

Activity 3

Intellectual Revolutions and Society

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Buddhist Revolution

What is Buddhist Revolution?

The **Buddhist Revolution** began in the 6th century BCE with the teachings of Siddhartha Gautama, who later became known as Buddha. Siddhartha's enlightenment and subsequent teachings emphasized the Four Noble Truths, which address the nature of suffering and the path to its cessation, and the Eightfold Path, which outlines the ethical and mental practices to attain enlightenment (nirvana).



Key figures in the Buddhist Revolution

1. Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha)

Siddhartha Gautama, also known as Buddha or Gautama Buddha, is the central figure of Buddhism.

2. Emperor Ashoka

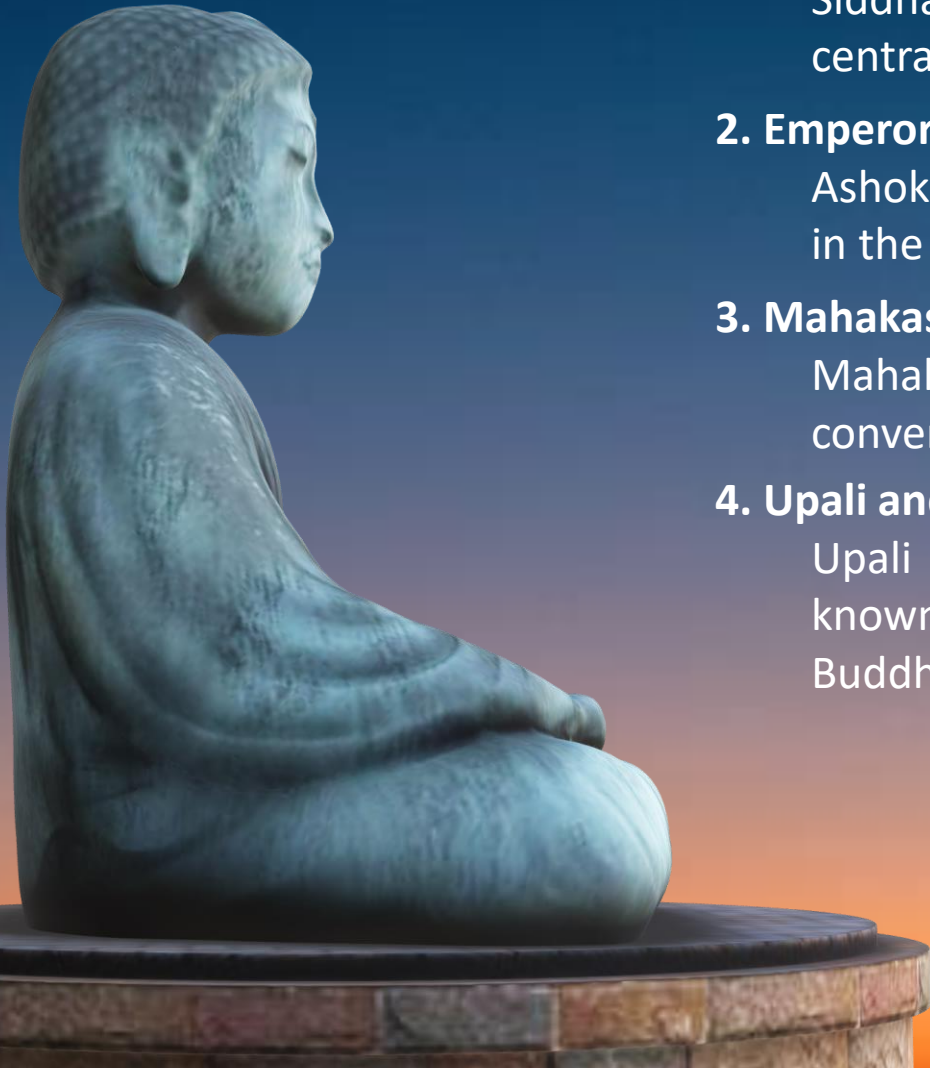
Ashoka, the Mauryan emperor of India (c. 268-232 BCE), played a crucial role in the spread of Buddhism across the Indian subcontinent.

3. Mahakasyapa

Mahakasyapa was one of the closest disciples of the Buddha and is known for convening the First Buddhist Council shortly after Buddha's passing.

4. Upali and Ananda

Upali and Ananda were two of the Buddha's foremost disciples. Upali was known for his expertise in the Vinaya (monastic rules), while Ananda was the Buddha's cousin and personal attendant.



