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Gandhara ; Domestication of Gandharan Buddhism -- Capillary Routes of the Upper Indus. Geography, Economy, and Capillary Routes in a High Altitude Environment ; Graffiti, Petroglyphs, and Pilgrims ; Enigma of an Absence of Archaeological Evidence and Manifestations of Buddhist Presence -- Long-Distance Transmission to Central Asian Silk Routes and China. Silk Routes of Eastern Central Asia ; Long-distance Transmission Reconsidered -- Alternative Paths and Paradigms of Buddhist Transmission. Catalysts for the Formation and Expansion of the Buddhist Sangha ; Changing Paradigms for Buddhist Transmission within and beyond South Asia.

Sommario/riassunto

This exploration of early paths for Buddhist transmission within and beyond South Asia retraces the footsteps of monks, merchants, and other agents of cross-cultural exchange. A reassessment of literary, epigraphic, and archaeological sources reveals historical contexts for the growth of the Buddhist sangha from approximately the 5th century BCE to the end of the first millennium CE. Patterns of dynamic Buddhist mobility were closely linked to transregional trade networks extending to the northwestern borderlands and joined to Central Asian silk routes by capillary routes through transit zones in the upper Indus and Tarim Basin. By examining material conditions for Buddhist establishments at nodes along these routes, this book challenges models of gradual diffusion and develops alternative explanations for successful Buddhist movement.
