

# 反动阶级的“圣人” ——孔子

CONFUCIUS  
“SAGE” OF THE  
REACTIONARY CLASSES

英语注释读物

商务印书馆

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杨 荣 国

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英语注释读物

## 反动阶级的“圣人”——孔子

杨荣国著 商英注释

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# I. THE AGE IN WHICH CONFUCIUS LIVED<sup>①</sup>

## THE TRIBAL SLAVE-HOLDING STATE<sup>②</sup>

Confucius lived at the end of the Spring and Autumn Period,<sup>1</sup> at a time when the tribal slave-holding state of the Chou Dynasty was collapsing.<sup>③</sup>

What was the tribal slave-holding state, and how did it come into existence<sup>④</sup>?

In the very early primitive society there were no classes. Later, as the productive forces gradually developed, there was a surplus of products. This surplus was appropriated by the tribal heads, making their condition of life increasingly different from that of the ordinary tribal members,<sup>⑤</sup> so that a privileged tribal aristocracy arose.

Towards the end of primitive society, wars often broke out<sup>⑥</sup> among the various tribes. At first, the captives taken in the fighting<sup>⑦</sup> were killed. Later, as the productive forces

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① **the age in which Confucius lived:** 孔子生活的时代. in which Confucius lived 是定语从句, 修饰 the age. ② **the tribal slave-holding state:** 种族奴隶制国家. slave-holding 是由名词和现在分词构成的合成形容词, 作定语. slave-holding 在这里相当于一个定语从句: the state that holds slave. ③ **at a time when the tribal slave-holding state of the Chou Dynasty was collapsing:** 这是周朝种族奴隶制国家行将崩溃的时代. when 引导的定语从句, 修饰 a time. ④ **come into existence (或 being):** 发生, 产生; 形成, 成立. ⑤ **making their condition of life increasingly different from that of the ordinary tribal members:** 他们的生活地位逐渐不同于一般成员. 这个现在分词短语起结果状语用的作用. 代词 that 指代 the life. ⑥ **break out:** 爆发, 发生. ⑦ **taken in the fighting:** 交战中获得的. 这是过去分词短语作定语, 修饰 the captives.

grew, the tribal chiefs got the idea of<sup>①</sup> using their captives from enemy tribes as slaves for production. In case<sup>②</sup> a whole tribe was defeated, all of its members became slaves of the conquering tribe. In this way the classless primitive society in time<sup>③</sup> became a slave society in which the slaves and the slave-owners formed two big classes opposed to each other.<sup>④</sup>

This was the tribal slave-holding state — a state in which the conquering tribe ruled many defeated tribes, making all the captives their slaves.<sup>⑤</sup> This type of slave-holding state system prevailed in China's Yin (16th-11th centuries B.C., known in history as Yin-Shang, first called Shang and later Yin) and Western Chou (11th century-770 B.C.) dynasties. For example, in Yin times, a tribe named Tzu was the sole ruler, and this ruling clique headed by the king of Yin<sup>⑥</sup> formed the tribal aristocracy, the slave-owning class of the tribal slave-holding state.<sup>⑦</sup>

Yin Dynasty slaves were classified as slaves for production and household slaves. The former engaged in<sup>⑧</sup> productive labour and are referred to in oracle-bone inscriptions as<sup>⑨</sup> *chung* or *chung jen*. The latter were divided into

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① **got the idea of:** 打主意,起…的念头. ② **in case:** 如果,假定. ③ **in time:** 适时. ④ **two big classes opposed to each other:** 两大对立的阶级. **opposed to each other** 是过去分词短语作定语. ⑤ **a state in which the conquering tribe ruled many defeated tribes, making all the captives their slaves:** 这种由战胜者的民族统治许多战败者的民族,把战败者的民族成员,沦为种族奴隶的国家. **a state** (它前面有破折号)在这里用作同位语,具体说明代词 **this** 的内容. ⑥ **headed by the king of Yin:** 以殷王为首的,过去分词短语用作 **clique** 的定语. ⑦ **the slave-owning class of the tribal slave-holding state:** 这个种族奴隶制国家中的奴隶主阶级. 这是 **the tribal aristocracy** 的同位语. ⑧ **engaged in:** 从事,参与. **engage** 在这里用作不及物动词,是过去一般时态. ⑨ **refer to … as:** 把…称为. 这里用的是被动语态的形式.

