



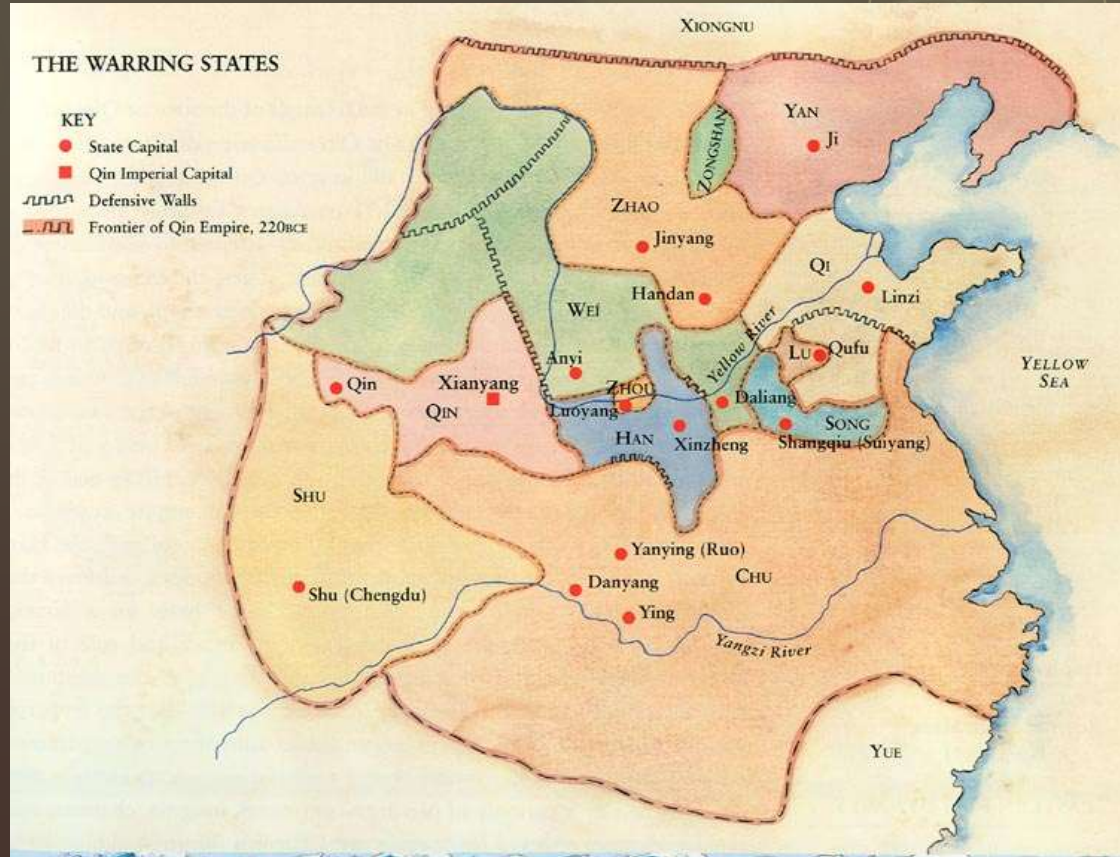
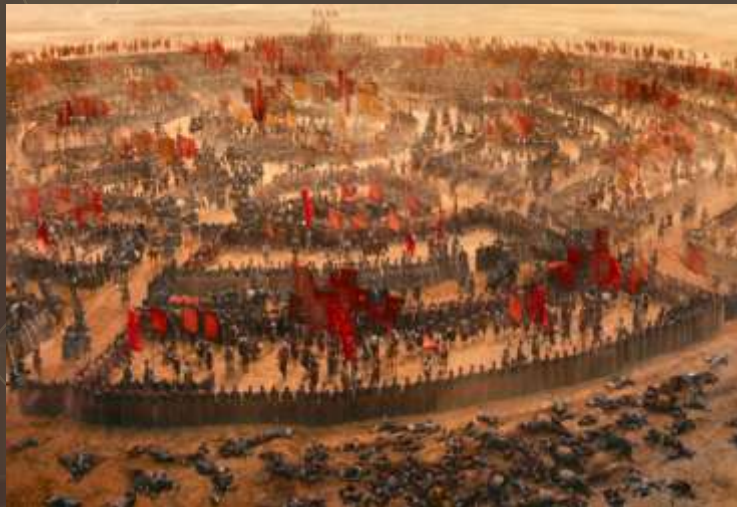
Chinese Religion and Philosophy

