

# Three Chinese Philosophies

History Alive Chapter 21

A decorative graphic consisting of several horizontal lines of varying lengths and colors (teal, light blue, white) extending from the right side of the page towards the center.

# 21.1 Introduction

- Three Major Philosophies during the Zhou dynasty
- Confucianism
- Daoism (Taoism)
- Legalism



## 21.2 Zhou Dynasty



- In 1045 B.C.E. Zhou dynasty moved into the central plains and took over.
- The Zhou dynasty overthrew the Shang dynasty and became the new ruling power.

# The Mandate of Heaven

- A power or law believed to be granted by god.
- Heaven was a power that controlled human destiny.
- The king was the son of heaven.
- Heaven gave the king the right to rule.
- If Heaven did not want the king to rule, then Heaven would cause him not to be in power.



# The Mandate of Heaven - again

- **The Zhou dynasty believed in the Mandate of Heaven, meaning that the heaven grants the power of ruler or emperor. So basically, emperor is given the absolute power to rule the empire. In other words, heaven blesses emperor. This institution made people to obey emperor, because they believed that the god sent emperor. So emperors could remain in power.**



# Feudalism



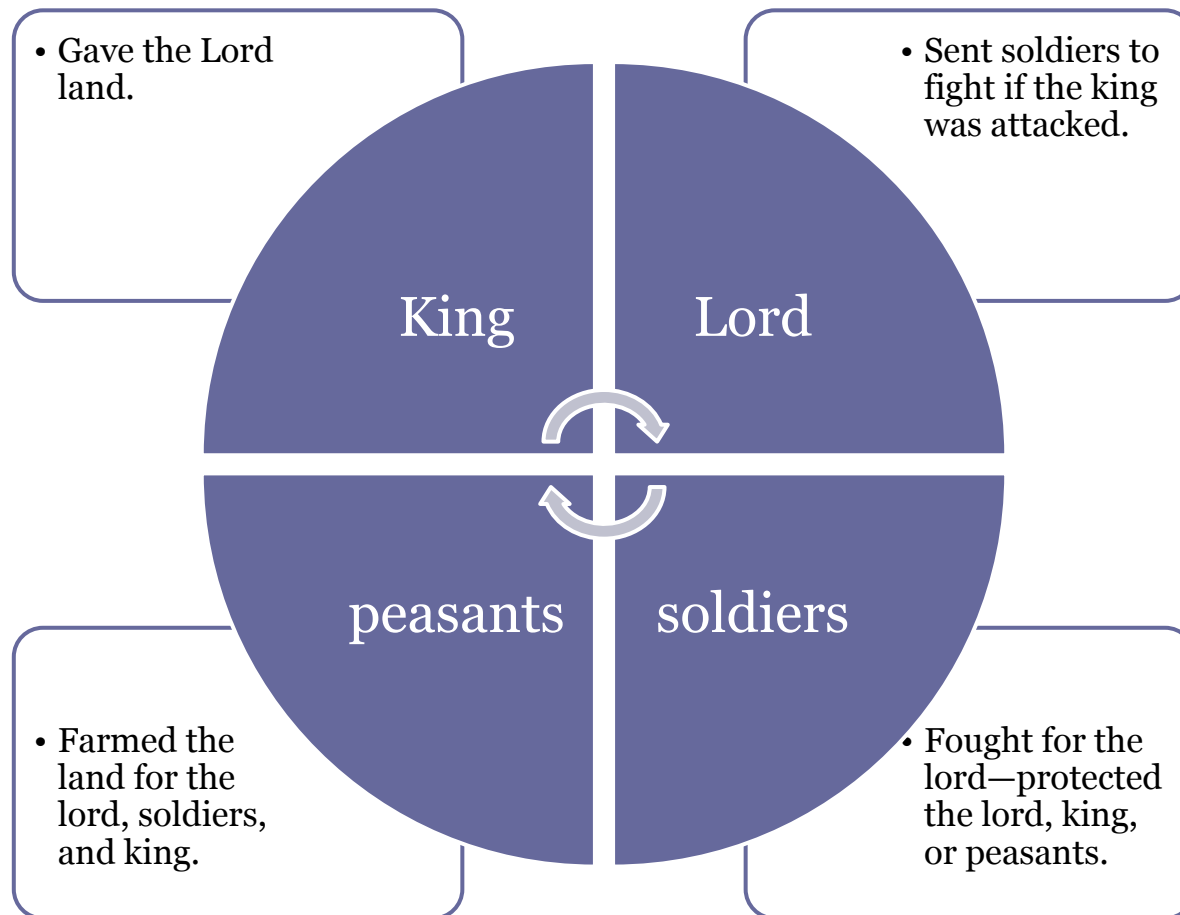
- The king owns all the land.
- The king gives land to his friends called lords.
- The lords give the king soldiers and food.
- The lords rule their own lands.
- Peasant farmers work the land and gave the lord crops.
- Peasants were protected by the lord.