*chen, pu, hsi, nu, chieh* and so forth.<sup>①</sup> According to<sup>②</sup> bone inscriptions, the raiding Yin tribe made slaves of their captives<sup>③</sup> taken from the Chiang tribe and ordered them to hunt, their bags to be given over to<sup>④</sup> the Yin tribe.

Under tribal slavery, the slaves not only lived worse than beasts of burden, but their very lives were in the hands of<sup>⑤</sup> the slave-owners, who could put them to death at will.<sup>⑥</sup> When a slave-owner died, many slaves were killed as human sacrifice, the number sometimes reaching several hundred at one time.<sup>⑦</sup>

Whenever the king of Yin sacrificed to the gods and his ancestors, he used slaves as sacrificial objects. For instance, when sacrifices were offered to a certain Futing, three hundred slaves of the Chiang tribe were killed as though they were cattle, sheep or swine.

There was no basic change in the nature of the political power in the Chou Dynasty; it remained a tribal slave-holding state, only Chi replaced Tzu as the ruling tribe.

Having overthrown the Yin Dynasty,<sup>⑧</sup> the slave-owners headed by the king of Chou made slaves of the various tribes they captured. For instance, at the beginning of<sup>⑨</sup>

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① and so forth: 等等, 依此类推. ② according to: 根据. ③ made slaves of their captives: 把俘虏作为奴隶. make ... of ...把...作成... ④ to be given over to: 被移交给. ⑤ be in the hands of: 操纵在...手里, 在...掌握中, 在...控制下. ⑥ who could put them to death at will: 奴隶主可以任意处死奴隶. put to death, 处以死刑, 置之死地. at will, 任意. ⑦ the number sometimes reaching several hundred at one time: 这种称为殉葬奴隶的数目, 有时达数百人之多. 这是现在分词独立短语, 有自己的主谓结构, 有独立的逻辑上的主语 the number, 现在分词 reaching 则相当于谓语. ⑧ having overthrown the Yin Dynasty: 灭亡了殷商以后. 这是现在分词短语作原因状语. 分词表示的动作先于谓语动词 made, 故用完成形式. ⑨ at the beginning of: 在...的开始时期.



Chou, 71 vassal states were set up<sup>①</sup> one after another,<sup>②</sup> slave-owning princes being assigned by the royal house to rule over the enslaved tribes in the various states.<sup>③</sup>

Among the principal vassal states of the time, Wei, which was given to King Wu's younger brother Kang Shu,<sup>④</sup> took "seven Yin tribes" to be slaves; Lu, which was given to Po Chin, the eldest son of Duke Chou, made slaves of the "people of the state of Yen under the Yin Dynasty" and "six Yin tribes"; Tsing, which was given to King Cheng's younger brother Tang Shu, continued to rule the "nine clans named Huai," originally slaves of the Yin tribe.<sup>⑤</sup> The remaining states likewise used slaves within their own borders.

In Chou times, as in Yin, slaves were forced to do farm labour, so that thousands of slaves were seen in the fields toiling<sup>⑥</sup> under the surveillance of<sup>⑦</sup> the slave-owners.<sup>⑧</sup> Besides those in agriculture, slaves used in handicrafts and commerce also supported<sup>⑨</sup> the luxury of the slave-owners. From generation to generation<sup>⑩</sup> the slaves were cruelly oppressed and exploited by the slave-owning class.

