

Religions of China (Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism)

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- I Syncretism – following more than one religion at a time
 - a Confucian – customs and traditions
 - b Buddhist – worship & rituals
 - c Taoist – outlook, literature, philosophy, art, music
- II Origins
 - a Confucianism and Taoism are indigenous to China
 - i **Chongwo** – center
 - b Buddhism brought to China by Indian Buddhist monks around 100 A.D.
- III Traditional Chinese Beliefs
 - a Before Confucianism and Daoism became full fledged religions, Chinese held beliefs which helped to form their two religious traditions:
 - i Kiu
 - ii Ying-Yang
- IV Beliefs
 - a **Spirits**: early system was polytheistic; spirits active in nature
 - b **Shang Ti or Tian**: high power ruling the universe; a personal God
 - c **Ancestor Worship**: ancestors die, become spirits watching over us
 - d **Yang and Yin**: male/female, strong/weak, light/dark; opposite but complimentary
 - e **Divination**: **The Book of Changes**; methods of knowing future
 - f Harsh life, natural catastrophes; forced to understand patterns of nature to live in harmony
- V The Goal of Chinese Life...

- a ...is to **achieve harmony**
 - i Confucianism seeks harmony in social and political life
 - ii Daoism seeks harmony with nature

VI Confucianism

- a achieve Harmony by following the right path (Dao) or right method
- b harmony consists of right relationships among members of the society; can be taught

VIII Life of Confucius

- a Named K'ung Ch'iu
- b Given title "Kung Fu Tzu" (Great Teacher)
- c Born in noble family
- d Father died when he was a child
- e Was a tax collector
- f Then became a teacher
- g Later part of life became minister in government

VIII Main Concepts in Confucianism

- a Ren (Jen); love for humanity
- b Li propriety; being appropriate, having right etiquettes
- c Xiao - Filial Piety (Respect for Elders), Five Relationships:
 - i Father - Son
 - ii Elder brother - Younger brother
 - iii Husband - Wife

- iv Friend - Friend
- v Ruler - Citizen
- d Wen - appreciation for aesthetic values, such as art, literature, music
- e Junzi - the ideal human being
 - i Not selfish or egoist
 - ii Man of knowledge, well-rounded
 - iii Not narrow-minded, willing to listen to opinion of others

IX Five Classics and Analects

- a Probably written after Confucius, subsequently edited by Confucian scholars
- b Became core curriculum of Chinese classical educational system

X The Five Classics

- a The Book of History: account of Chinese rulers, various dynasties
- b Book of Poetry: classical poems with moral intent
- c Book of Changes (I-Ching): divination, basic patterns of the universe
- d Book of Rites and Ceremonies
- e The Spring and Autumn Annals: historical record of Confucius' home state, Lou
 - i Analects is the book of Confucius' sayings

XI Confucianism

- a *Is it more of a religious system or a political and social system?*
- b Both:
 - i Religious system; Shang Ti or Tian, customs and rituals