

# Three Chinese Philosophies

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How do belief systems compel people to behave  
and inform how they are governed?

Ms. Jeremie

# Starter

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- What continent is China located on?
- Name one of the major rivers
- What isolated China from the rest of the world?
- What happened to the Shang Dynasty?

# What are the 3 Chinese Philosophies?

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- Daoism
- Legalism
- Confucianism



# Chinese Beliefs Preview

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## The Three Teachings

- What are the three core faiths?
- How are the teachings used to organize and govern society?
- What is the relationship between the teachings?
- How do the three core faiths shape early Chinese civilization?

# The Zhou (Joh) Empire

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# End of the Zhou Dynasty

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- The **Zhou Dynasty** (1046-256 BCE) was the longest-lasting of China's **dynasties**.
- It followed the Shang **Dynasty** (c. 1600-1046 BCE) with the defeat of the last Shang emperor
- It finished when the army of the state of Qin captured the city of Chengzhou in 256 BCE.

# The Warring States Period

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- Warfare broke out between nobles at the end of Zhou dynasty
  - Led to period of upheaval and chaos
  - People began to think about the best way to restore:
    - Social order
    - Harmony
    - Respect for authority



Daoism/Taoism

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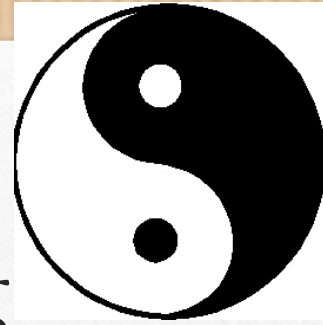
# Daoism/Taoism

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- Started by a man named Lao Tsu who lived about 600 BC
- Is a philosophy (way of thinking) but turned into a religion
- Lao Tsu believed that people needed to go with the flow (wu-wei) let nature take its course

# Yin and Yang



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- Believed everything in the universe had a life force- a yin and yang-opposites
  - Yin-dark side- is women, moon, things that are still & death
  - Yang-light side-is men, sun, things that move & birth
  - Must keep the yin and the yang balanced

# Beliefs...

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- Wrong for people to fight
- Wrong for government to make rules and laws
- Against any kind of rules, diets, etc.
- Had theories regarding the body, diet, breathing and physical exercises, uses of herbs, philosophical inquiry and meditation.
- **All of these the Taoist feels brings a human being into closer alignment with the “natural order” of life and living**

## 3 Jewels to be sought....

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- Compassion- awareness of another person's pain and wanting to relieve it
- Moderation- avoid extremes
- Humility- modest, don't brag

# Discussion

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- What would be the appeal of Taoism to ancient Chinese people?

Legalism

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# Legalism Beliefs

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- Believed that people were bad and needed to be controlled
- Religion wasn't involved
- Believed society needed strict laws
- People should be responsible for other people's actions. EX- neighbors and relatives should also be punished
- Scare people into obeying laws

# Legalism

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- There are 3 parts to Legalism
  - ~fa (law)
  - ~shi (legitimacy)
  - ~shu (arts of the ruler)



# Fa (law)

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- Laws were written and made public
- The laws ran the state the rulers did not
- Laws were enforced by strict rewards and punishments

# Shi (legitimacy)

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- Keeping order was the first priority
- Anyone could rule as long as laws were in place

# Shu-arts of the ruler

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- Rulers should not be kind
- Being kind leads to failure
- They need to be strict otherwise people get disrespectful and lazy

# Discussion

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- Who would be drawn to Legalism?
- How did Legalism try to organize and govern early Chinese civilization?

# Confucianism

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# Confucius and Society

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- During Zhou Dynasty
- Confucius, a man, felt that China was full of rude, dishonest people
- He wanted people to return to having good ethics

# Confucius's rules for Families

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- Fathers should be role models for family
- Children should respect and obey their parents
- Families should be loyal to one another

# Confucius' Rules for Government

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- Do not have strict laws
- Have leaders be good role models for morals and behavior
- King should inspire good behavior- not scare people into good behavior



# Confucius Proverbs

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- A man who has committed a mistake and doesn't correct it is committing another mistake.
- Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.
- Real knowledge is to know the extent of one's ignorance.

