



Buddhism

From The Brill Dictionary of Religion

Concept

1. 'Buddhism' is the term used to denote the religion descending from the ascetic movement founded by Gautama Buddha. To be sure, the teachings of early Buddhism have been developed in very different ways over the course of time. A large number of schools, at times with considerably divergent philosophical systems and corresponding monastic rules, were and are scattered across an immense geographical space (today nearly all of Asia, with the exception of India, Buddhism's land of origin). The three great directions are Tantric (Tantra), Mahāyāna (Northern), and Hīnayāna (Southern) Buddhism. To the last named belongs today's most important form, Theravada, which prevails in Sri Lanka and

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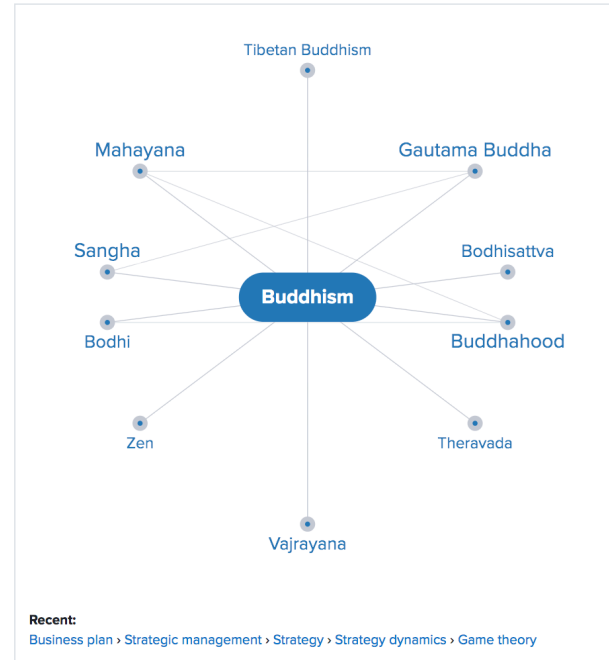
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Buddhism

The religion of Buddhism originated in India during 525 BCE. Siddhartha Gautama, referred to as the Buddha, was a prince who became disillusioned with his life of wealth. By the age of 29, Siddhartha Gautama had renounced his life of privilege to search for a solution to human suffering. Buddhist...

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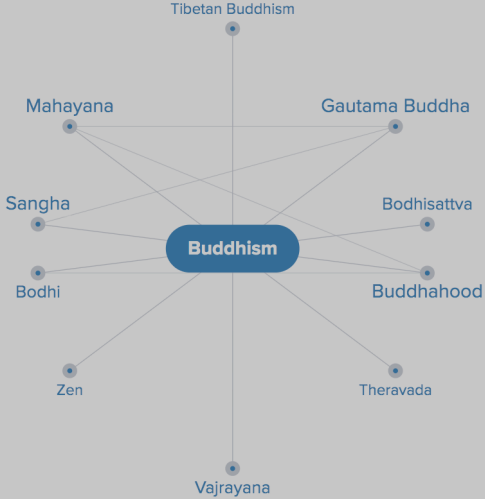
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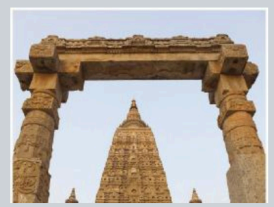
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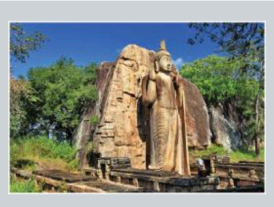
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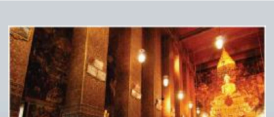


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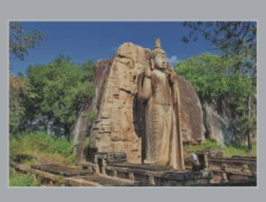
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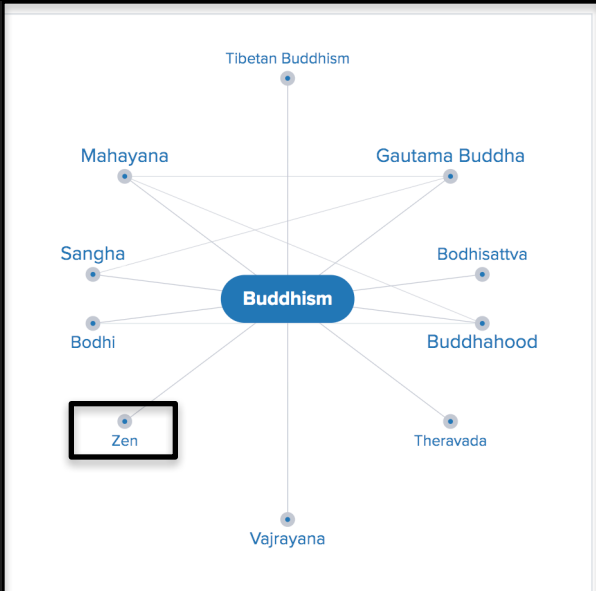
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Zen Buddhism

From The Columbia Encyclopedia

Buddhist sect of China and Japan. The name of the sect (Chin. *Ch'an*, Jap. *Zen*) derives from the Sanskrit *dhyana* [meditation]. In China the school early became known for making its central tenet the practice of meditation, rather than adherence to a particular scripture or doctrine.

Image from: [The Shonkintei garden pavilion \(1641\) at the...](#) in *Philip's Encyclopedia*

The founder of Zen in China was the legendary Bodhidharma, who came to China from India in the late 5th cent. A.D. He taught the practice of "wall-gazing" and espoused the teachings of the *Lanka-Vatara Sutra* (whose chief doctrine is that of "consciousness-only"; see [Yogacara](#)), which he passed on to his successor Hui-k'o (487–593).

According to tradition, Hui-neng (638–713) became the sixth patriarch of Chinese Zen by superseding his rival in the intuitive grasp of the truth of enlightenment, even though he was illiterate. *The Platform Sutra*, attributed to Hui-neng, defines enlightenment as the direct seeing of one's "original Mind" or "original Nature," which is Buddha, and this teaching has remained characteristic of Zen. A number of teaching lineages arose after Hui-neng, all claiming descent from him, and teaching the method of "sudden enlightenment" best known in the West by the term *satori*. In its formative period Zen was influenced by both Taoism and elements of Prajna-Paramita Buddhism (see ...)...

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Zen Buddhism (Japanese Zen, meditation)

In China and Japan, a Buddhist school emphasizing the transmission of enlightenment from master to disciple without reliance on the scriptures. It derives from the teaching of Bodhidharma, who came to China in 520 AD. The two major sects, Soto and Rinzai, stress meditation and the use of logical...

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graph TD
    Zen((Zen)) --- Rinzai[Rinzai school]
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