

Annotation

Title: The Development of Buddhism in France

Summary: The graduation thesis “The Development of Buddhism in France” concerns the development of a religion, previously virtually unknown to French, on French territory. During last 40 years Buddhism has become the fifth most practising religion here. Our study investigates how it has appeared here, why it has attracted its scholars, how it is beneficial to them and how it has manifested itself on French territory.

We describe a social background of developing the religion and a position of the state and a society on religion generally. We examine the most expanded religions, their development and representation in France as well as explain what the principles of Buddhism and its objectives. We also study who are the Buddhists in France and how they benefit from practising the religion. In the last part we draw from the experience of visiting Buddhist centers in Paris and describe Buddhist institutions operating on French territory.

Keywords: Buddhism, religion, principle of laicism, colonies, Buddhist centers, Buddhist practice