Chinese Religion and Philosophy



- The political turmoil of this period also resulted in a remarkable cultural flowering, because it forced people to reflect on the proper roles of human beings in society.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy



○ The late centuries of the Zhou Dynasty led eventually to the chaos associated with the period of **Warring States** (403 - 221 B.C.E)

Chinese Religion and Philosophy

- Most people concentrated on simply surviving these war torn times in Chinese history...a few however, wanted to identify principles that would strengthen social order.



- Three schools of emerged during this time of confusion and chaos... **Confucianism, Daoism** and **Legalism**.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy



○ The first Chinese thinker who addressed the problem of political and social order in a straightforward manner was **Kong Fuzi** “**Master Philosopher Kong**” or simply **Confucius**.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy



○ Confucius was born in 551 B.C.E. in **Qufu** (Ch'ü-fu) which was part of the Lu state under the Zhou Dynasty

○ He died in 484 B.C.E. in the same village.

○ Today the village has about 60,000 inhabitants.



Chinese Religion and Philosophy



○ **The Confucius Temple** in Qufu is one of the three largest ancient architectural complexes in China.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy



- For over 2,000 years, this temple has gradually grown and serves as the blueprint for all other Confucian temples.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy



○ Confucius's grave in Qufu.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy



- Because Confucianism focuses on ethics, family, society and government people often think of it as a philosophy or way of thinking...but it is much more than that.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy

- Confucius was from an aristocratic family and for many years perused an influential post on the Lu Court.



- Confucius was an extremely strong willed individual and rarely got along with others, insisting on observing his beliefs and principles which frequently clashed with state policy.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy

- As a result Confucius was unable to obtain a high position at the Lu court.



- Confucius then hunted for employment with other courts in northern China but after a decade of travel found none willing to accept his vices.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy

- Although Confucius never realized his ambition, he left an enduring mark on Chinese society through his work as an educator and political advisor.



- He attracted numerous disciples who aspired to political careers and extended his teachings throughout China.

