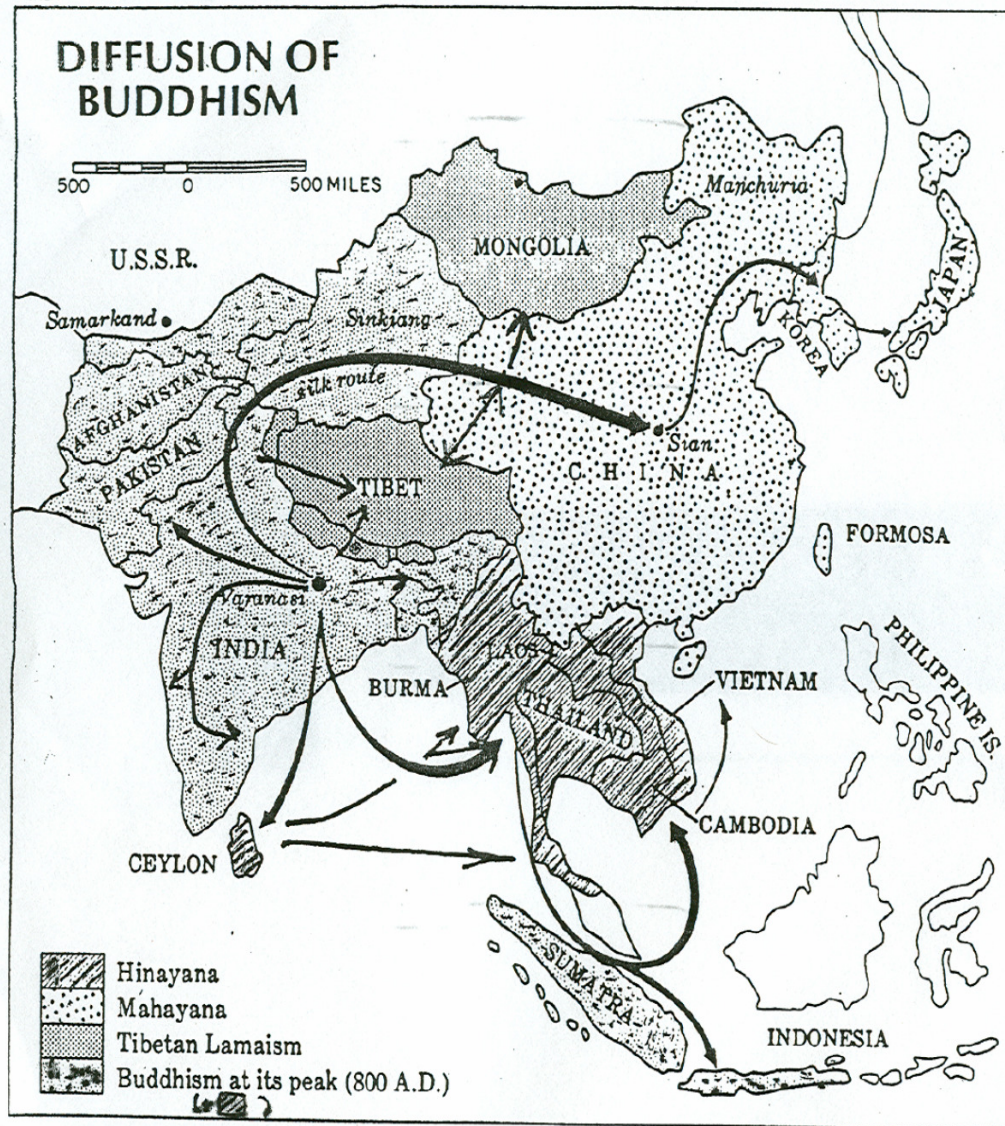


Key Dates in the History of Buddhism



Todd Lewis 2010

Date	Event
563-480BCE	/440-360 Life of Shakyamuni, the Buddha
383 BCE/ 262	Council of Vaishali, Schism
273-236 BCE	Reign of Ashoka, spreading Edicts and Buddhism across empire; Gandhara an Indo-Greek contact zone
250 BCE	Council of Pataliputra, split into "18 Schools"
240 BCE	Sanchi Stupa built; cult of stupa at sites across South Asia
100 BCE	Origins of Mahayana Buddhism, Prajnaparamita Literature
85 CE	Composition of <i>Lotus Sutra</i> ; "cult of the book"
50-180 CE	Kushan Empire in NW India, patrons of Buddhism spread tradition to central Asia
125 CE	Buddhist monks in western China
200	Life of Nagarjuna, great Mahayana Philosopher
380	Yogacara school led by Asanga, Vasubandhu
425	Writings of Theravadin Buddhaghosa, Sri Lanka
450-800	Era of Sino-Indic Buddhist connection via Silk Routes, pan-Asian cult of Manjushri on Mt Wu Tai Shan in China
c. 500	Formation of Vajrayana in India
552	Buddhism introduced to Japan
600	Chan School forms in China
630-644	Chinese monk Xuan-zang in India
749	First monastery in Tibet
760-1142	Pala-Sena kingdoms of north India support Mahayana Buddhism; contacts with Nepal and Tibet
700-1270	Buddhism dominates in the Sri Vijaya Kingdom, Sumatra and Java; Borobudur stupa built
840-845	Destructive Persecution of Buddhism in China
956-1300	Pagan capital of Buddhist Kingdom, Burma
1200	Muslim conquest of North India; last great monastic centers destroyed; monks migrate north and east
1193-1227	Kamakura era in Japan when new schools formed: Zen from China by Eisei (b.1141) & Dogen (b.1200); Pure Land by Honen (b. 1133) & Shinran (b1173), sect founded by Nichiren (1222-1282)
1357-1410	Life of Tsong-kha-pa, Tibetan scholar and reformer
c. 1550	Mongols convert to Buddhism
1400-1959	Tibet ruled by Gelugpa School, Dalai Lamas & Regents
1815-1868	British rule leads to Buddhist nationalism, reform, independence struggle "Protestant Buddhism"
1959--	Exile of Dalai Lama, globalization of Tibetan Buddhism
1982-2009	Civil War in Sri Lanka, stirred by Buddhist nationalism
1966-1976	China's Cultural Revolution; great destruction of monasteries
1980-present	Gradual restoration of Chinese Buddhism under state supervision
1989	Network of Engaged Buddhists founded