



Daisaku Ikeda's Philosophy of Peace: Dialogue, Transformation and Global Citizenship (Toda Institute Book Series on Global Peace and Policy)

Olivier Urbain

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Who is Daisaku Ikeda? At one level, he is the leader of a religious movement - Soka Gakkai - which began in Japan, where it still has its headquarters, but which now claims 12 million adherents around the world. At another level, he is a globetrotting figure whose formal conversations with diverse writers, thinkers and diplomats - including Arnold Toynbee, Joseph Rotblat and Mikhail Gorbachev - have garnered him an international profile, as well as academic recognition. Perhaps above all else, Daisaku Ikeda is viewed as a campaigner for peace. And it is Ikeda's specific contribution to peacebuilding, notably through the central emphasis he has placed on the significance of dialogue, that this book explores: the first to do so in a concerted way. Olivier Urbain shows that while Soka Gakkai (the 'value society') may stem from the medieval principles of Nichiren Buddhism, under Ikeda's leadership it has taken these classic wisdoms and transformed them. Now essentially classless and secularised, as well as adaptable and sensitive to modern challenges like resource shortages and climate change, this - argues the author - is a pragmatic approach to peace which has proved both popular and eminently transportable.

'Fascinating.. learned.. pioneering.' - Jan Øberg, Director, Transnational Foundation for Peace and Future Research, Lund, Sweden

'A timely and penetrating assessment.' - Joseph A. Camilleri, Professor of International Relations, LaTrobe University

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