

Special Issue

Mahāyāna Buddhism and World Affairs

Message from the Guest Editors

This Special Issue focuses on the possible contribution of Mahāyāna Buddhism to contemporary conflict resolution. Scholars of international relations (IR) are well aware that the contemporary world is full of uncertainty and unpredictability. Additionally, in this context, there is a growing expectation for Buddhism to provide an alternative cosmology for world peace. However, it must be acknowledged that applying Mahāyāna Buddhist teachings to contemporary issues is not an easy task, as it is marred by a dark history. Similar research projects in the past have been made possible by positioning the dark history that Mahāyāna Buddhist history tells us of as if it did not exist. This dark history refers to the Mahāyāna Buddhist organizations' history of war collaboration described typically, but not limited to, by Brian Victoria in *Zen at War*. Conversely, studies that address these dark records have argued as if Mahāyāna Buddhism had no potential to contribute to contemporary conflict resolution. For them, Mahāyāna Buddhism is not qualified to talk about contemporary international conflicts.

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