

The Three Doctrines and Legalism

The philosophical backbone of China



Confucianism

- # Founded by Kongfuzi b. 551 BCE
 - # Most influential Chinese philosophy
 - # Stated that social harmony and good government would return to China if people lived according to *ethics*
 - # Ethics: Good conduct and moral judgment
 - # Reciprocity: : “Do unto others what you would want others to do unto you.”
 - # Emphasized structure and that every one had a role to fill in society
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The Five Relationships

Moral behavior was crucial in 5 basic relationships

- # Ruler and Subject
- # Parent and Child
- # Husband and Wife
- # Old and Young
- # Friend and Friend

Code of Proper Conduct ruled all of these relationships

Code of Proper Conduct

- # All relationships were governed by a set of strict rules that were based on a relationship that went both ways.
 - # Example: Rulers had a duty to rule justly and set an example of right living. In return, subjects should be loyal and obey the law.
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Filial Piety

Filial Piety: A child's respect for their parents and elders.

Family = Society in miniature

“The superior man spreads his culture to the entire nation by remaining at home... The teaching of filial piety is a preparation for serving the ruler of the state; the teaching of respect for one's elder brothers is a preparation for serving all the elders of the community; and the teaching of kindness in parents is training for ruling over people. . . . When individual families have learned kindness, then the whole nation has learned kindness” Confucius said.

Confucius as Law

- # After his death in 479 BCE his teachings were collected in the *Analects*
 - # Became the basis for the civil service exams in the Han dynasty and continued to shape Chinese society until the early 1900's.
 - # Also had major influence over social relationships and customs
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Legalism

- # Opposed Confucian ideas
 - # Created by scholars
 - # Rejected the idea of learning by example
 - # Emphasized strict laws and harsh punishment
 - # Hanfeizi: Scholar who taught legalist ideas
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Legalists and Human Nature

- # Legalist believed that humans by nature were evil and required a strong, forceful government to make them follow their duties.

Legalist Influence

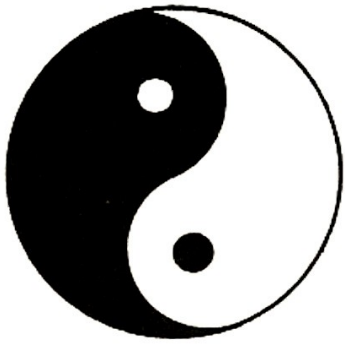
- # Very popular with Qin and nobility because of the justification of force and power.
 - # Gave way to Confucianism as main teaching in China
 - # Reflected in the harsh laws and punishments often inflicted on China's peasants.
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Dao/Tao

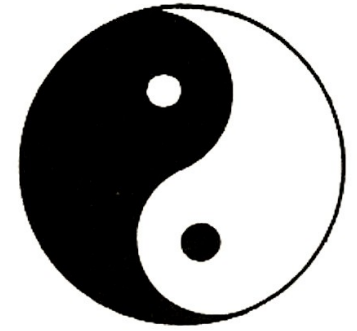
- # Emphasized living in harmony with nature
 - # Rejected formal social structures and the idea that people must fill specific roles in society.
 - # Founded by Laozi in the 500's BCE and recorded in the Dao De Jing
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Daoists

- # Believed that people should renounce worldly ambitions and turn to nature and the Dao.
 - # Dao: The universal force that guides all things.
 - # Nature used to describe how one can follow the Dao.
 - # Emphasis of nature led to deep influence on arts
 - # Because Daoism and Confucianism were so different many people followed both.
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Yin and Yang



- # Two opposing forces believed to be present in nature
 - # Yin: Cool, dark, female, and submissive
 - # Yang: Warm, light, male, and aggressive.
 - # Everything has both elements.
 - # Harmony was when both elements were in balance.
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Buddhism

- # Reached China as the Han empire collapsed
 - # Respect for others property and for life
 - # Emphasis on personal salvation and Nirvana had great appeal to suffering Chinese.
 - # Confucianists could follow the Eightfold path
 - # Taoists admired the emphasis on meditation
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Basic Beliefs

- # Confucianism: Respect for family, hard work, and education. Social order
 - # Legalism: All power to the ruler, human nature evil.
 - # Taoism: Keeping your life simple, follow nature, do your own thing
 - # Buddhism: Respect for others property and all life
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