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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

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
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

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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