Key figures in the Buddhist Revolution

5. Nagarjuna

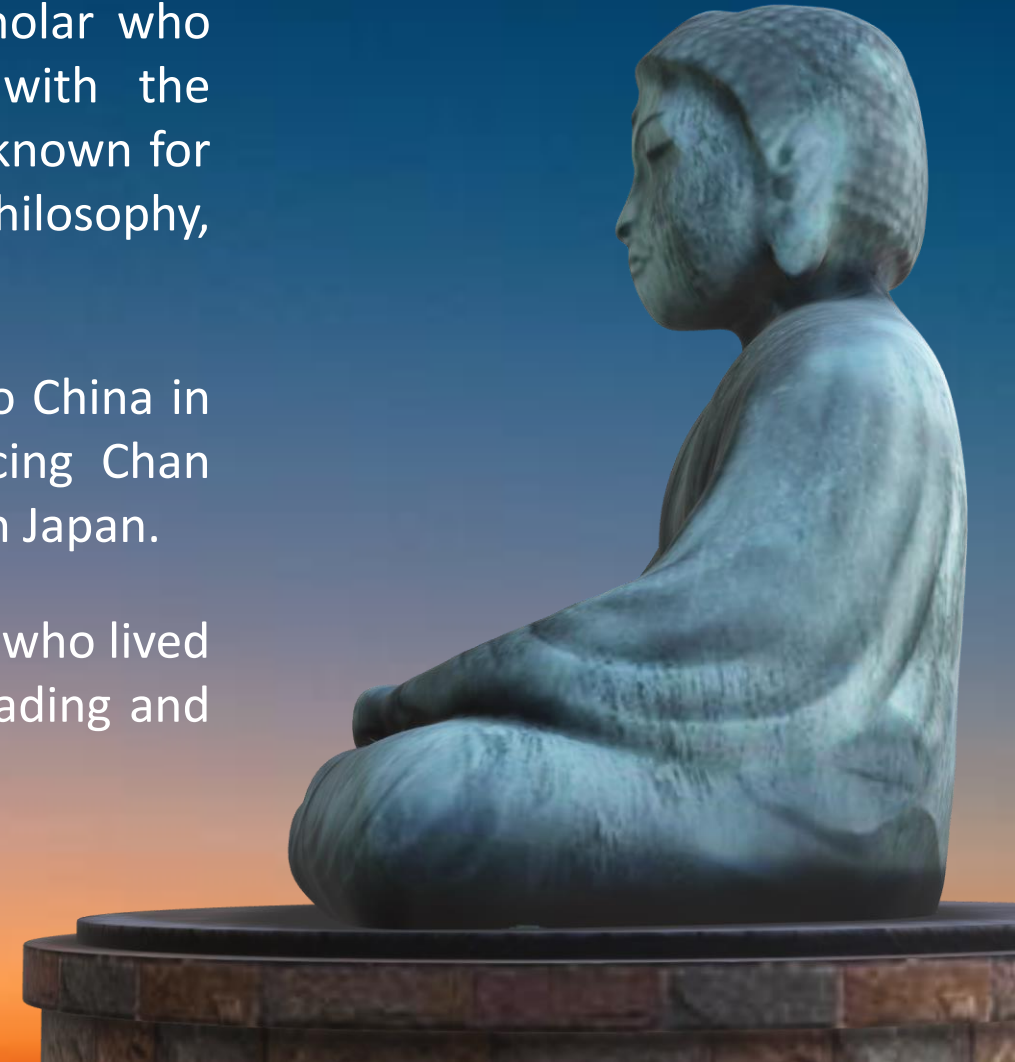
Nagarjuna was a prominent Buddhist philosopher and scholar who lived around the 2nd century CE. He is associated with the development of the Mahayana branch of Buddhism and is known for his profound writings on Madhyamaka (Middle Way) philosophy, which had a lasting impact on Buddhist thought.

6. Bodhidharma

Bodhidharma was an Indian Buddhist monk who traveled to China in the 5th or 6th century CE. He is credited with introducing Chan Buddhism to China, which later evolved into Zen Buddhism in Japan.

