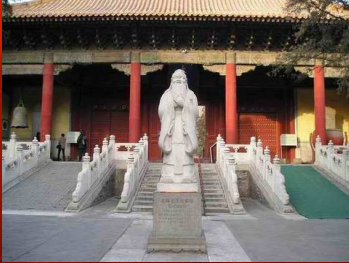


Confucianism in China



Qufu, China – Hometown of Confucius



Confucian Temple in Qufu

Zhou Dynasty:

Western Zhou (1045-771 B.C.E.)
- Legendary Duke of Zhou ruled "Model Government"

Eastern Zhou (771-256 B.C.E.)
- Confucius lived.




The Duke of Zhou

Actual Name: Zhou Gong Dan

Believed to be the author of the Rites of Zhou, which Confucius incorporated in his teachings of proper behavior.

Served as the Regent for the young king, Cheng of Zhou.



像 公 周

Confucius (551-479 B.C.E.)



- Born in the State of Lu in 551 B.C.E.
- Appointed to Manage State's Granary 532 B.C.E.
- Appointed Mayor of Zhongdu 500 B.C.E.
- Appointed Justice Minister of Lu 500 B.C.E.
- Leaves Lu to wander through Zhou States 497 B.C.E.
- Returns home to Qufu (Lu) 484 B.C.E.
- Confucius died, but his legacy lives on...

Qin Dynasty (221 – 206 B.C.E.)

The Qin Emperor favored the Legalistic philosophy over Confucianism. He ordered Confucian texts to be burned, in addition to executing Confucian scholars. Qin Shi Huang Di was not a virtuous emperor and made no qualms about ruling through fear.




Han Dynasty (206 B.C.E. – 220 C.E.)

- Confucianism became the official philosophy guiding government. Imperial examinations for government positions were based on Confucian writings. Schools were set up to teach students Confucianism.
- Many of the Confucian texts we read today were edited during the Han Dynasty.



The map, titled "Map of the Han Dynasty", shows the extent of Han territory in red, covering much of modern China and parts of Central Asia. It also shows the borders of modern China in black and the Great Wall of China in yellow. Key geographical features labeled include the Gobi Desert, Yellow Sea, East China Sea, South China Sea, Pacific Ocean, and the cities of Chang'an and Luoyang.

Han Dynasty Started the Imperial Civil Service Exam



Qing Dynasty examination cells 1873.

Carrying Confucian Teachings On: Mencius (371 – 289 B.C.E)

- Believed that all humans were good by nature and only corrupted by society.
- Scholars could reach "sagehood" (wisemen) by cultivating themselves – learning and shaping themselves as righteous or virtuous people.
- Proposed land reform for spirit of cooperation. People would get a piece of private land and then have one common piece of land to promote cooperation.



The illustration depicts Mencius, a Chinese philosopher, seated in a traditional wooden chair. He is wearing a blue and purple robe and has a long white beard. He is holding a scroll in his hands.


Zhou Dunyi (1017-1073 B.C.E. Song Dynasty)

- Blended Confucianism with Taoism.
- Explored the relationship between human conduct (behavior) and universal forces.
- Goal of humans was to master their qi or vital life energy.



Zhu Xi (1130 – 1200 C.E. Song Dynasty)

- Argued that the unique source of the whole universe was the Heavenly Order.
- He argued that human beings may eliminate their mental imperfections by studying Confucianism (Ethics and Metaphysics).
- Wrote a famous book: "Family Rituals" – how to conduct weddings, funerals, etc.



Revering Confucius in China: Temples to Confucius Abound



Temple in Nanjing

Temple in Beijing

Temple in Shanghai

Confucius Temple/Academy Layout

Each temple has or once had an academy next to it. Lecture halls, study rooms, courtyards, gardens, all existed on the grounds. This is a view looking down on the Confucius Temple and Imperial Academy grounds in Beijing.




