to original texts, *An Introduction to Indian Philosophy* provides students with deeper understanding of the foundations of Indian philosophy.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Among the book’s most impressive features is the abundance of primary textual material which has been translated by the author himself . . . it transforms the book from a mere introductory text into a resource for readers seeking a taste of the primary sources.”

Mikel Burley, *Religions of South Asia*

“Written with enviable clarity and incisiveness, and provided with helpful didactic material throughout, this up-to-date Introduction will become indispensable reading for all those interested in the fundamentals of Hindu and Buddhist philosophy (from ca. the second to the twelfth centuries C.E.).”

Julius Lipner, Fellow of the British Academy [FBA] and Professor of Hinduism and the Comparative Study of Religion, University of Cambridge,

UK – “The most remarkable achievement of this book is the demonstration of how each tradition of Indian philosophy is unified under some theme, such as the 'no self' theory and momentariness of the Buddhists. Bartley successfully displays the diagonal relations between the horizontal and the vertical; that is, he shows how a philosopher within a particular school borrows and develops a notion from a preceding philosopher of an opposing school.”

– Monica Prabhakar, *Philosophy in Review*

Packed with study tools and clear translations of primary texts, this is an easy-to-use introduction to the main schools of thought in Indian philosophy.

good coverage ; but not deep enough.

I always found my primary school introduction to "Hinduism" more than lacklustre I decided to venture on the journey alone and learn the most I could about this mythical religion (pun intended). When the most I was taught in school was that Hindus have "many gods", my knowledge of hinduism and Buddhism was on the low level; I did have a pre-existing interest in Buddhism, though even that didn't venture far beyond basic meditation techniques and that everything changes. It was in fact the contradictions between Buddhism and Hinduism that sparked my interest, I was at an existential crossroad where I had to decide whether I believe that everything did indeed change or if we possessed an unchanging center-point (Atman). This book answered this, for me, and much more. Though at times filled with an unnecessary plethora of academic words and terms (MOM! It's rubbing off...) it is pragmatically condensed, covering both the basic terms and ideas (such as Brahman, Atman and Samsara) for the newcomers and more tricky and contradictory ideas filled with references and history. Weighing in at about one pound and stretching over 250 pages, Bartley does an outstanding job in explaining Indian philosophy from an academic point of view; And one should expect nothing more or less. This is a scholarly look at these ideas, not a devotional text or an emotional one, Bartley neither pokes fun or tries to pick sides in this publication, leaving us free to decide ourselves whether mentioned ideas are kooky, strange, dangerous, interesting or life altering. If you want a publication that is more in tune with the emotional, and perhaps fitting, devotional attitudes connected with worship or religious practice one can easily look up any of the many new-age lifestyle books found in any book store (books that most often misrepresent the actual ideas of the religion they claim to represent, or just steal from religions and call it their own... Did anyone say Eckhard Tolle? No? Could have sworn I heard it...) or purchase any of Swami

Prabhupada's (Hare Krishna) publications. This is a wonderful way to get to know the real complex and amazingly deep thoughts that were thought up thousands of years ago; If you smoke cannabis and think you just realized something incredible about the universe, chances are that some Hindu swami wrote it down five thousand years before you were born (Disclaimer: Use of controlled substances are illegal and punishable by law) What stops this publication from getting all of those shiny stars is the countless grammatical and spelling errors that are tossed around like confetti; Add this to the academical language and the subjects being discussed, it can at times be hard to decipher between genuine Zen riddles and typos... Though it might be fitting I doubt it's intentional. Somebody's proof reader was sick a few days, that much is sure. But whether new, just curious or wanting to know more, I highly recommend adding this item to your basket; The price may be steep but the reward is endless (though as The Bhagavad Gita teaches us: You should never cling to the fruits of action, but live within the present moment and action)

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