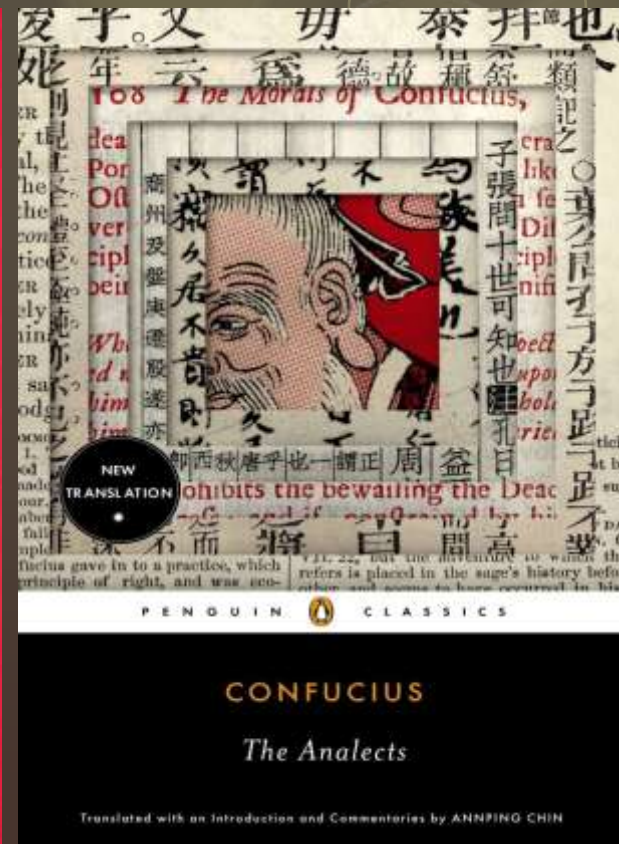
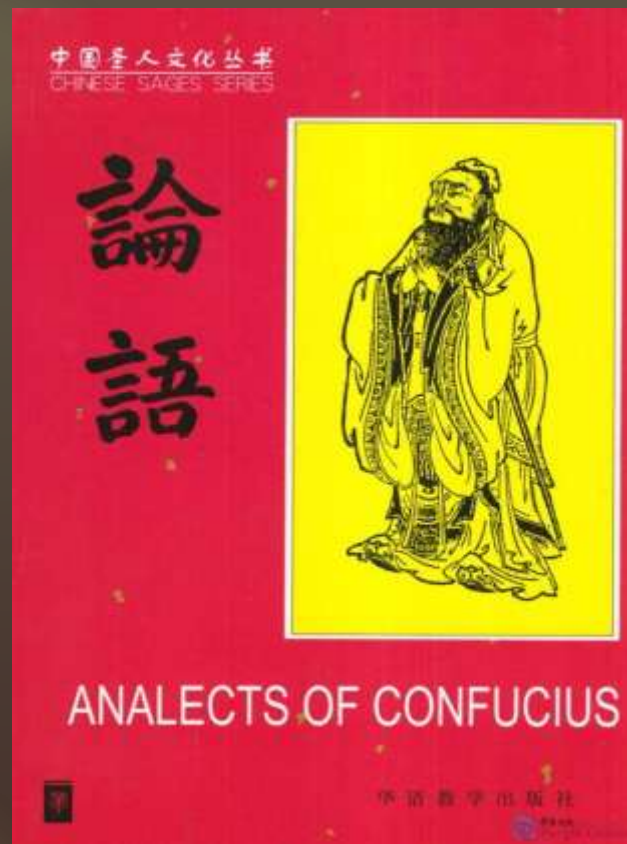
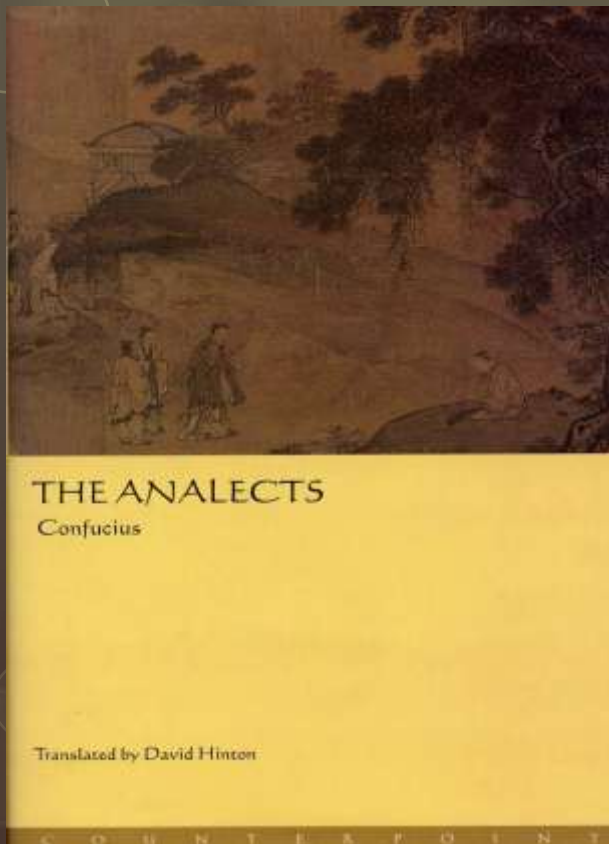
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- The Analects was produced after Confucius's death in 484 B.C.E. by his followers who simply wanted to further his teachings.



- The collection highly influenced educational, social, and cultural thought in China and through out other parts of Asia.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy



○ The book has been translated into every language imaginable and can be purchased today at your local book store...

