

UNIVERZITA KARLOVA V PRAZE

**Fakulta humanitních studií
Katedra Obecné antropologie**



Mgr. Jan Honzík

**BUDDHISMUS NA ZÁPADĚ
ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA**

Disertační práce

Školitel práce: PhDr. Jiří Holba, Ph.D.

Praha 2014

Abstract

This paper discusses Buddhism in the Czech Republic. It deals with Buddhism as a complex phenomenon consisting of philosophical, religious, socio-cultural, psychological and ethical planes. These categories are related to the basic structures of human existence and therefore are subject to a science of humanity – anthropology. In this sense, the paper is presented as anthropological work.

The first chapter, entitled "Buddhism from Buddha to the present" introduces the major Buddhist schools, their common resources, basic teachings, characteristics, specifics and development. Furthermore, the chapter describes the process of Buddhism establishing in the West up to the present and explores the fundamental features of contemporary Western Buddhism.

The second chapter, entitled "Buddhism in the Czech Republic" deals with the history of Buddhism in the Czech Republic and maps the current Czech Buddhist scene. It provides an overview of Czech Buddhist groups, centers and charitable initiatives, looking into their values, practices, methods, regular activities and their relationship to the Buddhist tradition and authorities. Moreover, the chapter describes the basic characteristics and expressions of contemporary Buddhism in the Czech Republic and its differences from the traditional forms of Buddhism in Asia.

The third and final chapter, entitled "Practical Application of Buddhism in the West" looks at what from Buddhism is accepted and practically used in the West outside its traditional religious framework. It deals with topics such as the cultivation of the mind through meditation, personal development based on meditation, Buddhism-influenced psychology and psychotherapy, Buddhist conception of death and Buddhism-inspired help for the dying and bereaved.

Keywords

Buddhism – Buddhism in the Czech Republic – Western Buddhism – Buddhist psychology – Abhidhamma – death in Buddhism – mindfulness-based psychotherapy – history of Buddhism in the Czech Republic