Chinese and Japanese Buddhist Schools

Chinese	*Notes*	*Founder*	*Japanese*	*Founder*
'Three Treatise' School (Sanlun) 'Emptiness School'	Three key texts: *Treatise on the Middle Way*, *Treatise in a Hundred Verses*, *Treatise of the Twelve Aspects*. Mādhyamika in Chinese form.	Key figure: Jiaxiang Jizang (549-623)	---	---
Chu-she (Zhushe)	A form of Sarvāstivāda, based on the study of the *Abhidharma-kośa*.	Introduced by translator Paramārtha (499-569).	---	---
'Vinaya' School	Emphasized study of monastic discipline.	Key figure: Daoxuan (596-667)	**---**	---
Fa-hsiang (Faxiang)	'Characteristics of Dharmas' school	Hsüan-tsang (602-664)	**Hossō**	---
Wei-shih	'Consciousness-Only'. Important texts: *Lankavatara Sūtra*, *Esoteric Meaning Sūtra*, *Compendium of the Mahāyāna*	Kuiji (632-683)	**Yuishiki**	---
Ch'an (Buddha Mind School)	'Meditation' or 'Contemplation' Meditation is the main form of practice. School based upon the wordless transmission of the Buddha mind seal.	Bodhidharma (470-543). Lineage continued through Huike (487-593), Sengcan (d. 606), Daoxin (580-651), Hongren (602-675), Huineng.	**Zen** (Sōtō School) (Rinzai School)	Dōgen (1200-53) Eisai (1141-1215)
'Pure Land' School Ching-t'u (Jingtu)	Fundatmental texts of Pure Land School are the *Infinite Life Sūtra*, the *Contemplation Sūtra*, the *Amitabha Sūtra*, and the *Treatise on Rebirth*.	Tan-Luan (476-542) A former Daoist.	**Pure Land** (Amidism)	Shinran (1173-1263) Hōnen (1133-1212)
T'ien-T'ai (Tiantai)	Named after Mount 'Heavenly Terrace'. Many teachings come from *Lotus Sūtra*. Emphasized study and meditation, as well as Buddha-nature present in all things. The Buddha is seen as the savior of all and the 'three vehicles' as united in one.	Chih-i (539-597) (Zhiyi) Divided all the Buddha's teachings into five periods.	**Tendai**	9th century: Dengyō Daishi
Hua-yen (Huayan) Xianshou School	'Flower Garland'. *Flower Adornment Sūtra* is the 'king of sutras' – honored as the greatest and most profound among the Buddha's teaching.	Dushan (Tushun), 557-640 Fa-tsang (643-712) (Fazang Xianshou)	**Kegon**	---
Esoteric School Mantra School Mi-tsung	'School of Secrets'. Key texts: *Vairocana Sūtra* and *Susiddhikara Tantra*. School is considered extraordinarily mysterious.	Three Indian masters: Shubhākarasimha (637-735) Vajrabodhi (663-723) Amoghavajra (705-774)	**Shingon** (Mantranaya Zhenyan)	9th century: Kōbō Daishi
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Sources: ▪ Stoddart, W. (2013) *An illustrated outline of Buddhism: the essentials of Buddhist spirituality*. Foreword by Joseph A. Fitzgerald. Bloomington, Indiana: World Wisdom, Inc. ▪ Chuang, Venerable Tzu. (2012) *FaXiang: a Buddhist practitioner's encyclopedia*. Translated by Robert Smitheram. Los Angeles: Buddha's Light Publishing. ▪ Harvey, P. (2013) *An introduction to Buddhism: teachings, history and practices*. 2nd edn. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Alexander Peck (18 May 2015)