# Confucius Teachings

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- Confucius traveled all over teaching his ideas
- His teachings were put into a book called The Analects
- Confucianism is meant to guide behavior

# Starter:

What philosophy does each advisor believe in?

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The Kings 1st Adviser suggest:

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Lead by Example

The Kings 2nd Adviser suggest:

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If you must rule, rule as little as possible.

The Kings 3rd Adviser suggest:

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Set clear laws and harshly punish those who disobey them.

# Starter:

What philosophy does each advisor believe in?

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The Kings 1st Adviser suggest:

## **Confucianism**

Lead by Example

The Kings 2nd Adviser suggest:

## **Daoism**

If you must rule, rule as little as possible.

The Kings 3rd Adviser suggest:

## **Legalism**

Set clear laws and harshly punish those who disobey them.

# The Philosophers



Confucius  
(Most Famous)

5 Basic Relationships:

1. Ruler & Subject
2. Husband & Wife
3. Father & Son
4. Older & Younger Sibling
5. Friend & Friend

\* Must set a good example.

A very powerful effect on Han Dynasty, later in history.

Confucianism



Laozi (Low-Dzuh)

Yin Yang

Impossible to have good without bad. Influenced rulers to govern less harshly. Daoism had a BIG impact of Chinese thought & art.

Daoism (Taoism)



Hanfeizi (hahn-fay-dzoo)

Most people are naturally selfish.

This idea had almost immediate influence on government.

People were forbidden to criticize government.

Legalism

# Confucianism Influence



Very practical effect on government for the Han Dynasty. Allowed Han leaders to hire civil servants based on their ability - NOT FAMILY or position on the social class pyramid.

They had to take exams that would likely be graded by the emperor.

Major Influence on: Chinese culture, Values like respect for elders, proper behavior, and love of studying.

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# Daoism Influence



Based on the ancient Chinese idea of Dao (dow), or “the Way.” It taught: people gained happiness by living in harmony, or agreement.

Believed that people shouldn't feel self-important or work to gain possessions or honors. Accept whatever comes.

This philosophy encouraged rulers to govern less harshly. But the most important influence was on Chinese thought, writing, and art.

Daoism (Taoism) developed into a popular religion.

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# Legalism Influence



People will always go after what they want. They cannot be counted on to have a good influence.




Rulers can't just set a good example, they need to make strict laws and enforce them.

Because rulers were always being overthrown Hanfeizi believed that "He who trusts other will be controlled by others."

The Qin (chin) dynasty liked      this idea to build a strong government after they took control of China.



# 3 Chinese Philosophies

<p>A good society must start with good people.</p>	<p>Human beings are only a small part of the total reality.</p>	<p>Government can't just rely on good will, it needs a practical system governed by law.</p>
<p>People need to be inspired, not forced, to be good.</p>	<p>When people try to do too much, they will upset the natural order of things.</p>	<p>In the system, all people are fundamentally equal, except the ruler.</p>
		
<p>Confucianism founder: Confucius, a Chinese thinker</p>	<p>Taoism founder: Laozi, a mystic philosopher</p>	<p>Legalism founder: Guanzi, Prime Minister of Qi</p>

# Reflection

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- Use your notes and discussions to answer the following prompt:

*How did Confucianism, Daoism, and Legalism influence political and social rule in ancient China?*

# Reflection Quiz

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*Directions:* Use your notes, knowledge of world history and discussions to answer **ONE** of the following prompts in 1-2 paragraphs. Be specific when giving examples.

- *Prompt #1:* How did Confucianism, Daoism, and Legalism influence political and social rule in ancient China?
- *Prompt #2:* How do belief systems compel people to behave and inform how they are governed?
- *Prompt #3:* To what extent did the three philosophies of China impact the family and social spheres?