CONTENTS

1	The Changing Nature of Buddhism	1
	Introduction	1
	Buddhism and Western Modernism	6
	Western Beliefs Regarding Life After Death	6
	Western Beliefs Regarding Naturalism and Materialism	8
	Western Beliefs Regarding Human Flourishing	11
	References	12
2	What Is Enlightenment?	13
	Introduction	13
	Enlightenment: A Tale of Two Traditions	14
	The Theravāda Tradition	16
	The Mahāyāna Tradition	19
	An Eight-Attribute Model of Traditional Enlightenment	25
	Traditional Enlightenment and Modernity	26
	References	30
3	What Is Eudaimonia?	33
	Introduction	33
	Aristotle	34
	The Heirs to Aristotle	42
	Aristotle's Heirs in Modern Philosophy	43
	Virtue Ethics	43
	Problems with Eudaimonia	47
	Aristotle's Heirs in Modern Psychology	52

хi

xii CONTENTS

	Conclusion	57
	References	59
4	The Fate of Traditional Enlightenment in the West	63
	Introduction	63
	A Thought Experiment	66
	A Ten-Attribute Model of Eudaimonic Enlightenment	67
	Eudaimonic Enlightenment in Contemporary Western Buddhism	70
	Eudaimonic Enlightenment in Secular Buddhism	71
	Eudaimonic Enlightenment in Insight Meditation and Zen	73
	Conclusion	77
	References	78
5	Suffering and the Cessation of Suffering	81
	Introduction	81
	The Causes of Suffering: Craving and Aversion	86
	Attachment	94
	Is Anger Always Bad?	98
	The Nirvāṇa Ideal	102
	Changes to the Nirvana Ideal: Descent and Intimacy	104
	Conclusion	110
	References	112
6	Self and Self-Transcendence	115
	Introduction	115
	Anattā or Non-self	116
	Impermanence	117
	The Buddhist Reduction of Wholes to Parts	119
	The Doctrine of Emptiness	120
	Evidence from Meditative Introspection	121
	What Is the Self and What Functions Does It Serve?	124
	When Does the Self Become Problematic?	128
	Transcending the Self	133
	Realizing Emptiness	134
	The Relative and the Absolute	138
	Conclusion	139
	References	141

187

7	Buddhist Ethics and Eudaimonic Enlightenment	143
	Introduction	143
	The Role of Virtue in Buddhism	144
	Is Traditional Buddhist Ethics a Kind of Virtue Ethics?	145
	Understanding the Buddhist Ethical Precepts	149
	The Precept Against Killing	150
	Which Scale Should We Employ?	151
	Skillful Means and Killing	152
	The Sources of Ethics	154
	The Value of Western Buddhist Modernist Ethics	155
	Naturalized Karma and Ethics	155
	Radical Interdependence and Ethics	156
	Compassion and Ethics	156
	Problems Related to Compassion	158
	Non-self and Ethics	162
	Eudaimonic Enlightenment and Ethics	163
	Engaged Buddhism and Eudaimonic Enlightenment	164
	Conclusion	166
	References	168
8	Metaphysical Humility: The Eudaimonic Enlightenment	
	Model and Beyond	171
	Introduction	171
	Two Claims About Eudaimonic Enlightenment and Metaphysics	172
	Knowing and Believing	174
	Does the Universe Have a Purpose?	175
	Buddhism and Western Philosophical Conundrums	176
	Emergent Processes and Consciousness	177
	Why I Remain a New Mysterian	178
	Buddhism's Take on Mind and Matter	180
	Conclusion	181
	References	184

Index