Chinese Religion and Philosophy



- Confucius did not address philosophical or religious questions but rather focused instead on the proper ordering of human relationships.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy



- In an age when ceremonial institutions were not well developed, Confucius believed that the best way to promote good government was to fill official positions with well educated and conscientious individuals.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy

- Thus Confucius concentrated around the formation of what he called the **Junzi** or “superior individuals”.



- Essentially **Junzi** would not allow personal interest to influence their judgments and cloud their abilities in office.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy



- For Confucius ideal government officials needed more than an advanced education, they needed a strong sense of moral integrity and a capacity to deliver wise and fair judgments...you see he eventually realized his faults.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy

- One of these judgments was called **Ren**, which meant an attitude of kindness and a sense of humility.



- Confucius explained that individuals possessing **Ren** were courteous, respectful, diligent and loyal...characteristics desperately needed in government officials.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy

- Another quality of central importance was **Li**, a sense of politeness, which called for individuals to behave appropriately.



- They should treat all other beings with courtesy, while showing special respect to elders or superiors.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy

- The third and arguably the most important quality that Confucius emphasized was **Xiao**.



- Which obliged children to respect their parents and other family elders, look after their welfare, to support them in old age, and to carry on their memory in death

Chinese Religion and Philosophy

- Confucius believed only through these enlightened, morally strong individuals, lied the only hope for the restoration for political and social order in China.



- He truly believed that through the creation of **Junzi** China would be brought back to a state of stability.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy



- Today about 6 million people practice the religious aspect of Confucianism worldwide...however, the writings of the analects have been incorporated into every Chinese Dynasty since Confucius died.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy

- Now some contemporaries, however, regarded Confucian activism as little more than wasted energy...among the most prominent of these critics were the **Doaists**...sometimes spelled Taoist.



- Like Confucianism, Daoism developed in response to the turbulence of the late Zhou Dynasty and the period of Warring States.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy

- Unlike Confucianism, the Daoists considered it pointless to waste time on social activism.



- Instead devoting their energies to reflection, in hopes that they could understand how to live in harmony with the natural principles that governed the world.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy



- The Daoists believed that, over time, this approach would bring harmony to society as a whole, as people ceased to meddle in affairs that they could not understand or control.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy

- Daoism represented an effort to understand the fundamental character of the world and nature.



- The central concept of Daoism is the elusive idea of "**Dao**", meaning "**the way**" or "**the way of nature**"

Chinese Religion and Philosophy

- “**Dao**” is the original force of the cosmos, an eternal principal that governs all the workings of the world... **harmony** with the universe is the intended result of many Daoism practices.



- Daoists envisioned the “**Dao**” as a passive force and really view it in conflicting terms: **Dao does nothing, and yet it accomplishes everything.**

Chinese Religion and Philosophy

- The Dao resembles water, which is soft and yielding, yet is also so powerful that it eventually erodes even the hardest rock placed in its path.



- A prime belief revolved around the idea that people should be more like water and simply let order flow naturally.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy

- Daoists believed that human beings should live in harmony with the passive and yielding elements of nature.



- That meant retreating from the world of politics and administration.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy



- Ambition had only brought the world a state of chaos...the proper response was to cease frantic striving and live in as simple a manner as possible.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy

- Daoist ethics emphasize the **Three Jewels of the Dao**:



- **Compassion** - A deep awareness of and sympathy for another's suffering
- **Moderation** - Quality of being moderate and avoiding extremes
- **Humility** - Humble or Modest, doing something out of the goodness of your heart, not for yourself

Chinese Religion and Philosophy

- For Daoists, the ideal leader was a wise man who was in harmony with the **Dao**, governing so effortlessly that his people would not even realized they were being governed.



- The Less government the better....

Chinese Religion and Philosophy



- Instead of expensive kingdoms Daoists envisioned a world of tiny, self sufficient communities where people had no desire to conquer or even trade with neighboring societies.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy

- Daoist taught that the Universe is a balance of opposites: female and male, light and dark, low and high...