Lingxing Gate: Front Portal Gate to the Temple



Suzhou, China

Statue of Confucius in the Courtyard of the Temple



Suzhou, China

Statue of Confucius at Beijing Temple



These are wish/prayer flags draped around the statue usually wishing for success on an exam.

Prayer/Wish Flags in Beijing's Confucius Temple



Confucius Temple in Beijing




BiYong Hall – Where the Qing Emperor would give lectures

BiYong Hall "Study Throne" for the Emperor

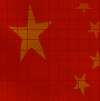


Steles – Names of those that had past the Imperial Exams.



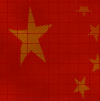
The student with the highest mark on the Imperial Exam was allowed to walk along this middle pathway within the Forbidden City – A true honor





Enshrining Confucius – In Beijing
Confucius is honored on a Mandarin
mini-stele at this altar





In Shanghai, Confucius is enshrined
as a statue





In Suzhou, Confucius is enshrined
as painting







Taipei, Taiwan

Beijing, China




Confucius Temple in Beijing

"Music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without" (Analects)

Various musical instruments were inside the temples for ceremonial purposes.



The Imperial Academy next to the Confucius Temple - Beijing



The small rooms across the bridge are study/lecture rooms.

Many temple/academy complexes also contain gardens where scholars can relax and contemplate what they've learned.

Notice the pagoda — a Buddhist architecture in a Confucian temple.



Confucius Temple in Shanghai, China

Can one be Confucian, Buddhist, and Taoist all at once? – Yes.

Confucianism Religion Mosaic Example

Fengdu, China – Taoist "Ghost City"

The Palace of Hades – A Taoist Temple (Example of Syncretism)

The Yellow Emperor of Heaven



2006 7 3

Confucius modeled society on earth as it was thought to be in heaven. China Emperor's Mandate of Heaven came from this Emperor.

Confucian Judges in the Afterlife



3


How virtuous were or weren't you in life? Your fate lies in these Confucian judges in the afterlife. Your punishment or reward awaits you!

If you were not virtuous...

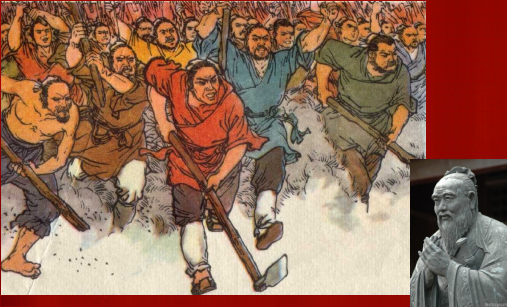


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Another example:
Confucius Temple in
Taipei, Taiwan
– Here's a Taoist
statue holding the
peach that represents
immortality.



Confucius had his critics



The New Culture Movement (May
4th Movement): Anti-Confucian



Negative reaction to the results of
the Treaty of Versailles (Japan
received Germany's territory in the
Shandong Province – The Chinese,
shockingly, believed it to be their
land!)

Chinese scholars, students, and
more, rose up to protest the weak
Chinese government

Anti-Confucian Cultural Revolution
(1966-1976)



中国人民解放军是毛泽东思想大学校

Reviving Confucianism

Today, Confucianism serves a more legitimate political function; it can help to provide a new moral foundation for political rule in China. Communism has lost the capacity to inspire the Chinese, and there is growing recognition that its replacement needs to be grounded at least partly in China's own traditions. As the dominant political tradition in China, Confucianism is the obvious alternative.
(Daniel Bell – NPQ 2010)



Statue of Confucius in Tiananmen Square recently erected

The statue of Confucius was quickly moved in the middle of the night to this hidden courtyard in the National Palace Museum (Right next to Tiananmen Square)



Beijing's Olympic Confucianism

Is it not a pleasure to meet with friends from afar?

有朋自遠方來
不亦樂乎

Academy of Confucian Studies



Confucian Schools Today are Growing in China




Confucius Institutes Go Global






孔子学
Confucius Institute
2008.12

Confucius Institutes Worldwide



Confucianism did not stop at the border of China - Confucian Museum in South Korea
