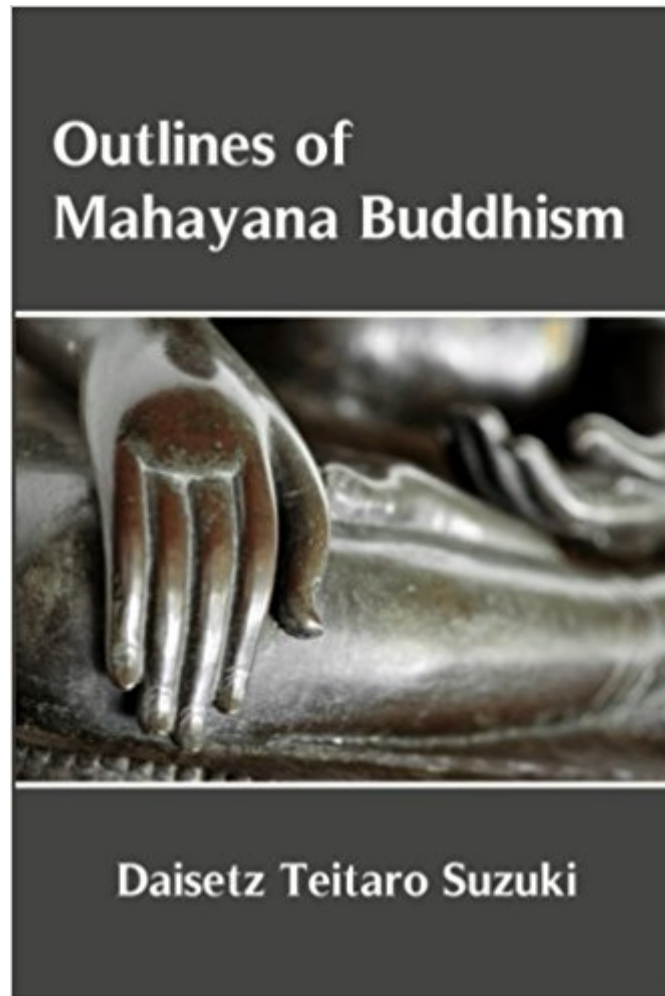




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# Outlines Of Mahayana Buddhism



## Synopsis

Saishu Teitaro (D.T.) Suzuki was a Japanese professor of Buddhist philosophy who is credited with having spread interest in Zen Buddhism to the United States in the 1950s. A notable translator of classical works of Sanskrit, Chinese, and Japanese literature, Suzuki was also the author of several highly influential works explaining Zen philosophy to Western Audiences— in particular *ESSAYS IN ZEN BUDDHISM*, *AN INTRODUCTION TO ZEN BUDDHISM*, and *MYSTICISM: CHRISTIAN AND BUDDHIST*. In *OUTLINES OF MAHAYANA BUDDHISM*, Suzuki takes on the formidable task of providing comprehensive introduction to the thought of the Mahayana school of Buddhism. Drawing analogies with Western philosophy and literature, the text offers readers a lucid and engaging introduction to the major themes in Mahayana thought. Although Mahayana doctrines can often be difficult to understand, Suzuki writes in a way that is totally accessible to newcomers to Buddhist thought.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Daisetz Teitaro Suzuki was Japan's foremost authority on Zen Buddhism, and the author of over 100 works on the subject. He was trained as a Buddhist disciple in the great Zen monastery at Kamakura. From 1897 to 1908 he worked in the United States as an editor and translator, and later became a lecturer at Tokyo Imperial University. In 1950, at 80, he returned to the United States and spent most of the decade teaching, lecturing, and writing, particularly at Columbia and Harvard. Returning to Japan, he died in Tokyo in 1966 at the age of 95. Christopher Reed has been teaching Buddhism and Buddhist meditation for 15 years. He received transmission as a Dharma teacher

from Zen master Thich Nhat Hanh. He has been influenced by the tradition of socially/politically engaged Buddhism, and works toward the integration of traditional Buddhist teaching with the demands of everyday life. He is co-founder and director of the Ordinary Dharma Meditation Center in Los Angeles and the Manzanita Village Retreat Center in San Diego. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is a print-on-demand reprint of a book originally published in 1907. To be clear: this book can be found online in PDF/ebook form for free. I ran across it on more than one occasion and thought it looked pretty good so I was happy to see it in "real" book form and was willing to pay for it - some books are just better to have in traditional form, and for me this is one of those books. It's thicker than I expected and heavy paper stock adds to its weight. They apparently scan the original book and then digitally enhance it for clarity, so the result is that you see exactly how the original pages looked - along with any oddball markings in the original book that may appear in the reprint. Nothing that obstructs or distracts, just library stamps, occasional underlining, etc. I think it adds character so I don't mind at all but I thought I'd mention it. The print/font size is what I would describe as unusually large, not huge but larger than most books. The spacing between lines seems greater as well. Again, I like this and can even skip my reading glasses since it's nice and clear to read. Forgotten Books, who reprints these old texts, has an in-your-face title page advertising their apps in the beginning of the book which I find slightly obnoxious, but not a big deal. As far as the actual book content itself, it's a wonderful outline of Mahayana Buddhism that I think both beginners and more advanced students of Buddhism would appreciate. It does a great job of offering an overview of the fundamentals of the Mahayana tradition specifically, as compared to the other traditions within Buddhism. If you are looking to get a better understanding of what the Mahayana tradition believes and bases its practices on, this would be a great choice. If you are looking for an introduction to Buddhism in general, a different choice might be better as this book focuses on one specific school of thought. There's interesting footnotes, an appendix of Mahayana Hymns, and an index for quick reference. The language is perhaps slightly more formal due to the fact that it was written in the early 1900's, but it's surprisingly accessible and timeless to the modern reader and its age didn't hinder my reading enjoyment at all. All in all, this book is a welcome addition to my home Buddhist library and I love the idea that classic books are reprinted in this on-demand manner at an affordable price. I will definitely be buying more of these Forgotten Books reprints as long as they stay affordable.

This review refers to the paperback edition, which has been newly edited for a contemporary audience. Suzuki's *Outlines of Mahayana Buddhism* is still considered one of the most important treatments of Mahayana thought ever written in English. I don't know if I would recommend it for a complete novice to Buddhism, since it can be a bit technical at times. For anyone who has any kind of background in Buddhism in general (or Zen or Tibetan Buddhism in particular), however, this text has to be considered essential reading. Reading this work has helped me to understand Zen in a way I never did before, because that tradition is completely grounded in Indian Mahayana philosophy. A great work!

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