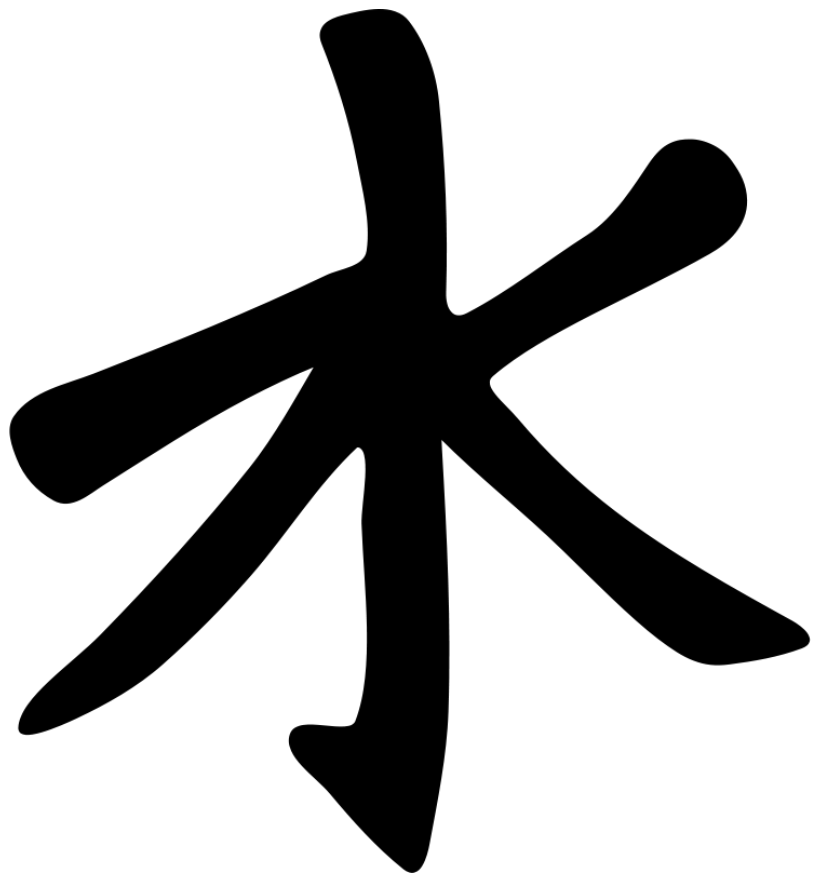


Chinese Philosophies of Government Notes

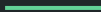
Vocab:

Civil Servant: a person who works for the government



Confucianism

*a Chinese philosophy that
emphasizes proper behavior*



The Founder of Confucianism

Kongfuzi or Confucius (551-479 BCE)



- Experienced war when he was young
- Respected Chinese traditions (ancestors and learning)
- **Main idea:** teach men of good character to serve society as honest and fair public servants

The Teachings of Confucianism

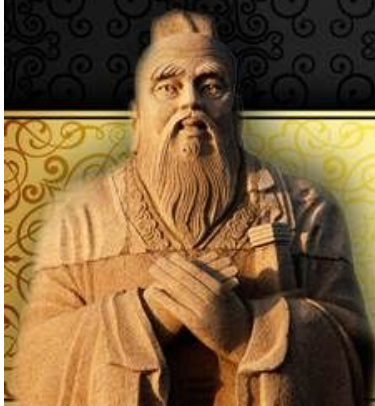


Goal: Make a Just and Peaceful Society by using and teaching good behavior.

- When you are below someone (less power):
 - Respect those who are above you
 - Respect your elders

- When you have power over others:
 - Set a good example
 - Be kind, honest, wise, faithful

**WHAT YOU DO NOT
WANT DONE TO
YOURSELF, DO NOT
DO TO OTHERS.**



Confucius

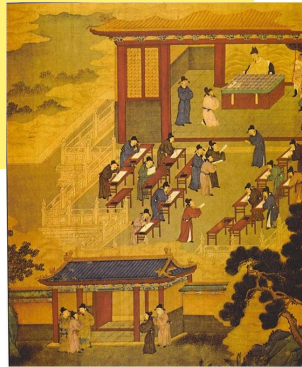
*Chinese Teacher, editor, politician
and philosopher*

QuoteHD.com (551 BC - 479 BC)

The Influence of Confucianism

BEFORE

Civil Servants were sons of nobles
no matter their abilities



AFTER

Civil servants hired based on ability and wisdom to do their job

→ Took exams about
Chinese literature, and
proper behavior/roles

Lasting impact: Respect for elders, proper behavior, love of scholarship (school)



Legalism

*a Chinese philosophy that
emphasizes strict obedience
to the laws*

The Founder of Legalism

Hanfeizi 280-233 BCE

- Prince of a royal family
- Main idea: peace and order in society through obedience



The Teachings of Legalism

- Believed people were all selfish
- Leaders needed to enforce laws
 - Strict punishments
 - Rewards for following
 - Banish people who criticize the gov't
- Rulers should:
 - Have strong armies
 - Trust no one, not even family

“He who trusts others will be controlled by others.”



The Influence of Legalism

The Qin Dynasty followed the Zhou Dynasty

- Strong central government
- Forbidden to criticize the government
- Severe punishments (DEATH)



Daoism

*a Chinese philosophy that
emphasizes living in harmony
with nature*



The Founder of Daoism

Laozi (low-dzuh) - around the mid-500s BCE

- Wrote the “Dao De Jing” or “The Classic of the Way and Its Power”
- Advisor in the Zhou court
- **Main Idea:** Return to a simple and natural way of living



The Teachings of Daoism

- The Dao or “The Way”
 - Gain happiness and order by living in agreement with nature
- Nature is full of opposites:
 - Life/Death
 - Light/Dark
 - Good/Bad
 - Beauty/Ugliness
 - Pleasure/Pain
- Harmony comes from balancing yin / yang



- How to live:
 - Live simply
 - Meditate quietly
 - Take life as it comes like a blade of grass bending in the wind
- Government:
 - Too many laws make it impossible to follow the Dao
 - Leave people alone

Yang

Masculine

Positive

Summer

Day

Light

Dry

Hot

Vibrant

Solid

Hard

Energetic

Loud

Life

Yang

Yin

Yin

Feminine

Negative

Winter

Night

Dark

Wet

Cold

Faded

Flexibility

Softness

Calm

Quiet

Death

The Influence of Daoism

- Encouraged rulers to govern less harshly
- Influenced writing and art