- In each case opposing forces should remain in harmony.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy

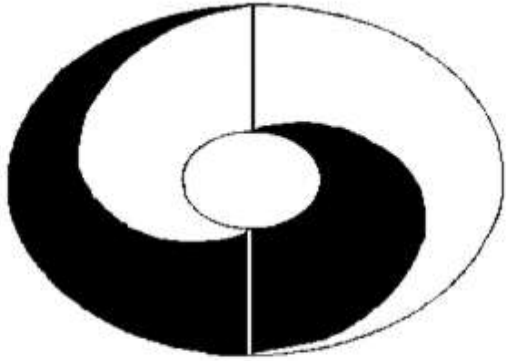
The **Taijitu** “diagram of supreme ultimate” is a Chinese symbol for the concept of **Yin and Yang**.

It is the central symbol Daoism and is also often used by non-Daoists to represent the concept of opposites existing in harmony.

The classic Daoist **Taijitu** is black and white with a black dot upon the white background, and a white dot upon the black background.



Chinese Religion and Philosophy



流行者氣

主宰者理

對待者數

來瞿唐先生圓圖



The **Yin-Yang** is a concept that came out of Daoism...

According to **Yin-Yang** philosophy the universe, and everything in it, is both steady and repeated.



Chinese Religion and Philosophy

- One force dominates and then it is replaced by the opposing force...this activity continues constantly and repeats itself over time:



Life and Death

Heaven and Earth

Night and Day

Dark and Light

Health and Sickness

Poverty and Wealth



Chinese Religion and Philosophy

- The black area represents **Yin** with the following characteristics:

Feminine
Passive
Moon
Dark
Cold
Night
Soft
Rivers



Chinese Religion and Philosophy

○ The white area represents the **Yang** with the following characteristics:

Male

Active

Logical

Enlightenment

Bright

Light

Creation

Dominance

Mountains



Chinese Religion and Philosophy



- Today the symbol can be seen integrated into **Western Culture** as accessory, rather than the philosophical tool it truly is.

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Chinese Religion and Philosophy



Chinese Religion and Philosophy



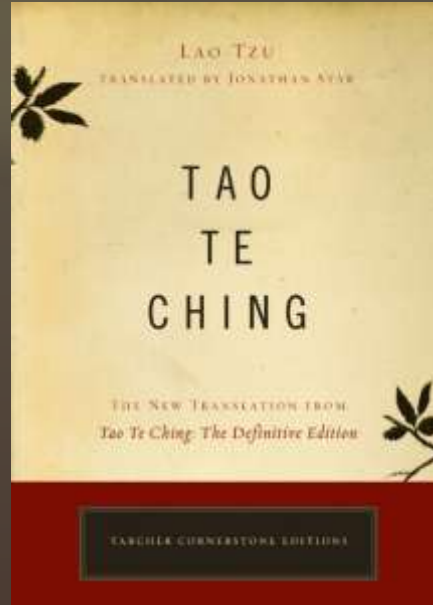
Chinese Religion and Philosophy

- Now it is time for my favorite part of the class...bad Yin and Yang Tattoos!!!!

Chinese Religion and Philosophy



Chinese Religion and Philosophy



○ Who created **Daoism**?

○ **Laozi** (Lao-Zuh) - Was a mystic philosopher, record keeper for the Zhou Dynasty, and best known as the author of the **Tao Te Ching** (sacred text of Daoism)