# Feudalism



- **The Zhou China developed feudal systems. The empire was too big to be managed by one emperor. So the empire was divided into small different regions and nobles were given the lands. They were able to rule their own region within the empire. The emperor protected the nobles as long as they remained loyal to the emperor. However, wars between feudal kingdoms within the empire led to the end of Zhou dynasty.**

# Feudalism (4 parts)





# The Later Years: Conflict and Creative thought

- Feudalism kept China stable until the 700s B.C.E.
- Small states quarreled or fought with each other.
- Seven large states begin to fight for power.
- The lords and king fought for 250 years.



# The Warring States Period



# “Hundred Schools of Thought”

- People were tired of fighting and bloodshed.
- The leaders wanted to find the best ways to govern without war.
- The rulers would hire scholars to help them rule the people, create order, and increase their power.
- Many ideas were offered—so many ideas that they became known as the “Hundred Schools of Thought”.



# Three major philosophies

- Confucianism
- Daoism
- Legalism



## 21.3 Confucianism



Confucius

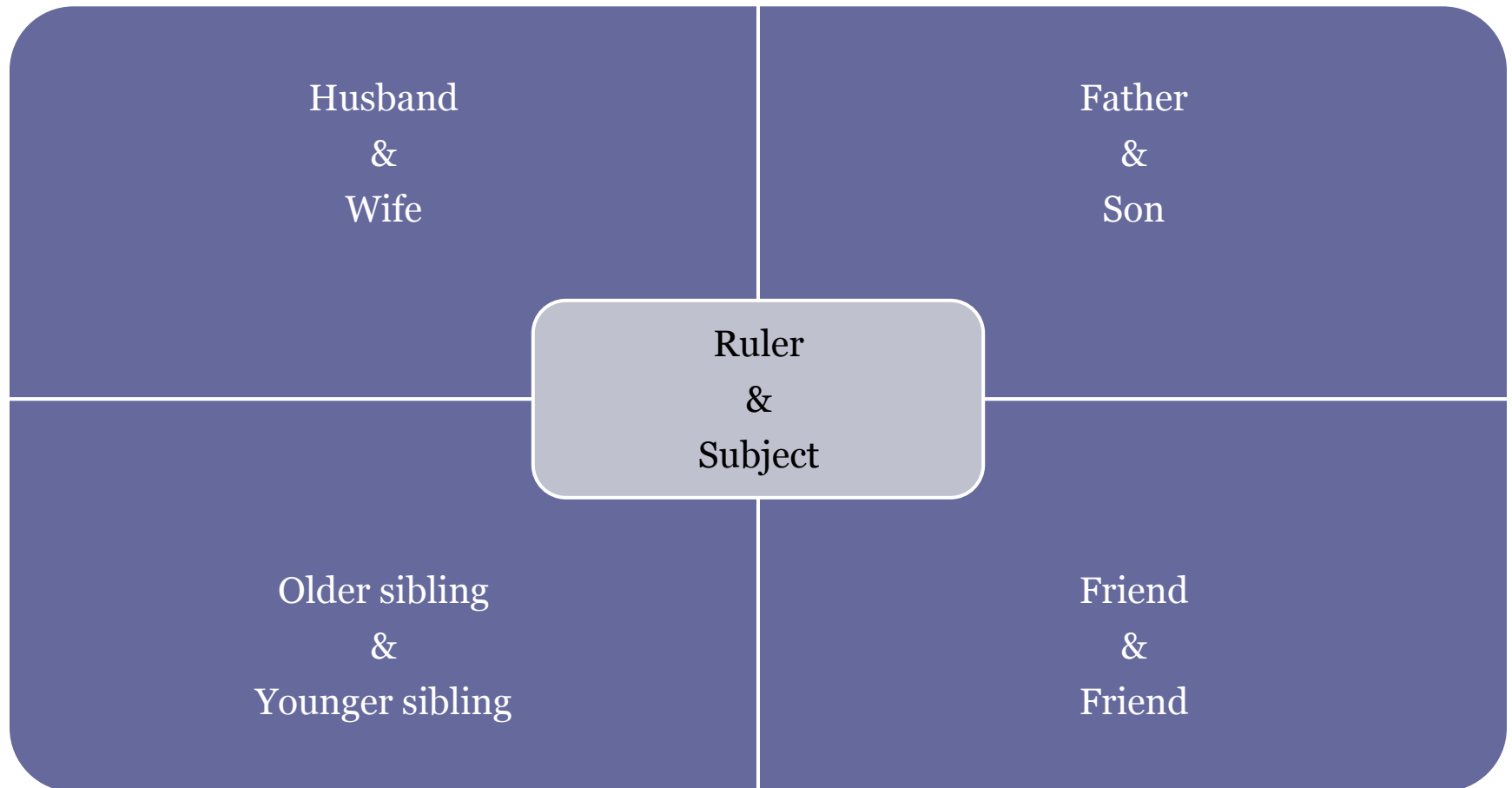
- Confucius lived between 551 to 479 B.C.E.
- He lived in the small state of Lu which was invaded many times.
- Confucius respected Chinese traditions.
- He wanted rulers to govern wisely.
- He wanted people to have good character, be honest, and fair in their dealings.

# The Teachings of Confucianism

- Confucius wanted a peaceful society.
- Five basic relationships
- Respect and obey those above them.
- People who have authority must set a good example.

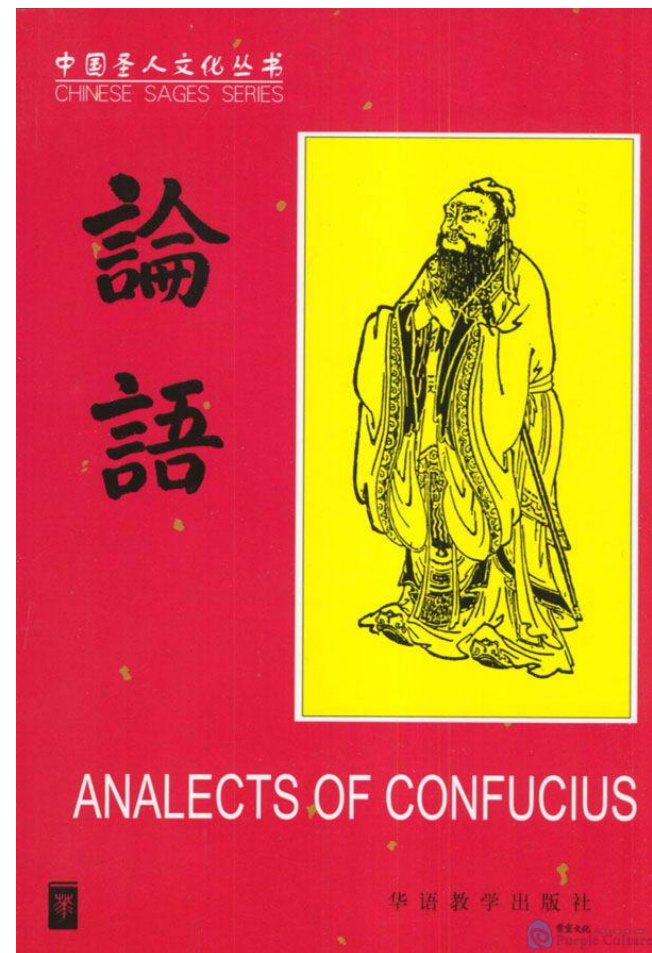


# Five Basic Relationships



# The Influence of Confucianism

- Many students spread the teachings of Confucius.
- The collected sayings of Confucius are called *The Analects*.





