

## Confucianism: The Leader as Role Model

### I. Geography

- A. Coastal plain in the east; Mountainous terrain to the west
- B. Three Main River Systems
  1. Huang He (Yellow River)—dry climate, short summer, very cold winter
  2. Chang Jiang (Yangtze River)—wet climate, hot summer, cold winter
  3. Xi (Hsi) Jiang (West River)—subtropical climate, hot + damp summer, warm winter

### II. Chronology

- A. Abstract creation myth
- B. No reliable chronology before 827 B.C.
- C. Origins of Agriculture
  1. Diffusionist Theory
  2. Indigenous Development Theory
    - a. Beng Doushan (Hubei Basin) — 6400–5800 B.C. (rice)
    - b. Pei Ligang (N. China) — 5550–5200 B.C. (millet)
- D. Introduction of Chariot — ca. 1200 B.C. (Edward L. Shaughnessy)
- E. Dynasties
  1. Xia (Hsia) (2205 [or 2005 or 1989] B.C. – 1766 [or 1784 or 1557] B.C.)
  2. Shang (sometimes called Yin) (1557 [or 1784 or 1766 or 1523] B.C. – 1050 [or 1028 or 1022] B.C.)
  3. Zhou (Chou) (1050 [or 1028 or 1022] B.C. – 256 B.C.)
    - a. Early (or Western) Period (to 771 B.C.)
    - b. Later (or Eastern) Period (771 – 256 [or 221] B.C.)
      - (1) Spring and Autumn Period (771 – 481 [or 475 or 403] B.C.)
      - (2) Age of Warring States (481 [or 475 or 403] – 221 B.C.)
  4. Qin (Ch'in) (221 – 206 B.C.)
  5. Han (206 B.C. – 221 B.C.)
    - a. Former Han (202 B.C. – A.D. 9)
    - b. Later Han (A.D. 23 – 220/1)
  6. Xin (Hsin) — Wang Mang (A.D. 9 – 23)—“The Usurper”

### III. Period of a Hundred Philosophers

- A. Laozi (Lao-tzu [or Lao-Tze]) (ca. 604 – 517 B.C.)
  1. *Daodejing (Tao Te Ching)*—“Book of the Way and Virtue”
    - a. Dao (Tao)—universal principle
    - b. Observe Nature to follow Nature’s Way (the “watercourse way”)
    - c. Avoid Striving; practice breath control
    - d. Return good for not good; soft overcomes hard
- B. Kongzi (K’ung Fu-tzu or Confucius) (551–479 B.C.)
  1. Five Classics of Confucianism (+ Four Books)
  2. *Analects (Lun yü)* — “Dialogues” (E. Bruce Brooks)
  3. Five Confucian virtues
    - a. *ren (jen)* — humanity or benevolence
    - b. *yi* — righteousness

- c. *li* — rules of propriety, sacred ritual, ceremony, good manners
- d. *zhi* — wisdom
- e. *xin (hsin)* — trustworthiness
- 4. Five Confucian Relationships
  - a. Father – Son
  - b. Ruler – Minister
  - c. Husband – Wife
  - d. Elder Brother – Younger Brother
  - e. Friend – Friend
- 5. Dao — the right Way (but not as metaphysical as Daoism)
- 6. Harkens back to lost “Golden Age”
- 7. Champion of *shi (shih)* (scholar-administrators)
- C. Mang Ko (Mangzi or Mencius) (371 – 289 B.C.)
  - 1. Mandate of Heaven — king’s authority derives from Heaven
  - 2. King who ignores the welfare of the people can be overthrown

#### IV. Unification under the Qin (Ch’in)

- A. Prominent Personages
  - 1. Shi Huangdi (Shih Huang Ti) (“The First Emperor”) (259–210 B.C.)
  - 2. Li Si (Li Ssü) (ca. 280 – 208 B.C.) — Prime Minister
  - 3. Xi Lingshi (Hsi Ling Shi) — legendary discoverer of silk-making process (wife of Shi Huangdi)
- B. Administrative Reforms
  - 1. Organized formerly independent states into 36 provinces
  - 2. System of Dual Administration
    - a. Province (*qun [chün]*)
    - b. Prefectures — subdivisions of provinces
- C. Other Developments
  - 1. Legalism — founder: Shang Yang (fl. mid-4th cent. B.C.)
  - 2. Standardization of weights, measures, coinage, writing, and axle lengths
  - 3. Burning of Books (213 B.C.) and Burying of Scholars (212 B.C.)
  - 4. Underground Terra Cotta Army
  - 5. Irrigation system of Yangtze River — Li Bing (ca. 250 B.C.), Governor

#### V. Consolidation under the Han

- A. Innovations and Achievements
  - 1. Paper (ca. A.D. 105)—Cai Lun (Ts’ai Lun)
  - 2. Census of A.D. 2: 59,594,978 people
- B. Improvements in Technology
- C. History Writing — Ssu-ma Ch’ien (ca. 140–90 B.C.)

#### VI. Mentalité

- A. Underlying Principles
  - 1. Yin and Yang = Balance of Nature
  - 2. Five Phases
- B. Popular Religion
  - 1. Combination of Buddhism, Daoism, and Confucianism
  - 2. Bureaucracy of gods and spirits = divine democracy