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## Sommario/riassunto

It is generally accepted in the West that Buddhism is a 'peaceful'  
religion. The Western public tends to assume that the doctrinal  
rejection of violence in Buddhism would make Buddhist pacifists, and  
often expects Buddhist societies or individual Asian Buddhists to  
conform to the modern Western standards of 'peaceful' behavior. This  
stereotype - which may well be termed 'positive Orientalism,' since it is  
based on assumption that an 'Oriental' religion would be more faithful  
to its original non-violent teachings than Western Christianity - has  
been periodically challenged by enthusiastic ac

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