

HISTORY OF THE FOUR SCHOOLS

Source: *Great Exposition of Tenets* – Jamyang Shayba

SCHOOL	SUB-SCHOOLS	
VAIBHASIKA (Great Exposition)	18 sub-schools	
SAUTRANTIKA (Sutra)	FOLLOWERS OF SCRIPTURE Followers of Vasubandhu's <i>Abhidharmakosa</i>	
	FOLLOWERS OF REASONING Followers of Dharmakirti's <i>Seven Treatises on Valid Cognition</i>	
CITTAMATRA (Mind Only) Founder: Asanga	FOLLOWERS OF SCRIPTURE Followers of Asanga's <i>Five Treatises on the Grounds</i>	
	FOLLOWERS OF REASONING Followers of Dharmakirti's <i>Seven Treatises on Valid Cognition</i>	
MADHYAMAKA (Middle Way) Founder: Nagarjuna	SVATRANTIKA (Autonomy) Founder: Bhavaviveka	SAUTRANTIKA-SVATANTRIKA (Sutra Autonomy) Founder: Bhavaviveka
		YOGACARA-SVATANTRIKA (Yogic Autonomy) Founder: Shantarakshita
	PRASANGIKA (Consequence) Founder: Buddhapalita	

Chronology¹

Nagarjuna	1 st -2 nd century	Founder of Madhyamaka school
Asanga	~310-390	Cittamatra school
Vasubandhu	~320-400	Brother of Asanga ²
Dignaga	~480-540	System of logic and epistemology
Buddhapalita	~470-540	Madhyamaka Prasangika school
Bhavaviveka	~500-570	Madhyamaka Svatantrika school
Chandrakirti	7 th century	Disseminator of Prasangika school
Dharmakirti	7 th century	Elaborator of Dignaga's system
Shantarakshita	8 th century	Yogacara-Svatantrika school
Kamalashila	8 th century	Disciple of Shantarakshita
Jnanagarbha	8 th century	Proponent of Sautrantika-Svatantrika school
Haribhadra	8 th century	Proponent of Yogacara-Svatantrika school
Shantideva	8 th century	Proponent of Prasangika school
Atisha	982-1054	Kadampa school of Tibetan Buddhism
Tsongkhapa	1357-1419	Gelugpa school of Tibetan Buddhism

Main tenets texts used

Presentation of Tenets	Jetsun Chogyi Gyeltsen (1469 – 1546)
Great Exposition of Tenets	Jamyang Shayba (1648 – 1721)
Presentation of Tenets	Jangya Rolbay Dorjay (1717 – 1786)
Precious Garland of Tenets	Gonchok Jikmay Wangbo (1728 – 1791)
Annotations	Ngawang Belden (b.1797)

¹ Source for dates: *Buddhist Philosophy* (Cozort and Preston) pages 304-308

² Vasubandhu was first a Vaibhasika, then a Sautrantika, and finally a Cittamatrin due to Asanga's persistent efforts. [*Meditation on Emptiness* (Hopkins) page 359]