

Philosophical Foundations



Philosophical Foundations E. Zhou 770-256 BC

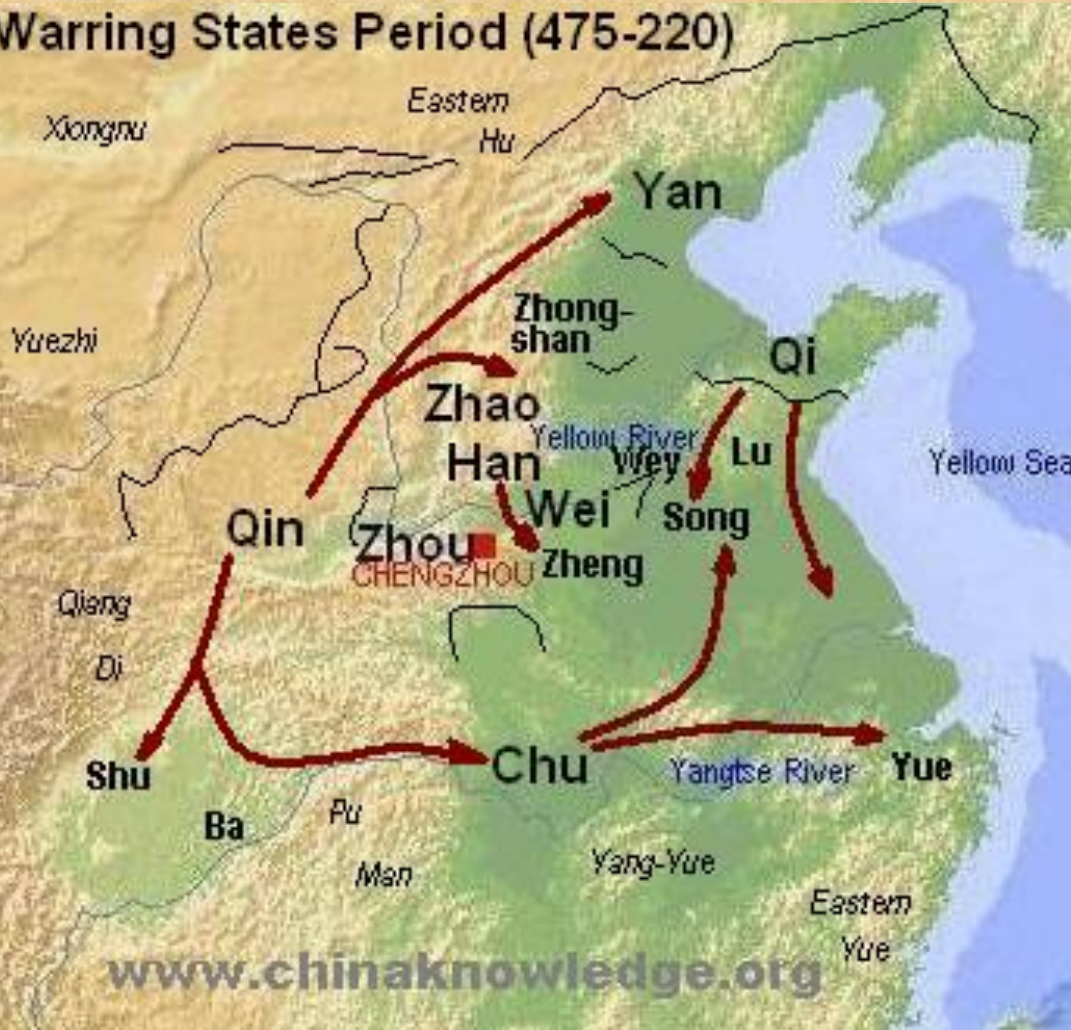


Zhou Dynasty
at its greatest
extent

black lines represent
Great Walls built by
the Zhou

Rival States (Warring States)

Warring States Period (475-220)



- Violent and brutal time
- Marriage used as political tool
- Walled cities provide some protection
- Cavalry and crossbow were added to war weaponry
- Centralized bureaucracies developed resulting in a “middle class”
- In addition, advisors were added to government like Confucius

Life of Confucius



- **K'ung=master born 551 BC**
Analects of Confucius
- **Came from a once wealthy family but father died**
- **Married, fathered a child, divorced, became a teacher**
- **Entered the Duke of Lu's government and then forced out**
- **Wandered until Duke of Ai**
- **Died 479 BC**
- **China's first moral philosopher linking morality to being a good citizen**
- **Filial piety—at all levels of society**

Teaching of Confucius

- **Confucius may have been between Laozi and Mozi religiously**
- **Concerned with ethics and government**
- **Li=living in harmony with life (the feudal life)**
- **All society should follow li**
- **Jen=love and Shu=reciprocity**
- **Humans are by nature good if the government is good also**

Life of Confucius

己所不欲勿施於人

What you do not wish upon yourself, extend not to others.

