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

Taoism 道家
1. Lao Zi (老子)
2. Zhuang Zi (庄子)

Hermit → Educator
Lobbyist → Educator
Two Rival Approaches to Life: Confucianism V.S. Taoism

Confucianism:
1. Reason
2. Traditional morality
3. Rigid order

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

ethical & political spheres

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
References

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Thank you for coming

Questions or Comments
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