

Ancient China

Dr. Grant Hardy

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Background Chronology:

Xia dynasty (2205?-1766? B.C.E.) - legendary

Shang dynasty (1766?-1045 B.C.E.) - oracle bones

Zhou dynasty (1045-256 B.C.E.)

 Western Zhou (1045-771 B.C.E.) - King Wen and King Wu

 Eastern Zhou (770-256 B.C.E.)

 Spring and Autumn Era (722-481 B.C.E.) - Confucius

 Warring States Era (403-221 B.C.E.) - Hundred Schools

Qin dynasty (221-207 B.C.E.) - First Emperor

Han dynasty (202 B.C.E. - 220 C.E.)

Era of Division (220-589) - Buddhism becomes popular

Sui dynasty (581-618)

Tang dynasty (618-907) - Golden Age of Chinese Poetry

Song dynasty (960-1279)

Yuan dynasty (1264-1368) - Mongols; Marco Polo

Ming dynasty (1368-1644)

Qing dynasty (1644-1912)

Confucianism

Confucius (551-479 B.C.E.) - *Analects*

Five Classics: *Book of History*, *Book of Songs* [Poetry], *Book of Rites*, *Book of Changes*
 [I Ching], *Spring and Autumn Annals*

Five Relationships: ruler/subject, parent/child, husband/wife, older brother/younger brother,
 friend/friend

Confucian virtues: ren (human-heartedness, benevolence)

 li (ritual)

 xiao (filial piety)

Later Confucianists: Mencius, Xunzi [Hsun Tzu]

Daoism

Laozi [Lao Tzu] (dates?) - *Daodejing* [Tao Te Ching]

Dao [Tao] (The Way)

Wu-wei (non-action)

Yin/yang

Zhuangzi [Chuang Tzu] (4th century B.C.E.)

Legalism

Hanfeizi [Han Fei Tzu] (d. 223 B.C.E.)

Punishments and rewards

Confucianism - hierarchy, order, social responsibility, morality, activism, service, seriousness

Daoism - individualism, freedom, nonconformity, nature, retirement, wit, mysticism, relaxation

For an on-line translation of the complete *Daodejing* (it's not very long!), see

<http://www.wright-house.com/religions/taoism/tao-te-ching.html>