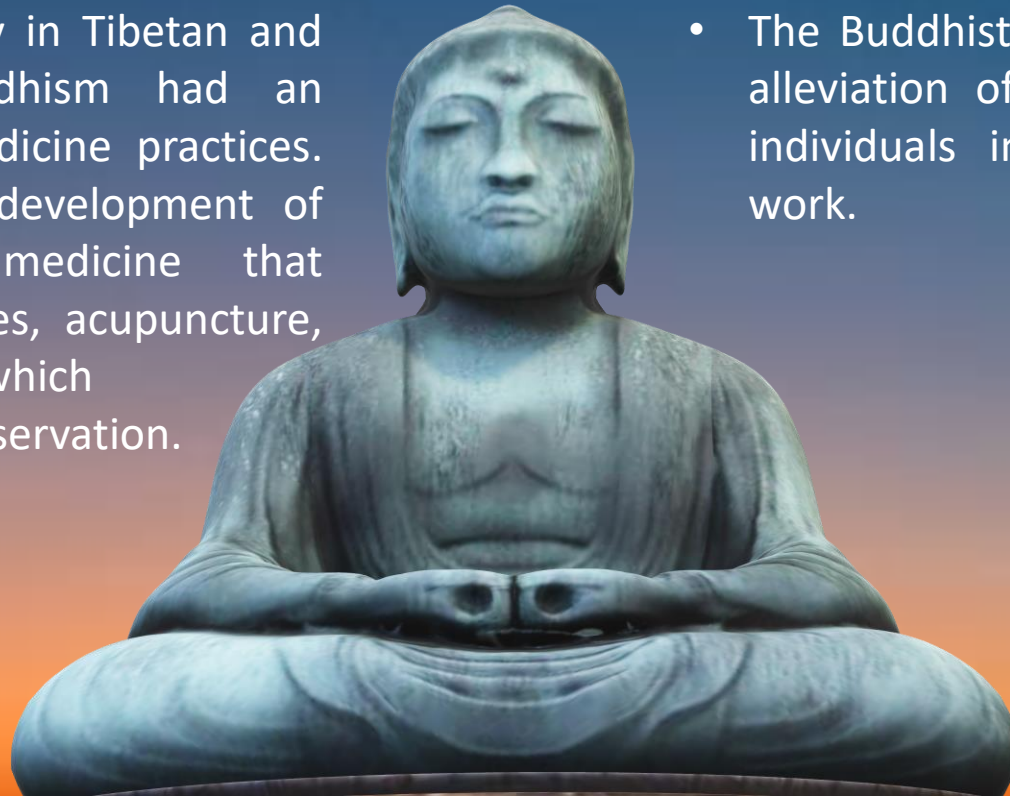
7. Dogen Zenji

Dogen Zenji was a Japanese Buddhist monk and philosopher who lived in the 13th century CE. He is renowned for his role in spreading and developing the Soto Zen school in Japan.



Advancement of Modern Science and Scientific Thinking

- Buddhism encouraged mindfulness, meditation, and keen observation of one's mental and physical experiences.
- As Buddhism spread throughout Asia, it facilitated cultural exchanges and the exchange of knowledge between different regions and civilizations.
- In some regions, particularly in Tibetan and East Asian cultures, Buddhism had an influence on traditional medicine practices. This influence led to the development of systems of traditional medicine that incorporated herbal remedies, acupuncture, and other healing methods, which had elements of empirical observation.
- Buddhism's emphasis on ethical conduct, compassion, and non-harming (ahimsa) contributed to a moral and ethical foundation that, while not scientific in itself, can influence societal values and the way people approach ethical dilemmas, including those related to scientific research and its applications.
- The Buddhist emphasis on compassion and the alleviation of suffering can influence the way individuals in scientific fields approach their work.



Controversies Met by the Revolution

Here are some of the controversies and challenges that Buddhism has faced:

- Within Buddhism, there have been numerous doctrinal disputes and schisms. These disagreements often revolve around interpretations of Buddhist teachings, the authority of certain texts, and the nature of enlightenment. For example, the Theravada and Mahayana branches have distinct doctrinal differences.
- As Buddhism spread to new regions, it often encountered other religious traditions. This led to syncretism and debates with other belief systems, such as Hinduism in India, Confucianism and Taoism in China, and Shintoism in Japan.
- Some Buddhist traditions, like Theravada, emphasize minimalist and non-iconic approaches, while others, like Mahayana, have a rich tradition of iconography and artistic representations of Buddha and bodhisattvas.
- In the modern era, Buddhism, like other religions, has faced challenges related to secularism, atheism, and scientific skepticism. Some Buddhists have adapted their beliefs and practices to align with contemporary worldviews, while others have resisted such changes.



That's all.
THANK YOU!