

Table of Contents

Abbreviations	9
List of Chinese Characters	11
Orthography	15
1 Introduction	17
The Origins of Buddhist Revitalization	21
Colonization and Modern Religion	22
Buddhist Modernism and Chinese Religions	24
The Flexible Chinese Attitude towards Religions	26
Buddhism in the Contestation of Religious Proselytizing in Malaysia	27
The Transnational Reconnection of Mahayana Buddhism	28
Fieldwork	31
Chapter Overviews	32
2 A Brief History of Buddhist Transnational Connections	35
Theravada Buddhist Communities in Malaya	36
Thai Buddhist Temples and Their Influence on Chinese Communities	36
Burmese Temples and Their Influence on Chinese Communities	38
Sinhalese Temples and Their Influence on Chinese Communities	38
Early Mahayana Buddhism in Malaya	40
Kek Lok Si (Temple of Paradise)	41
The Penang Buddhist Association (PBA)	43
Pan-Asian Phenomena of Buddhist Modernism	45
Reformed Buddhism: Thai Lineage	46
Buddhist Modernism: Sinhalese Lineage	50
<i>Ren Sheng Fo Jiao</i> (Buddhism for Human Life): Mahayana Lineage	57
Summary	64
3 Reforming Chinese Buddhism through the Zheng Xin (Right Faith) Movement	65
The Discourse of Zheng Xin	66
Zheng Xin in the Malaysian Chinese Buddhist Context	69

Defending Zheng Xin Buddhism in Malaysia	70
Conflict with the Unity Sect (<i>Yi Guan Dao</i>)	71
Buddhicizing the Hungry Ghost Festival	73
The Role of the MBA	78
Formalization of Taking Refuge Ceremony	78
The Malaysian Buddhist Institute	81
Malaysian Buddhist Examination Syndicate (MBES)	82
The Buddhist Youth Movement and Zheng Xin Buddhism	83
Venerable Sumangalo: The Father of the Malaysian Buddhist Youth Movement	84
The YBAM and Zheng Xin Buddhism	86
The YBAM Network's Promotion of Zheng Xin Buddhism	89
Summary	92
4 New Transnational Connections with Taiwan	95
Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Merits Society	96
A Brief History of Tzu Chi in Taiwan	96
A Brief History of the Buddhist Tzu Chi Merits Society Malaysia	98
Tzu Chi and Malaysian Buddhism	99
Tzu Chi as a Humanitarian Corporation	99
Mobilization of Malaysian Chinese Buddhists in Volunteer Work	100
Charity Projects of Tzu Chi Malaysia	101
Recycling Project	104
Mass Participation	105
Shifting of Buddhist Cosmologies	106
Reinventing the Tradition of Self-Cultivation Practices	108
Tzu Chi's Pragmatism	109
Laity Oriented	110
Fo Guang Shan	111
A Brief History of Fo Guang Shan in Taiwan	111
A Brief History of Fo Guang Shan Malaysia	112
Fo Guang Shan and Malaysian Buddhism	113
Fo Guang Shan and the Chinese Mass Media in Malaysia	113
Fo Guang Shan's Vision of a Buddhist Popular Culture	115
Buddhist Education	116
Differences between Tzu Chi and Fo Guang Shan	118
Similarity of the Esthetics of Religious Space and Material	118
Esthetics of Fo Guang Shan Malaysia's Temple	118
Function and Use of <i>Jing Si</i> Books & Cafe	119
Summary	121

5	Remaking Chinese Buddhists	123
	Chinese Communities and Buddhism in Malaysia	123
	The Emergence of Second-Generation Religious Leaders: A Case of Venerable Chi Chern	125
	Chi Chern and Yinshun	126
	Chi Chern and Meditation Camps	127
	Chi Chern's Publications	129
	The Puzhao Buddhist Vihara Controversy	130
	Cultural Reformation in Chinese Communities	134
	Chi Chern's Vision for the Malaysian Chinese Communities and Buddhism	136
	Political Engagement of the Buddhist Community	137
	The Experience of Fo Guang Shan's Celebration: Chinese New Year Lantern and Floral Festival	138
	Tzu Chi's Chinese New Year Relief	140
	The Declining Role of Chinese Associations	141
	Transethnic Solidarities	142
	Exit Option Revisited	146
	Summary	148
6	Counterforces of Buddhist Revitalization	151
	Dreams about My Father	151
	Case 2: A Battle between Traditional Chinese Religion and Buddhism at Kampung Baru Jenjarom	154
	Case 3: The Urban Miracle of the Talking Buddha Statues	157
	Multiple Counterforces to Buddhist Revitalization	159
	Counterforces within Chinese Buddhism	162
	The Relaxation of Political Correctness in Zheng Xin Buddhism	163
	The Politics of Buddhist Unity	165
	Wesak Day Celebrations	166
	Statistical Legitimacy	169
	Summary	173
7	Conclusion	175
	Future Research	177
	Appendices	179
	Appendix 1: Song of Triple Gem	179
	Appendix 2: YBAM's Affiliate Members	180

Bibliography 189

Index 203

List of Tables

Table 4.1 Differences between Tzu Chi and Fo Guang Shan 118

Table 6.1 The distribution of religion among ethnic Chinese in Peninsular Malaysia, 1970 and 1980 (by percentage) 170

Table 6.2 The distribution of religion among ethnic Chinese in Malaysia, 1991 and 2000 (by percentage) 171