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Ancient Chinese Philosophers Presentation

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Ancient Chinese Philosophers

Confucianism 儒家

1. Confucius (孔子):
the first teacher
 2. Mencius (孟子):
the idealistic wing of
Confucianism
 3. Xun Zi (荀子):
the realistic wing of
Confucianism
- *Lobbyist* → *Educator*

Taoism 道家

1. Lao Zi (老子)
 2. Zhuang Zi (庄子)
- *Hermit* → *Educator*

Two Rival Approaches to Life: Confucianism V.S. Taoism

● Confucianism:

1. Reason
2. Traditional morality
3. Rigid order

ethical & political
spheres

● Taoism

1. Intuition
2. Mystical Identification with Nature
3. Endless change and flux

literary
artistic
spiritual

Confucianism: The Chinese Great Tradition

- Long History of Existence
- Wide Range of Influence

Confucius (孔子)

- A private teacher (Plato)
- Masterpiece: *The Analects* or *Lun Yu* (*the Republic*)
- Main philosophical ideas
 1. on society : The Rectification of Names
 2. on individual : Human-Heartedness, Righteousness, doing for nothing

Mencius (孟子)

- The second sage
- Masterpiece: *The Mencius*
- Main philosophical ideas
 1. The original goodness of human nature
 2. Inborn virtues, knowledge and ability
 3. Brain superior to Brawn

Xun Zi (荀子)

- Opponent to Mencius
- Philosophy of culture---
 1. The original evilness of human nature
 2. Goodness acquired by cultivation
- Masterpiece: *Xun Zi*

Lao Zi (老子)

- Masterpiece: *Lao Zi (Tao Te Ching)*: the 1st philosophical work
- Main philosophical ideas
 1. the Way
 2. Inaction in government (Laissez faire)
 3. Dialectic (the way in which two aspects of a situation affect each other)

Zhuang Zi (庄子)

- Masterpiece: *Zhuang Zi*
- Main philosophical ideas
 1. Equality of all things
 2. Natural happiness and freedom

Comparison & Conclusion

● Confucianism:

1. Ming Jiao
2. Roam within the bounds of society
3. This-worldliness

● Taoism

1. Zi Ran
2. Roam beyond the bounds of society
3. Other-worldliness

A better sense of balance

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Thank you for coming

Questions or Comments

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