

DAOISM	LEGALISM	CONFUCIANISM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The nature order is more important than social order</li> <li>• A universal force guides all things</li> <li>• Human beings should live simply and in harmony with nature</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Believe in the fact that a highly efficient and powerful government is the key to social order</li> <li>• Punishments are useful to maintain social order</li> <li>• Thinkers and their ideas should be strictly controlled by the government</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social order, harmony, and good government should be based on family relationships</li> <li>• Respect for parents and elders is important to a well-ordered society</li> <li>• Education is important to both the welfare of the individual and to society</li> </ul>

Ancient Chinese society was heavily influenced by its early philosophies. These philosophies developed as a response to power struggles between warring kingdoms and the political uncertainty that resulted.

**Confucius** believed China was in disorder because the lords were not ruling well. He believed rulers needed to be honest, rule fairly, and set a good example for their subjects. He believed if rulers acted with integrity, then their subjects would gladly follow their leadership and order would be restored to China.

**Daoists** believe humans should model this principle by accepting their situation and trying to live as simply as possible. In addition, Daoists taught that humans should accept the negative things that happened to them, because nature would eventually balance these with good things.

Qin Shi Huang Di agreed with the basic belief of **Legalism**, that people could not be trusted, so he set up a strict government with tight control and fierce punishment. He also tried to control his opposition by imprisoning or killing people who spoke unfavorably of him and removing books he believed to contain dangers or harmful information, including books on Confucian thought.

The major philosophies of Ancient China affected not only the government that ruled, the land, but also its people. Even today these belief systems continue to play a role in lives of the Chinese people.

**Question:** If **you** were an Emperor of ancient China, which philosophy would you use to rule? Explain