学而不厌
诲人不倦

孔子

Never tire to study -
And to teach others.

Confucius

Life of Mencius



- **Legendary parallels between him and Confucius**
- **Mencius (372-289 BC) studied Confucius**
- **Mandate of Heaven (divine right and obligation to rule fairly)**
- **Good government wasn't based on "profit"**
- **Believed in innate tendencies toward goodness**

Life of Xunzi

- **Xunzi (ca. 310-ca.220BC)**
Master Xun was a rationalist when it came to gods and rejected human control over gods via prayer, etc.
- **Bought into ritual for ritual sake**
- **Education necessary to “curb” wayward directions of young**
- **Reform occurs first within the family and then moves upwards toward the state**

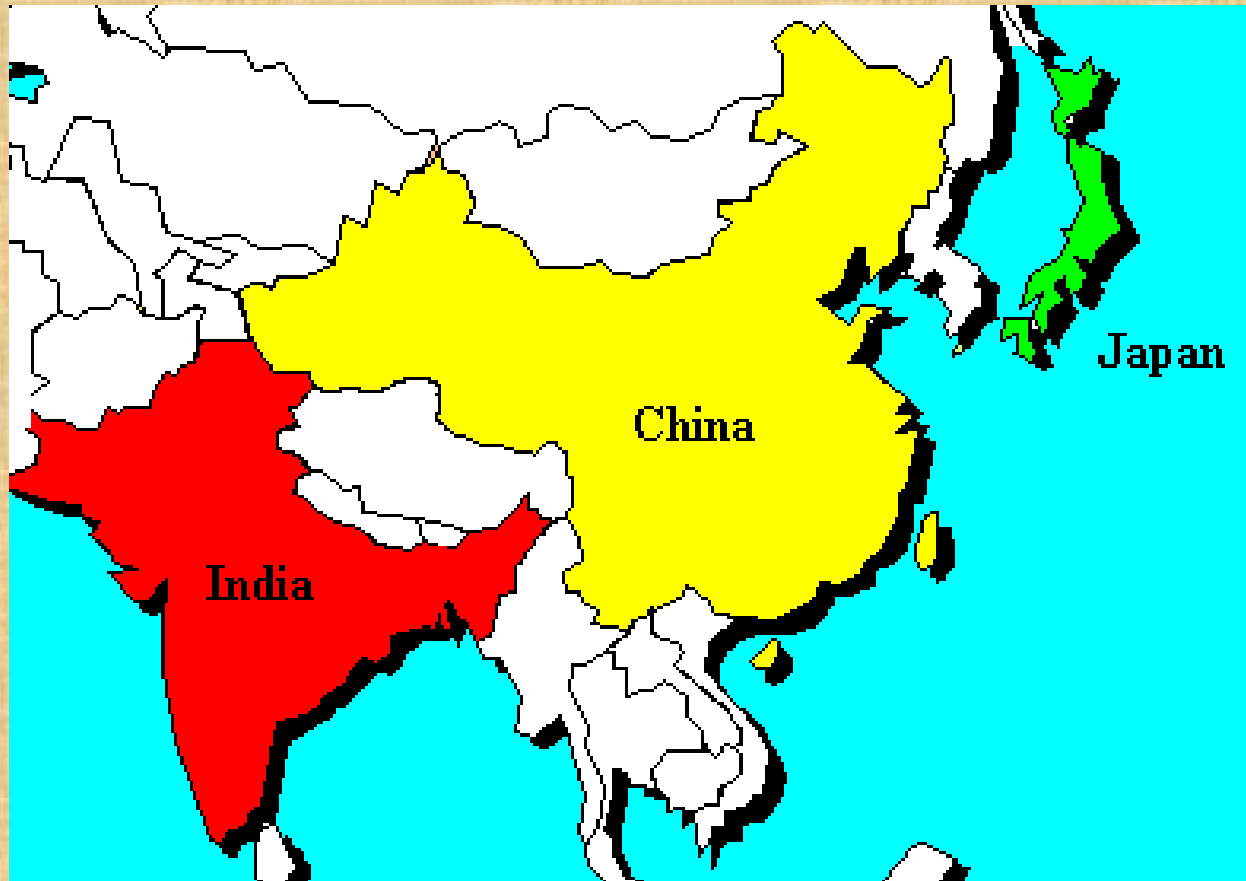




Teachings of Laozi

- Tao controls existence—not our efforts—therefore, conform!
- Life is a great thing—lengthen life is desirable via alchemy, etc.
- KIS—Henry David Thoreau of Asia
- Anti-hubris—tallest tree in woods parable (Martha Stewart)
- God is like the Unmoved Mover of Plato
- <http://www.wolverton-mountain.com/articles/taoism%5Ftaoism%5Ftrees%5Fgrasso.htm>

