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CRITICAL COMMENTS ON BRIAN VICTORIA'S "ENGAGED BUDDHISM: SKELETON IN THE CLOSET?"

Koichi Miyata

Abstract

In "Engaged Buddhism: A Skeleton in the Closet?" (Vol. 2) Brian Daizen Victoria claims, among other things, that Tsunesaburo Makiguchi (1871-1944), founder of the Soka Kyoiku Gakkai (forebear of the Soka Gakkai and Soka Gakkai International), was an active supporter of the Japanese wars of aggression. In this response, Koichi Miyata argues that Victoria's claims rest on the highly selective use of quotes, and ignore key interpretative issues associated with Japanese imperial fascism and its underlying belief structures. Miyata discusses the significance of Makiguchi's arrest and imprisonment under a law specifically aimed at opponents of the war efforts, in his analysis of critical lapses in Victoria's article.

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Our war and the Pacific': allies and enemies in Victoria's education department publications, Australia, 1914-18, mediaves without regard to authorities pushes out illegal client demand.