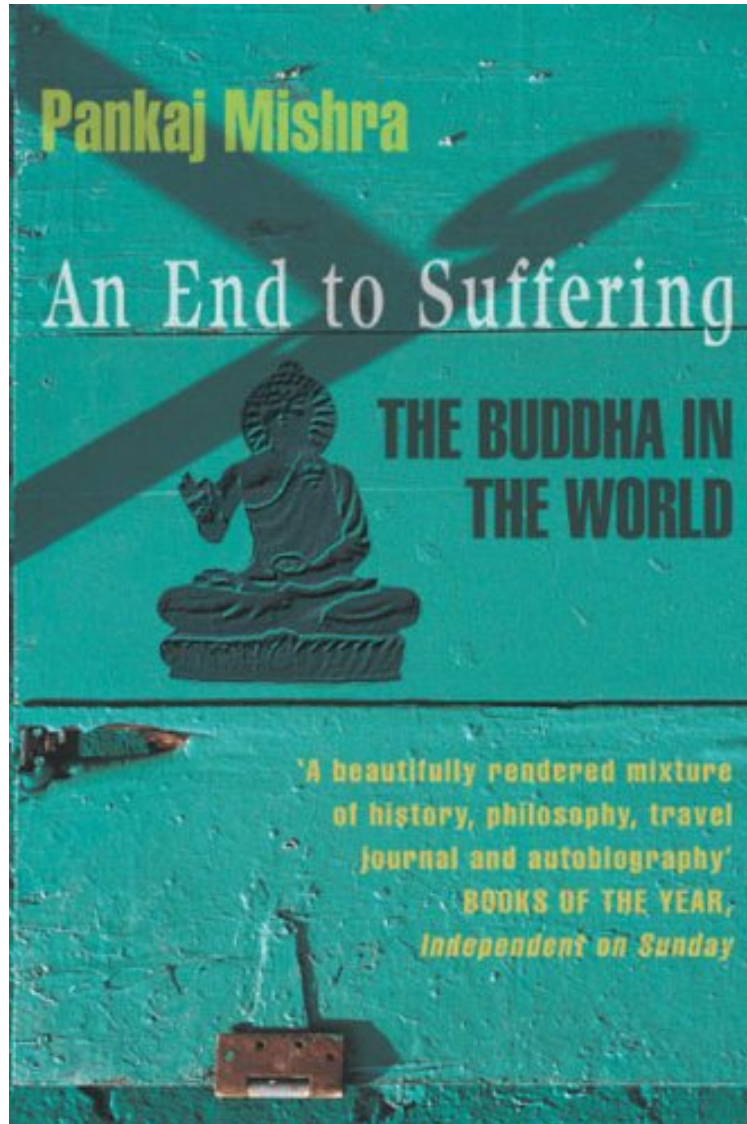


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An End to Suffering: The Buddha in the World (English Edition)

Von Pankaj Mishra

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Von Pankaj Mishra : An End to Suffering: The Buddha in the World (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised An End to Suffering: The Buddha in the World (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Great bookVon ArangoGreat book. Highly recommended as an introduction to Buddhism for those who didn't know much about it before.The author did a great job. He is a good writer and writes very clearly. He also carried out a lot of

research in many related domains.

KurzbeschreibungAn accomplished history of the Buddha, *An End to Suffering* is also a deeply personal story -- the story of Pankaj Mishra's search for meaning, for truth and peace in the modern world and, specifically, in post-colonial, independent India. As he describes his travels to unearth the origins of the Buddha, Mishra offers glimpses into his own quest for enlightenment, from childhood to September 11, from family background to friends met and made, from lessons learned to achievements as a writer. Through this, Mishra reveals the parallels between his time and the Buddha's, between their respective journeys -- and that of their country -- in search of progress and reconciliation.

From Publishers WeeklyMishra (*The Romantics*) offers an ambitious "book-length essay" that combines an overview of the life, times and teachings of the Buddha with personal anecdotes and extended multidisciplinary forays into realms such as ancient and modern history, philosophy, politics and literary criticism. If Mishra's approach is broad, it is also deep and often effective. For example, his close reading of early Indian scriptures and his historical-political examination of the Buddha's society bring to life a "half-mythical antiquity" that, in turn, helps the reader see the Buddha's teachings afresh: not as generic spiritual truisms but rather as specific responses to particular religious and social conditions. Yet the book fails to anchor its broad perspective in a strong central thesis. While it follows the chronology of the Buddha's life, Mishra intersperses whole chapters exploring topics such as "The Death of God" and "Empires and Nations." These discussions of Nietzsche's opinions of the Buddha or Zen Buddhism's endorsement of Japanese imperialism are themselves compelling, but feel disjointed. Mishra also frequently shifts the focus to his own life; sometimes this artfully illustrates a point, but at other times it borders on the self-indulgent. Nevertheless, for serious readers the book is a rich and challenging invitation to explore the Buddha's legacy across centuries, continents and cultures. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist*Starred * Mishra, author of a novel, *The Romantics* (2000), and a regular contributor to the *New York Times Book Review*, didn't intend to write about the Buddha when he sent himself on retreat to a small Himalayan village. But he was intrigued by the Buddhist monasteries he came across, and soon found himself involved in what became a prolonged and profound inquiry into the Buddha's life, Buddhist thought, and Buddhism's global influence. A remarkably lucid and companionable writer and agile thinker, Mishra locates the Buddha within the "vigorous counterculture" of his times (the sixth century B.C.E.) and cogently explains the Buddha's revolutionary insights into the workings of the mind and the nature of the self. Interweaving a fresh take on Indian history with penetrating readings of great works in Western civilization, Mishra links the Buddha to Socrates and explicates the prescient modernity of Buddhism's emphasis on "therapeutic and ethical" goals. Mishra also explores the volatile link between religion and politics and considers the complex and dire problems associated with the worldwide abandonment of ancient sustainable traditions in favor of industrialization. Mishra's unusually discerning, beautifully written, and deeply affecting reflection on Buddhism is illuminating in myriad directions. Donna Seaman Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved