



Religion and Ecology in India and Southeast Asia

By David L. Gosling

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What part can Hindu and Buddhist traditions play in resolving the ecological problems facing India and South East Asia? David Gosling's exciting study, based on extensive fieldwork, is of global significance: the creation of more sustainable relationships between people and the natural world is one of the most urgent social and environmental problems of the new millennium. David Gosling looks at the religions historically and from a contemporary perspective.

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Religion and Ecology in India and Southeast Asia By David L. Gosling Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #3704650 in Books
- Color: Multicolor
- Published on: 2001-03-04
- Released on: 2001-02-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.21" h x .51" w x 6.14" l, .71 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 224 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

"The wide range of issues covered in this book is impressive and appealing to professionals and lay persons, who have some concern for the healthy survival of our environment. This is a timely book. It is well-written. Its clarity, content, and challenging rhythm make it compulsory reading for all who share a concern for the survival of our planet, and for a wholesome environment for future generations."

-John Sahadat, University of Sudbury College, Laurentian University "Asian Profile, December 2002

"Gosling's work is clearly and passionately written, betraying careful scholarship in science and religious studies. It should help to clarify the role of religious traditions in increasing ecological awareness, and, it is to be hoped, in promoting some resolutions of the social and environmental problems our world faces."

-Rev. David Atkinson, Bishop of Thetford "The Times Higher Education Supplement, December 2002

From the Back Cover

The resolution of the ecological problems facing the Indian sub-continent -- with its huge Himalayan land mass and large population -- and southeast Asia will be a major factor in whether life as we know it will survive beyond the early centuries of the new millennium.

Religion and Ecology in India and Southeast Asia looks at the part the Hindu and Buddhist traditions could play in promoting more just and sustainable relationships between people and the natural world. The ecological potential of these traditions is considered both from a historical perspective, and in relation to their contemporary expressions. From this view of these traditions, transformations between the past and the present are shown to offer the most fertile possibilities for improvement. David L. Gosling's arguments are based on the extensive fieldwork he has carried out in the region and are framed by the sociopolitical context of religious change in India and southeast Asia, where it is maintained that the development-led analysis of Amartya Sen, with its emphasis on participative education, healthcare and a reduction of the gender imbalance, is a crucial prerequisite for social and environmental improvement. Though regional in scope, this is a study of global significance, considering the most urgent social and environmental problems of the new millennium.

About the Author

David L. Gosling trained as a nuclear physicist and more recently was the first Spalding Fellow in Religions at Clare Hall, University of Cambridge, where he is currently based. He was Director of Church and Society at the World Council of Churches at the University of Geneva and has published widely on environmental issues in south Asia.

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