

A TIMELINE OF BUDDHIST HISTORY AND THOUGHT

DATE	PLACES	PEOPLE		EVENTS	TEXTS		DOCTRINES	
		Teachers	Supporters		Shastra	Sutra	Schools	Ideas
500	Buddha lives in the Ganges valley. After his lifetime, Dharma spreads.	Buddha (c.480-400) Sariputta Upali Ananda	Bimbisara Ajatasattu	1st Council 2nd Council	Vinaya Pitaka Misc. Nikayas	Sutta Pitaka 4 Nikayas	Theravada	Jhana Vipassana Arahant
250	Dharma moves to Sri Lanka. Dharma moves to NW India.		Ashoka (c.304-232)	3rd Council	Abhidhamma Pitaka Milinda Panho Prajnaparamita Sutras		Mahayana Sarvastivada	Punya Paramis Bodhisattva
0	Dharma moves to Central Asia. Dharma moves to China.		Asvaghosa (c.80-150) Kanishka (c.100-175) Nagarjuna (c.150-250)	4th Council	Buddhacarita Mahavibhasa Madhyamaka-karika	Lotus Sutra Vimalakirti Sutra Avatamsaka Sutra Pure Land Sutras	Vaibhasika Sautrantika Madhyamaka	Tri-kaya Emptiness
250	Dharma moves to Korea.		Asanga (c.310-400) Vasubandhu (c.320-400) Kumarajiva (c.344-413)	Faxian in India (399-412)	Tathagatagarbha Sutra Abhidharma-samuccaya Abhidharma-kosa Lankavatara Sutra Chinese Canon forms		Chan	Buddha nature Pure Land in China Yogacara Alaya-vijnana Tantra
500	Dharma moves to Japan.		Bodhidharma (c.470-543) Buddhaghosa Prince Shotoku (574-622) Candrakirti (c.600-650) Shantideva (c.650-750)	Nalanda founded Xuanzang in India (630-645)	Visuddhimagga		Vajrayana 6 Schools in Japan	Mantra Mudra Mandala
750	Dharma moves to Tibet.		King Trison Detsen (c.725-797) Santaraksita (c.730-810) Padmasambhava (c.780-860) Saicho (767-822) Kukai (774-835)	Buddhism fades in China (except Chan)		Tibetan Canon forms	Nyingma founded Tendai Shingon	Tantra to Japan
1000	Dharma fades from India.		Marpa (1012-1097) Milarepa (1025-1135) Honen (1133-1212) Shinran (1173-1263) Eisai (1141-1215)	Bhikkhunis end in Sri Lanka Nalanda sacked (1193)	Abhidhammattha Sangaha		Kagyū founded Sakya founded Pure Land in Japan Rinzai Zen (1191)	Mahamudra Mappo Nembutsu Koan
1250			Dogen (1200-1253) Nichiren (1222-1282) Tsongkhapa (1357-1419)	Bhikkhunis end in Burma	Shobogenzo		Soto Zen (1227) Nam-myoho-enge-kyo Gelug founded	Zazen
1500	Buddhism consolidated as dominant religion in Sri Lanka, South-east Asia, Tibet, Korea and Japan.							
1750	Dharma moves to the West.		Max Muller (1823-1900) T. W. Rhys Davids (1843-1922) L. de la Vallee Poussin (1869-1938) D.T. Suzuki (1870-1966) Zen teachers	World Parliament of Religions (1893)	Light of Asia (1879) Pali Text Society (1881)		Buddhist Churches of America (1899) Soka Gakkai (1930)	Meditation
2000	Dharma moves global.		S.N. Goenka (1924-) Chogyam Trungpa (1939-1987)	Bhikkhuni Ordinations	Access to Insight DharmaSeed		Naropa (1974) Insight Meditation Society (1976) Vipassana Research Institute (1985) Mind & Life Institute (1987)	