

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910789529603321
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Titolo	Buddhism in the Shadow of Brahmanism [[electronic resource] /] / By Johannes Bronkhorst
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Boston, : Brill, 2011
ISBN	1-283-12086-0 9786613120861 90-04-20142-4
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (302 p.)
Collana	Handbook of Oriental Studies. Section 2, South Asia, , 0169-9377 ; ; v. 24
Disciplina	294.5/31
Soggetti	Buddhism - Relations - Brahmanism Brahmanism - Relations - Buddhism Buddhism - India - History
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Preliminary Material / J. Bronkhorst -- Chapter One. Introduction: Buddhism Before The New Brahmanism / J. Bronkhorst -- Chapter Two. Brahmanism / J. Bronkhorst -- Chapter Three. Buddhism Confronted With Brahmanism / J. Bronkhorst -- References / J. Bronkhorst -- Abbreviations / J. Bronkhorst -- Index / J. Bronkhorst.
Sommario/riassunto	For many centuries Buddhism and Brahmanism coexisted in the Indian subcontinent. This book concentrates on the way in which the two, after an initial period of relative independence, confronted each other, both in and around the royal courts and in society at large. In this confrontation, Buddhism was strong in philosophical debate, but could not compete with Brahmanism in the services it could provide to the centres of political power, primarily ritual protection and practical advice. Buddhism evolved in both areas, providing practical advice to lay people and rulers from early Mahayana onward, and ritual protection in its Tantric developments. Some of these developments came too late, though, and could not prevent the disappearance of Buddhism from the subcontinent.