Daoism—the way of nature



Laozi (Old Master) wanted to exit China and was stopped before he got to Tibet. There he was forced to write down his thoughts--*Tao Te Ching*.

Legalists—Han Feizi

Han Feizi (d. 233 BC)



Legalists

- **Utilitarianism—greatest good for the greatest number**
- **Machiavellians—people can't be trusted**
- **Rejected religion**
- **Han Feizi saw history was evolutionary and progressing to beyond the one before: “No country is permanently strong. Nor is any country permanently weak. If conformers to law are strong, the country is strong; if conformers to law are weak, the country is weak....”**
- **“Therefore, the intelligent sovereign makes the law select men and makes no arbitrary promotion himself. He makes the law measure merits and makes no arbitrary regulation himself. In consequence, able men cannot be obscured, bad characters cannot be disguised; falsely praised fellows cannot be advanced, wrongly defamed people cannot be degraded.”**



“Thus, though we have heard of stupid haste in war, cleverness has never been seen associated with long delays. In all history, there is no instance of a country having benefited from prolonged warfare. Only one who knows the disastrous effects of a long war can realize the supreme importance of rapidity in bringing it to a close. It is only one who is thoroughly acquainted with the evils of war who can thoroughly understand the profitable way of carrying it on.”

Sun Tzu (Master Sun), *The Art of War*

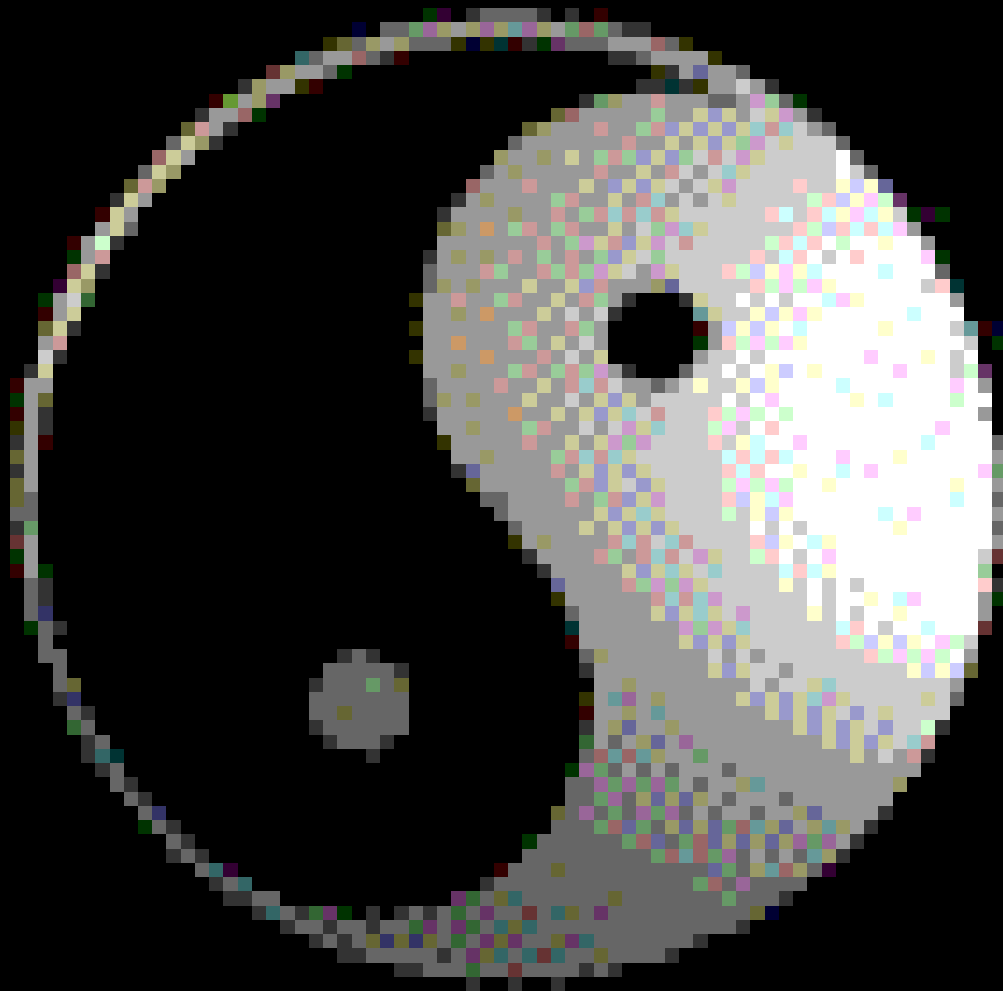
Mozi

- **Mozi (ca. 468-390 BC)**
- **Love each other—
Quakers**
- **Governments were to
love their people**
- **A philosopher from the
masses**



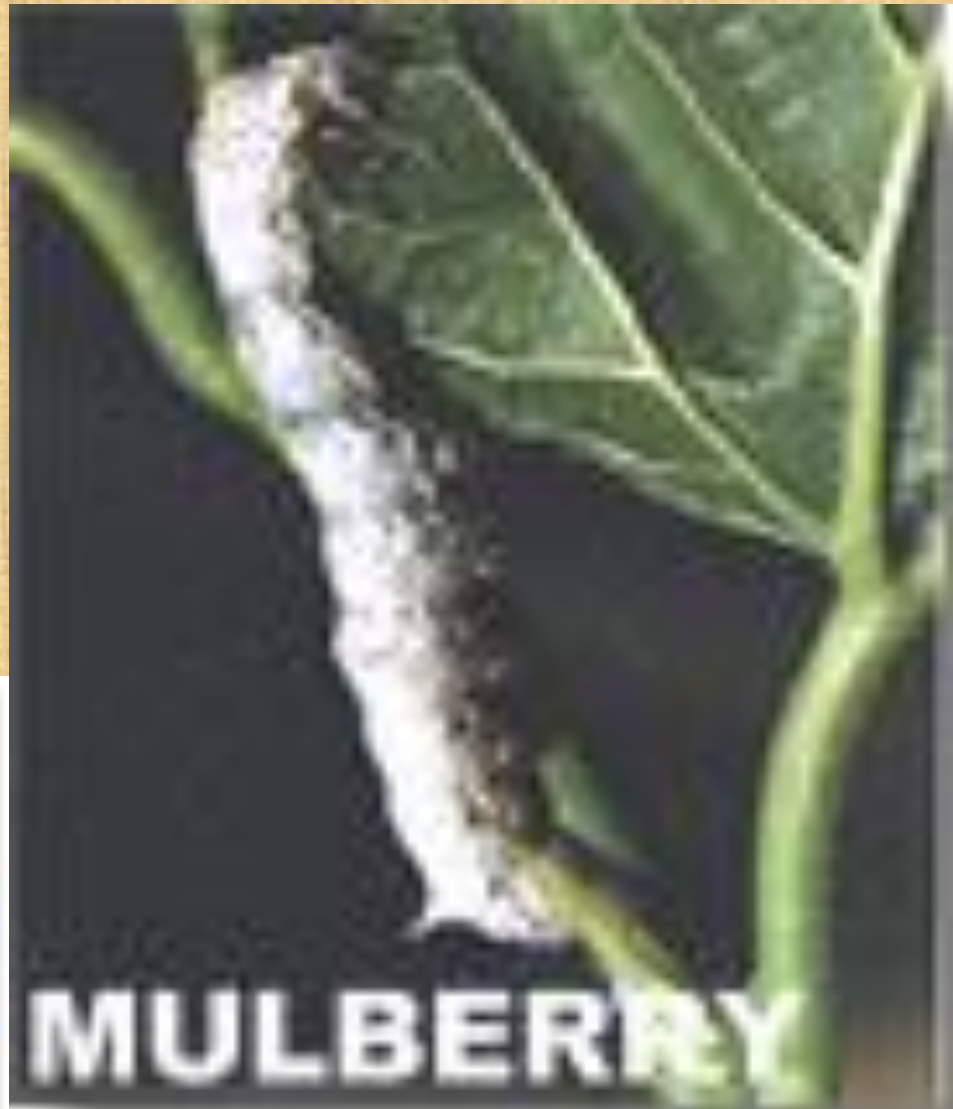
Yin Yang





Yin Yang

Silk Production





Silk Road



Brass bowls of Zhou Dynasty



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Interesting site:

<http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/ht/04/eac/ht04eac.htm>