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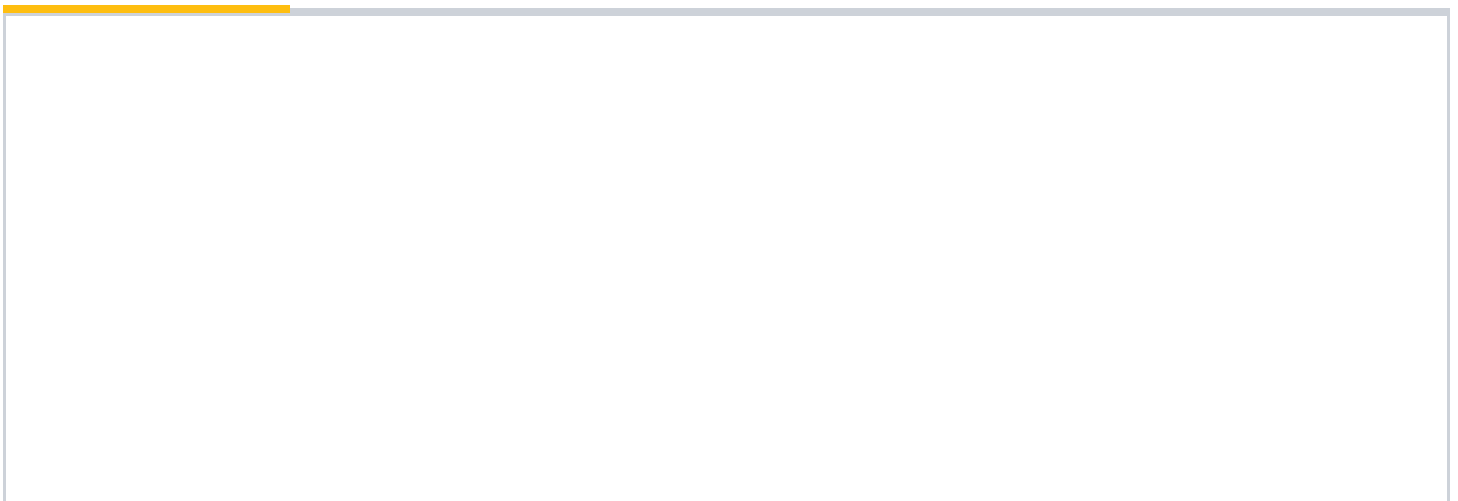
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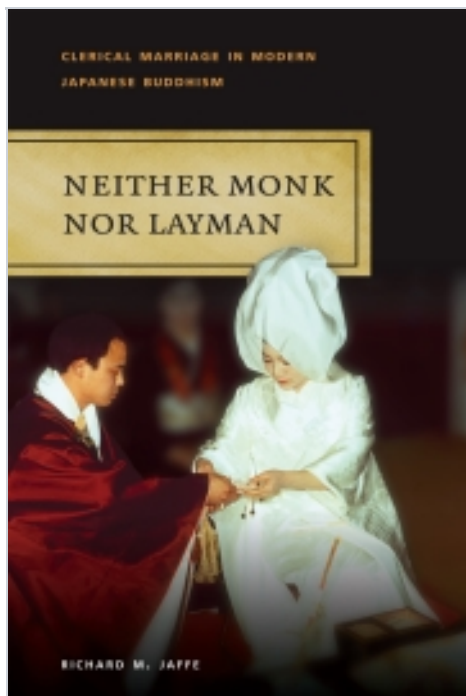


# Neither Monk nor Layman: Clerical Marriage in Modern Japanese Buddhism



In this Book





## Neither Monk nor Layman: Clerical Marriage in Modern Japanese Buddhism

*by Richard M. Jaffe*

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### SUMMARY

Buddhism comes in many forms, but in Japan it stands apart from all the rest in one most striking way—the monks get married. In *Neither Monk nor Layman*, the most comprehensive study of this topic in any language, Richard Jaffe addresses the emergence of an openly married clergy as a momentous change in the history of modern Japanese Buddhism. He demonstrates, in clear and engaging prose, that this shift was not an easy one for Japanese Buddhists. Yet the transformation that began in the early Meiji period (1868–1912)—when monks were ordered by government authorities to marry, to have children, and to eat meat—today extends to all the country’s Buddhist denominations. Jaffe traces the gradual acceptance of clerical marriage by Japanese Buddhists from the premodern emergence of the "clerical marriage problem" in the Edo period to its widespread practice by the start of World War II. In doing so



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