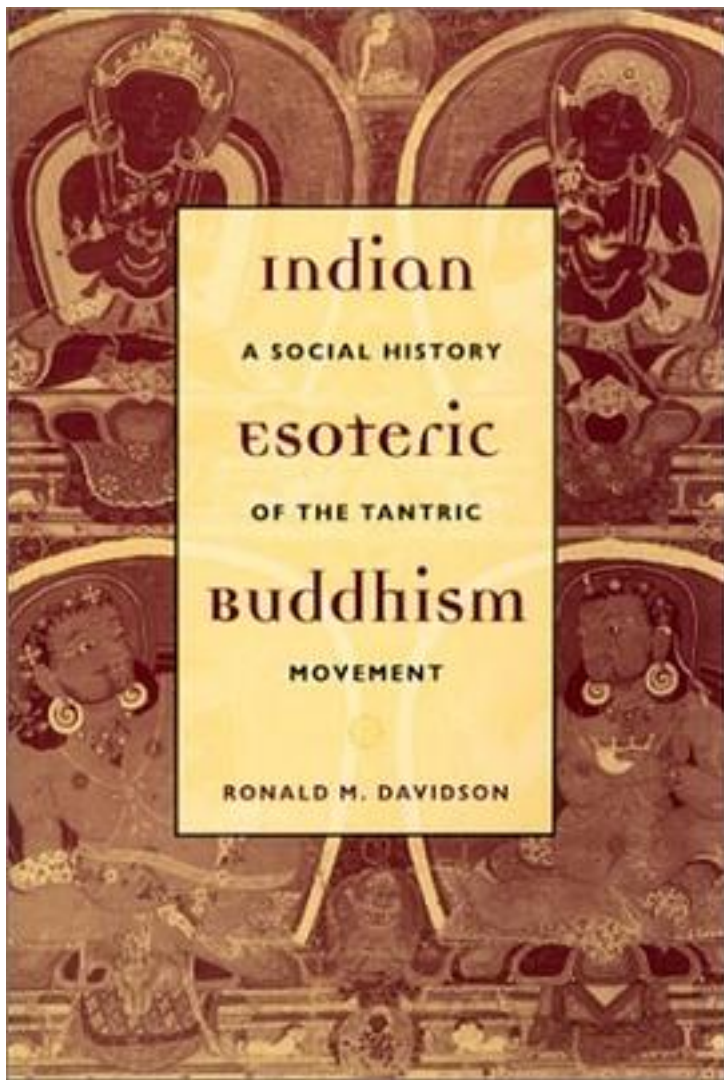


Indian Esoteric Buddhism



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Despite the rapid spread of Buddhism the historical origins of Buddhist thought and practice remain obscure. This work describes the genesis of the Tantric movement and in some ways an example of the feudalization of Indian society. Drawing on primary documents from Sanskrit, Prakrit, Tibetan, Bengali, and Chinese authors shows how changes in medieval Indian society, including economic and patronage crises, a decline in women's participation and the formation of large monastic orders led to the rise of the esoteric tradition in India.

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评论

确实略逊于Tibetan Renaissance。正如Wedemeyer所批评的那样，Davidson太过追求历史论述的连贯性以至于在历史材料的运用上有很多的疏漏。中世印度历史文本材料的不足使得Davidson不得不想尽办法扩充他的材料库，但在他使用时又确实不够critical，导致结论反而变得有些untenable。不过本书最大的亮点还是在于提出了社会史研究的orientation（当然也可看出Sanderson的影响），光这一点已经足以令人振奋。虽然在Snellgrove, Davidson和Wedemeyer的三国演义里最终还是Wedemeyer的方法论最为吸睛，但如果说要以谁为榜样的话，我最终还是会希望追寻Davidson这样的传统。

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