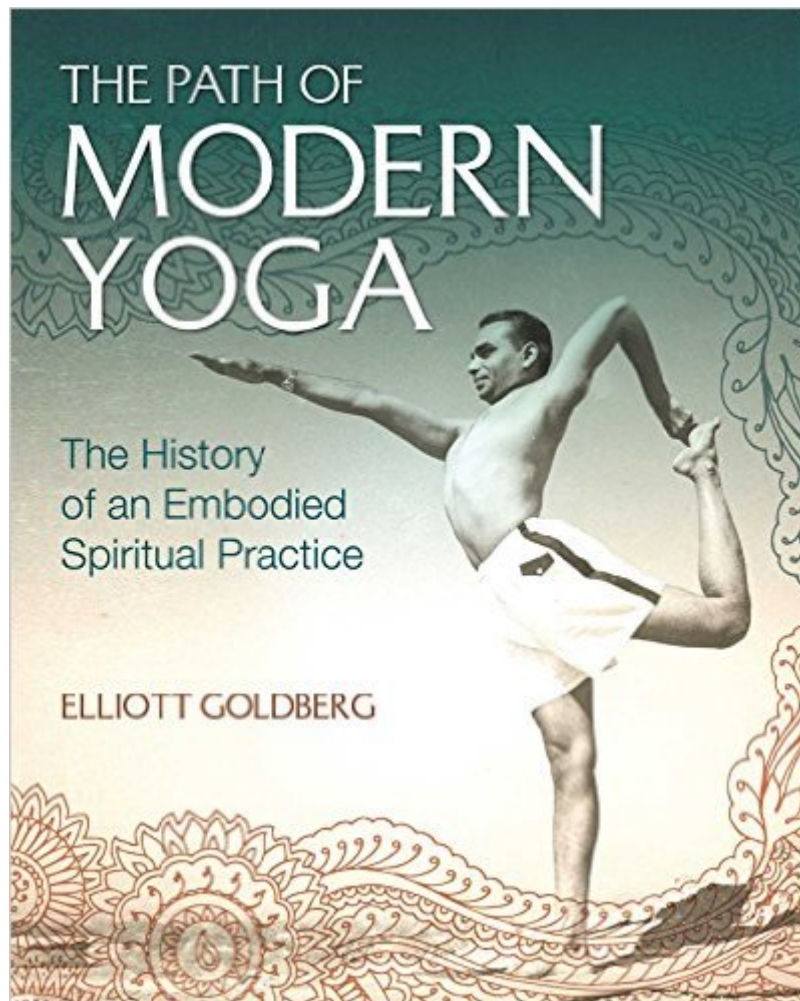


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The Path Of Modern Yoga: The History Of An Embodied Spiritual Practice



Synopsis

A history of yoga's transformation from sacred discipline to exercise program to embodied spiritual practice • Identifies the origin of exercise yoga as India's response to the mania for exercise sweeping the West in the early 20th century • Examines yoga's transformations through the lives and accomplishments of 11 key figures, including Sri Yogendra, K. V. Iyer, Louise Morgan, Krishnamacharya, Swami Sivananda, Indra Devi, and B. K. S. Iyengar • Draws on more than 10 years of research from rare primary sources and includes 99 illustrations

In *The Path of Modern Yoga*, Elliott Goldberg shows how yoga was transformed from a sacred practice into a health and fitness regime for middle-class Indians in the early 20th century and then gradually transformed over the course of the 20th century into an embodied spiritual practice--a yoga for our times. Drawing on more than 10 years of research from rare primary sources as well as recent scholarship, Goldberg tells the sweeping story of modern yoga through the remarkable lives and accomplishments of 11 key figures: six Indian yogis (Sri Yogendra, Swami Kuvalayananda, S. Sundaram, T. Krishnamacharya, Swami Sivananda, and B. K. S. Iyengar), an Indian bodybuilder (K. V. Iyer), a rajah (Bhavanarao Pant Pratidinidhi), an American-born journalist (Louise Morgan), an Indian diplomat (Apa Pant), and a Russian-born yogi trained in India (Indra Devi). The author places their achievements within the context of such Western trends as the physical culture movement, the commodification of exercise, militant nationalism, jazz age popular entertainment, the quest for youth and beauty, and 19th-century New Age religion. In chronicling how the transformation of yoga from sacred discipline to exercise program allowed for the creation of an embodied spiritual practice, Goldberg presents an original, authoritative, provocative, and illuminating interpretation of the history of modern yoga.

Book Information

Hardcover: 512 pages

Publisher: Inner Traditions; 1 edition (August 1, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1620555670

ISBN-13: 978-1620555675

Product Dimensions: 8 x 1.2 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.9 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars • See all reviews • (2 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #213,154 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #178 in Books > History > Asia >

Customer Reviews

A scholarly, insightful, witty and sociologically sophisticated treatise on the modern yoga movement in India and the West. Engaging even for non Yogins like myself. A delightful surprise.

It is not a pot boiler but for those who really want to know how the yoga we practice today came to be it is essential reading.

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