# Civil Servants

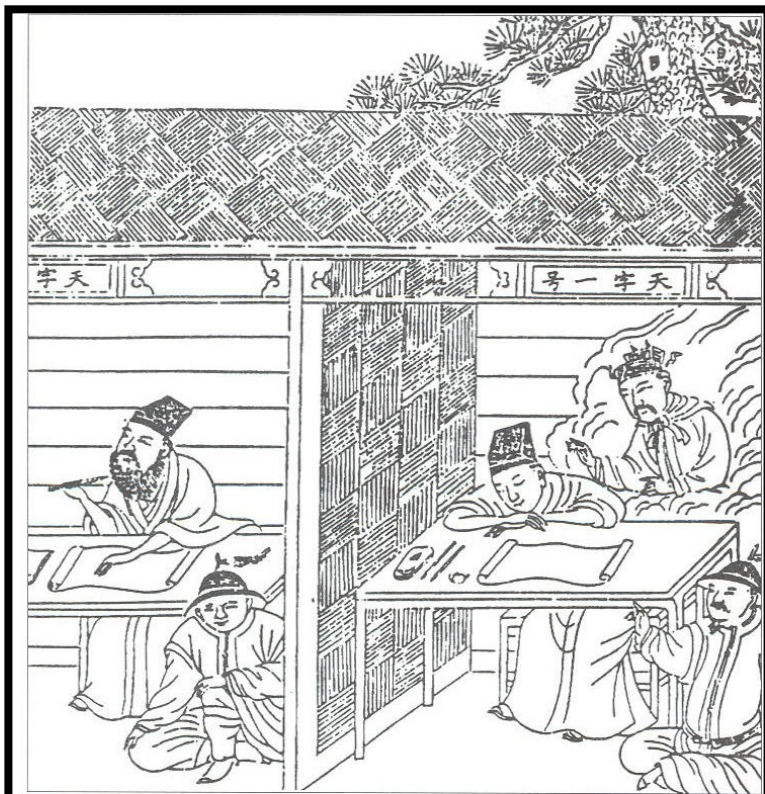


FIGURE 4.2. The 1604 *Optimus* Drunk in an Examination Cell.  
Source: *Ming chuang-yuan t'u-k'ao* 明狀元圖考 (Illustrated survey of *optimi* during the Ming dynasty). Compiled by Ku Ting-ch'en 顧鼎臣 and Ku Tsu-hsun 顧祖訓. 1607 edition.

- A civil servant is someone who works for the government.
- In China, civil servants were traditionally sons of nobles.
- Civil servants under the Han dynasty had to take an exam.
- People were now selected because of an exam, not because of the wealth of their families.

## 21.4 Daoism

- Founded by the wise man Laozi (Lao-tzu).
- Said to be the author of *Dao De Jing* (The Classic of the Way and Its Power).
- Some scholars believe that Laozi was a real man other others believe he was a legend.