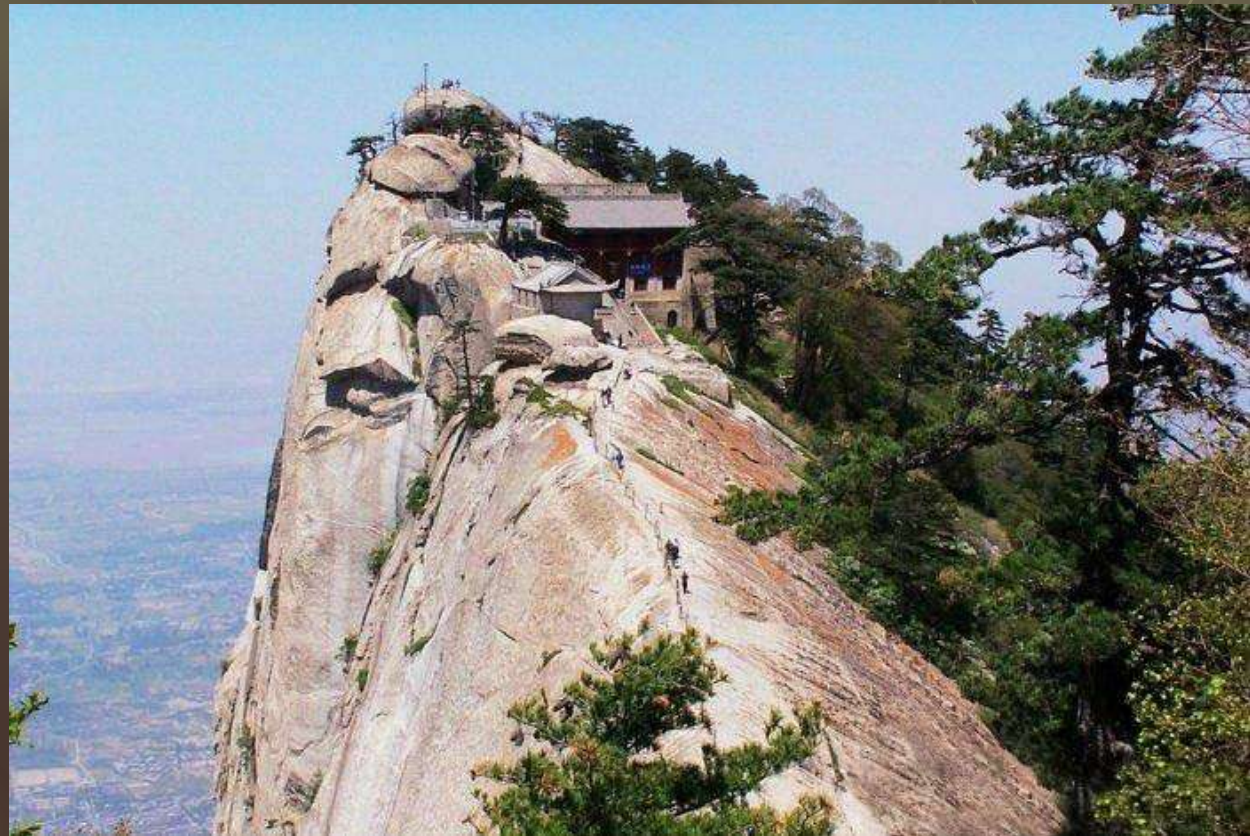
Chinese Religion and Philosophy

- His association with the **Tao Te Ching** has led him to be traditionally considered the founder of Daoism



- Laozi taught that people should not try to gain wealth, nor should they seek power.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy

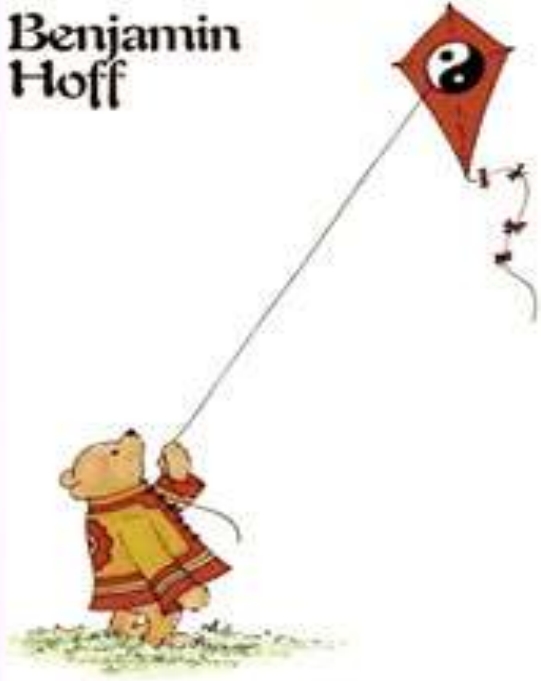


○ Today there are about 5.5 million people who practice Daoism worldwide.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy

The Tao of Pooh

Benjamin Hoff



Piglet sidled up to Pooh from behind. "Pooh!" he whispered.

