

Timeline of Confucianism in China, Korea, and Japan

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| 1045 – 771 B.C.E. | Western Zhou Dynasty |
| 1043 B.C.E. | Duke of Zhou (Zhou Gong Dan) becomes the Regent to the King of Zhou |
| 771 – 256 B.C.E. | Eastern Zhou Dynasty |
| 722 – 476 B.C.E. | Spring and Autumn Period |
| 551 B.C.E. | Confucius is born in Qufu |
| 549 B.C.E. | Confucius's father died |
| 535 B.C.E. | Confucius's mother died |
| 533 B.C.E. | Confucius got married and appointed the manager of the state of Lu's granary. (Grain was used as money then) |
| 532 B.C.E. | Birth of Confucius's son, named Li. Confucius appointed the state of Lu's Husbandry Manager. |
| 522 B.C.E. | Confucius starts his own private school. |
| 518 B.C.E. | Legendary meeting between Confucius and Lao-Tzu (founder of Taoism) |
| 501 B.C.E. | Appointed the Chief Magistrate (Mayor) of Zhongdu |
| 500 B.C.E. | Appointed the Minister of Justice for the Kingdom of Lu |
| 497 B.C.E. | Leaves the state of Lu and heads to Wei to try to promote his ideas. |
| 484 B.C.E. | Confucius returns home to Qufu in Lu and focuses on teaching. |
| 479 B.C.E. | Confucius died. |
| 221 – 206 B.C.E. | Qin Dynasty Emperor orders the burning of Confucian texts and kills many Confucian scholars. Qin Shi Huang Di favored Legalism. |
| 206 B.C.E. – 220 C.E. | Han Dynasty honors Confucian ideals. Civil Service Examination system is introduced. Local officials would select candidates to take part in examination system of the Confucian Classics. |
| 220 – 280 C.E. | Three Kingdoms Period. Imperial officials were responsible for assessing the quality talents recommended by the local officials. |
| 500's C.E. | Confucianism introduced to Japan by Paekche kingdom from Korea. |
| 581 – 618 C.E. | Sui Dynasty. Emperor Yang divides the examinations into categories of local talents. |
| 604 C.E. | Japan's Prince Shotoku introduces 17 Article Constitution with moral commandments largely based on the Analects of Confucius. |
| 958 C.E. | King Gwangjong of the Goryeo Kingdom in Korea establishes a national civil service exam based on Confucianism. |
| 960 – 1279 C.E. | Song Dynasty. Most civil servants were appointed to their positions based on their passing of the Civil Service Exams. Still, most came from wealthy families since they could afford tutors/schooling. |
| 992 C.E. | Korean Goryeo King Seongjong establishes the Gukjagam school for Confucian classics. |
| 1100's C.E. | Neo-Confucianism (Zhu Xi interpretation) introduced to Japan (known in Japan as Shushigaku) |
| 1271 – 1368 C.E. | Yuan Dynasty. Civil Service Examination system abolished at the beginning of the dynasty. It was restored in 1315 by Emperor Renzong. |
| 1368 – 1644 C.E. | Ming Dynasty. Civil Service Examination system thrived. |
| 1392 C.E. | Yangban (Confucian scholar class) thrives under the Joseon Dynasty of Korea. |
| 1603 C.E. | Japan Shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu establishes bureaucratic government based on Neo-Confucian principles. |
| 1644 – 1905 C.E. | Qing Dynasty. Civil Service Examination system thrived until it was discontinued by the throne. |