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THE SOCIOLOGY OF EARLY BUDDHISM

Early Buddhism flourished because it was able to take up the challenge represented by buoyant economic conditions and the need for cultural uniformity in the newly emergent states in northeastern India from the fifth century BCE onwards. This book begins with the apparent inconsistency of Buddhism, a renunciant movement, surviving within a strong urban environment, and draws out the implications of this. In spite of the Buddhist ascetic imperative, the Buddha and other celebrated monks moved easily through various levels of society and fitted into the urban landscape they inhabited. *The Sociology of Early Buddhism* tells how and why the early monks were able to exploit the social and political conditions of mid-first millennium northeastern India in such a way as to ensure the growth of Buddhism into a major world religion. Its readership lies both within Buddhist studies and more widely among historians, sociologists and anthropologists of religion.

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Abbreviations

A	<i>Aṅguttara Nikāya</i>
AŚ	<i>Arthaśāstra</i>
BrhU	<i>Bṛhadāraṇyaka Upaniṣad</i>
ChU	<i>Chāṇḍogya Upaniṣad</i>
D	<i>Dīgha Nikāya</i>
Dhp	<i>Dhammapada</i>
Dhs	<i>Dharmasūtra</i>
HR	<i>History of Religions</i>
IJ	<i>Indo-Iranian Journal</i>
J	<i>Jātaka</i>
JAOS	<i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i>
JESHO	<i>Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient</i>
JIAS	<i>Journal of the International Association of Buddhist Studies</i>
M	<i>Majjhima Nikāya</i>
Mbh	<i>Mahābhārata</i>
MP	<i>Milinda Pañha</i>
PTS	Pali Text Society
S	<i>Saṃyutta Nikāya</i>
Sn	<i>Sutta Nipāta</i>
Ud	<i>Udāna</i>
Vin	<i>Vinaya</i>
WZKSA	<i>Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde Südasiens</i>
ZDMG	<i>Zeitschrift der Deutschen Morgenländischen Gesellschaft</i>