

Topic: Philosophies of China

Aim: How did Confucian philosophy help create Chinese civilization?

I. Confucianism

A. Origins

1. Founded in China (6th Century BCE) by philosopher Confucius.
2. Civil war raged throughout China during Confucius' life. His goal was to restore peace and order in China.
3. Confucian teachings are contained the book Analects. It was China's official philosophy for over 2,000 years.

B. Major Principles

In order to restore order, Confucius established Five Relationships that must be followed:

1. Ruler to Subject: the ruler must be obeyed as long as he is honest and good
2. Father to Son: Children must obey their parents
3. Older Brother to Younger Brother: younger siblings must obey older siblings
4. Husband to Wife: the wife must be obedient toward the husband
5. Friend to Friend: members of the community must treat each other with respect; lower class (poorer) people must obey higher class (richer) people

C. Filial Piety

1. Describes the correct way to act towards one's parents.
2. Consists of several factors; the main ideas include loving one's parents, being respectful, polite, considerate, loyal, helpful, dutiful, and obedient.



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Aim: How do the Chinese philosophies of Legalism and Daoism differ?

I. Legalism

- A. Restore law and order to China
- B. Strict laws
- C. Harsh punishments
- D. Strong central government
- E. Society should consist of farmers and soldiers

II. Daoism (Taoism)

A. Founded by Laozi

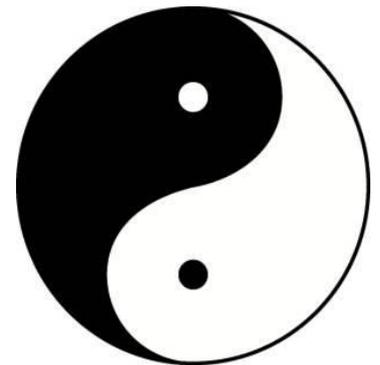
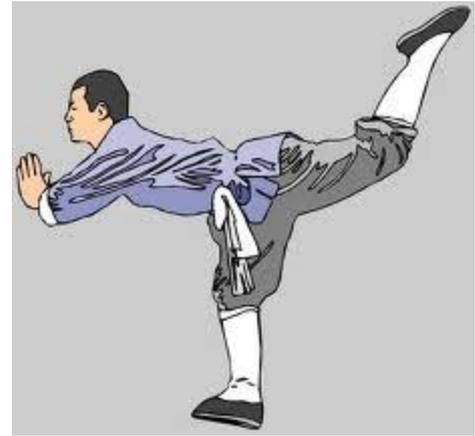
B. Dao = “the way”

C. The book of Daoism is the *Dao de Jing*

D. Retreat from society

E. Connect with nature and find harmony in the universe

F. Yin (moon) and yang (sun)



Think of a river. How does water behave? The water follows the easiest route. It moves around the rocks. It always heads for the lowest point. Over time, the river is powerful enough to wear away the hardest rocks.



Daoism teaches people to follow the way of nature.

Contrast

What is one difference between Confucianism and Daoism?

Answer(s): Daoism—retreat from society and commune with nature; Confucianism—improve society

Contrast

What is the difference between Legalism and Daoism?

Answer(s): Legalism – strong government with strict rules and harsh punishments in a society where people are limited to two jobs; Daoism—retreat from society and commune with nature