

Contents

<i>Preface</i>	ix
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xii
1 The doctrinal position of the Buddha in context	1
<i>Preliminaries</i> 1	
<i>The Brahmanical doctrinal background</i> 6	
<i>How to read the life-story (hagiography) of the Buddha</i> 21	
<i>Do we really know anything of what the Buddha taught?</i> 30	
<i>The Buddha's attitude to his teaching: the arrow and the raft</i> 34	
2 Mainstream Buddhism: the basic thought of the Buddha	41
<i>The four Noble Truths</i> 41	
<i>Not-Self</i> (anātman; Pāli: anattā) 56	
<i>Dependent origination</i> 62	
<i>A further note on karman</i> 72	
<i>The universe of the Buddha</i> 74	
<i>Buddhist meditation – the theoretical framework</i> 81	
<i>Abhidharma</i> (Pāli: Abhidhamma) 87	
3 The nature and origins of Mahāyāna Buddhism	96

4 Some schools of Mainstream Buddhist thought	112
<i>Sarvāstivāda/Vaibhāṣika</i>	112
<i>Sautrāntika</i>	118
<i>Theravāda</i>	122
<i>Pudgalavāda</i>	124
<i>Mahāsāṃghikas</i>	128
5 Mahāyāna philosophy	131
<i>The Perfection of Wisdom (Prajñāpāramitā)</i>	131
<i>Madhyamaka</i>	140
<i>Yogācāra</i>	152
<i>The Buddha-nature (tathāgatagarbha) in India</i>	160
6 The Buddha in Mahāyāna Buddhism	167
<i>Some further sūtras</i>	167
<i>The Buddha's multiple 'bodies' (kāya)</i>	172
<i>How to become a Buddha</i>	176
<i>Buddha and bodhisattva cults in Indian Mahāyāna</i>	181
7 Mantranaya/Vajrayāna – tantric Buddhism in India	192
<i>Introduction</i>	192
<i>Tantric texts: classification and characteristics</i>	202
<i>Vajrayāna – how distinct a way?</i>	217
<i>Elements of practice</i>	223
<i>Access to tantric practice: initiation and empowerment</i>	231
<i>Impure substances and antinomian acts: the transgressive dimension of tantric Buddhism</i>	235
<i>Tantric practitioners</i>	238
<i>Origins and influences</i>	242
<i>Notes</i>	245
<i>Bibliography of works cited</i>	277
<i>Primary sources</i>	277
<i>Secondary sources</i>	300
<i>Index</i>	315