Justin B. Stein, Bukkyō University

ジャスティン B. スタイン（佛教大学）

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East Zone D-107

Noguchi Zenshirō meets with H. S. Olcott, Hikkaduwe Sri Sumangala Thera, and other key Buddhist modernists in Colombo, Ceylon, January 1889

In the late 1880s, Japanese Buddhists began forming youth-oriented social organizations partly inspired by the local branches of the YMCA started by Christian missionaries. These Japanese Buddhist youth groups helped prompt the formation of similar groups in Ceylon and Burma, as well as in the Japanese diaspora in Hawaii and North America, organized around the identity of "Buddhist youth." Their members considered themselves (and were told by their elders that they were) a vanguard in the Buddhist resistance of Western imperialism, helping usher in a new, global age of Buddhism's world development.

This talk examines the network of cosmopolitan Buddhists who helped develop and circulate the ideas of Buddhist youth groups and Buddhist ethnonationalism in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. It shows that English-language education allowed these diffuse youths to interact with one another and with related transnational organizations like the Theosophical Society and the Maha Bodhi Society. It asks Buddhist youth aided the creation and promotion of ethnonational identities, how these identities related to the empires in which they formed, and these identities' (sometimes violent) consequences.

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