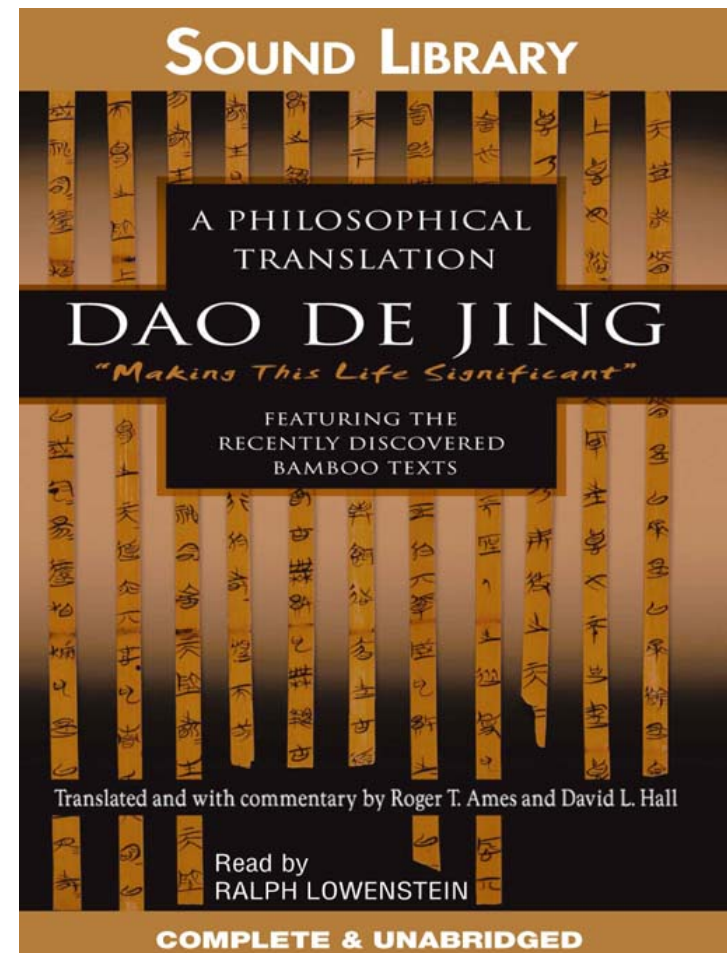
# Laozi's life



- Laozi worked as an advisor to the Zhou courts.
- At 90 he decided to leave China.
- A guard recognized Laozi and was upset that his wisdom would be lost.
- Laozi wrote a small manuscript called the *Dao De Jing*.

# Dao De Jing

- Preached a return to a simple and natural way of living.



# Words from the *Dao De Jing*

- Give up learning, and put an end to your troubles.  
Is there a difference between yes and no?  
Is there a difference between good and evil?  
Must I fear what others fear? What nonsense!  
Other people are contented, enjoying the sacrificial  
feast of the ox.  
In spring some go to the park, and climb the terrace,  
But I alone am drifting, not knowing where I am.  
Like a newborn babe before it learns to smile,  
I am alone, without a place to go

# The Teachings of Daoism

- Based on the ideas of the Dao or 'the Way.'
- Dao was a force that gave order to the natural universe.
- People gained happiness and peace by living in harmony with nature.
- True harmony comes in balancing the opposite forces of nature,



# Daoists' beliefs

## “Be weak. Let things alone.”

- Life is full of opposites.
- Impossible to have good without bad.
- Live a quiet life in harmony with nature.
- Meditate.
- Avoid fame, wealthy, and self-importance.
- Accept what is.
- Too many laws and social rules stop people from living in harmony with nature.
- Strength in humility.



# Influence of Daoism



- Daoism encouraged rulers to be less harsh.
- Influenced Chinese thought, writing, and art.
- Became a popular religion.



## 21.5 Legalism

- Based on the teaching of Hanfeizi .
- He lived from 280 to 223 B.C.E.
- Hanfeizi was a prince of the royal family in the state of Han.
- Concerned with creating peace and order.



# *Hanfeizi*



# The Teachings of legalism



- Most people are selfish.
- Left to them, people will always pursue their own interest.
- Not enough for the rulers to set a good example.
- People need strict laws, rewards for good behavior, and harsh punishments for bad behavior.
- Rulers must have absolute power.
- Rulers should trust no one, not even their own families.

# The Influence of Legalism



- After the Warring States Period the Qin dynasty seized control of China and adopted the Legalist ideas.
- People were forbidden to criticize the government.
- Many people were severely punished.
- Many people were killed.

The End

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