"Yes, Piglet?"

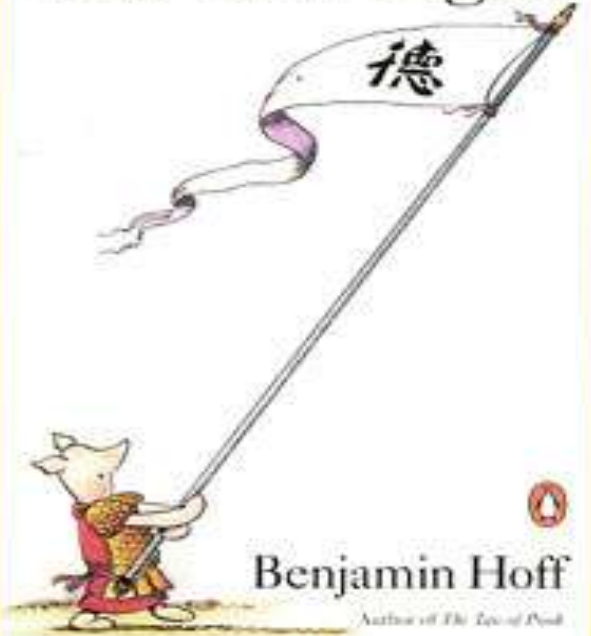
"Nothing," said Piglet, taking Pooh's paw. "I just wanted to be sure of you."



The Te of Piglet

Benjamin Hoff

Author of *The Tao of Pooh*



○ If you find Daoism interesting and you would like to know a little more check out...

Chinese Religion and Philosophy

- Ultimately, neither Confucian activist nor Daoists retreat was able to solve the problems of the Warring States.



- Order returned to China only after the emergence of a third school of thought, that of the **Legalist**.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy

- Unlike the Confucians and Daoists, the Legalist did not concern themselves with ethics, morals, nature and the human place within nature.



- Legalists devoted their attention exclusively to the state, which they wanted to strengthen and expand at all cost.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy



- **Legalism** – The belief that people were bad by nature and needed to be controlled.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy

- Legalist felt that society needed strict laws to keep people in line and that punishment should fit the crime.



- For example they believed that citizens should be held responsible for each other's conduct.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy



- A guilty person's relatives and neighbors should always be punished in order to demonstrate the severe consequences for ill behavior.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy

- **Legalism** had three main parts...



- **Shu** : Special tactics and "secrets" are to be employed by the ruler to make sure others don't take over control of the state.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy

○ **Fa** : The law code must be clearly written and made public.



○ Laws should reward those who obey them and punish accordingly those who dare to break them.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy



○ **Shi** : It is the position of the ruler, not the ruler himself or herself, that holds the power.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy

- The Legalist doctrine was most notably associated with **Shang Yang**, who served as a chief minister to the Qin state during the Warring States period.



- He was clever and an efficient administrator, however he was also despised due to his abuse of power and ruthlessness.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy

- Eventually Shang's enemies at the Qin court executed him, mutilated his body and annihilated his family.



- Another important Legalist theorist, **Han Fei** also fell afoul of ambitious men at the Qin court.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy

- During his life, Han created Legalist ideas in a collection of powerful and well disputed essays on statecraft...however, his enemies forced him to commit suicide by taking poison.



- Thus, the Legalist state itself consumed the two foremost exponents of the Legalist Doctrine.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy



- Unity and efficiency were also important to **Legalist**.

- They wanted to appoint officials to run China, not the upper class nobles that have been previously controlled the country and caused the chaos of the Warring States.



Chinese Religion and Philosophy

- Legalist also wanted a strong Chinese Empire to constantly grow and expand.



- They demanded that the country needed to be in a constant state or readiness for war campaigns and expansions.

Chinese Religion and Philosophy

- In later dynasties, Legalism was discredited and ceased to be an independent school of thought.



- However, both ancient and modern Confucian followers state that many **Legalist** ideas have merged with mainstream Confucianism and still play a major role in government.