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① **set up** 建置, 建立, 设立. ② **one after another**: 先后, 陆续, 一个又一个. 方式状语. ③ **slave-owning princes being assigned by the royal house to rule over the enslaved tribes in the various states**: 这些诸侯, 就是王室派到各地去统治种族奴隶的奴隶主. 这是现在分词独立短语. **to rule over** (统治, 治理), 不定式短语, 表示目的. ④ **Wei, which was given to King Wu's younger brother Kang Shu**: 武王弟康叔被封于卫. ⑤ **thousands of slaves were seen in the fields toiling...**: 当时田野里有成千上万的奴隶在从事劳动. 动词 **see** 过去时复数的被动式 **were seen** 和现在分词 **toiling** 构成复合谓语. 如果变为主动结构, 则是: **Someone saw thousands of slaves toiling in the fields**. 在动词的后头, 现在分词 **toiling** 和 **thousands of slaves** 则构成复合宾语. ⑥ **under the surveillance of**: 在...监督下, 在...监视下. ⑦ **support**: (为...)提供费用. ⑧ **from generation to generation**: 世代, 世世代代.

In the Chou Dynasty there were also *kuo jen* (inhabitants of the capital), freemen in the tribal slave-holding state.<sup>①</sup> Belonging to the ruling tribe by blood,<sup>②</sup> they enjoyed a higher political and social status than the slaves. They were ordinary members of the ruling tribe, without authority or the privileges accorded to the slave-owning aristocracy.<sup>③</sup> The relationship between the aristocracy and the freemen was that of the leaders and the led within the ruling class.

## SLAVE REVOLTS

Where there is oppression there is bound to be resistance.<sup>④</sup> Whether in the Yin or the Chou Dynasty, under the ruthless rule of the tribal slave-owners the slaves continuously put up resistance.<sup>⑤</sup>

Oracle-bone inscriptions of Yin record that many slaves ran away<sup>⑥</sup> — also a kind of resistance — obviously because of unbearable oppression. Others, forced by the slave-owners to labour in the fields or perform various services,<sup>⑦</sup>

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① **freemen in the tribal slave-holding state:** 种族奴隶制国家中的自由民。 *kuo jen* 的同位语。 ② **Belonging to the ruling tribe by blood:** 他们在血缘关系上属于统治者氏族。现在分词短语作原因状语。 ③ **accorded to the slave-owning aristocracy:** 贵族奴隶主所享有的。 *accord something to somebody* 的意思是“授予某人以…”，这里用的是过去分词短语形式，作定语，修饰 *authority or the privileges*。 ④ **Where there is oppression there is bound to be resistance:** 哪里有压迫，哪里就有反抗！这是主从复合句，在主句 *there is bound to be resistance*, *resistance* 是主语，*is bound to be* (必然会有) 是合成谓语。 *where there is oppression* 是状语从句。 ⑤ **put up resistance:** 进行反抗，起来反抗。 ⑥ **ran away:** 逃跑，*ran* 是 *run* 的过去时。 ⑦ **forced by the slave-owners to labour in the fields or perform various services:** 在奴隶主驱使他们搞农业生产或其他劳役时，这是过去分词短语作时间状语，和 *others* 发生关系。

refused to work, or even rose up in revolt.<sup>①</sup>

Whenever the chance came, the slaves staged large-scale uprisings. One instance occurred at the end of<sup>②</sup> the Yin Dynasty, when the Chou people attacked King Tsou of Yin. The king's slaves turned their weapons against him and other tribal slave-owners of Yin. Likewise, as the Chou slave-owners were extremely brutal in their oppression of the slaves, the latter rebelled continually.

The decline of the slave-holding Chou Dynasty set in<sup>③</sup> after the middle of Western Chou, and at the time of King Yi the dynasty was already tottering. After him, King Li not only ruthlessly oppressed and exploited the slaves, but also<sup>④</sup> sternly suppressed the ordinary members of his own tribe, the freemen, executing any found talking behind his back.<sup>⑤</sup> The result was that freeman and slave made common cause<sup>⑥</sup> and expelled King Li.<sup>⑦</sup>

Runaways and revolts gradually diminished the number of the slaves, and a census attempted in the time of King Hsuan failed.<sup>⑧</sup>

King Hsuan's son, King Yu, was a dull-witted and brutal ruler who was later killed by a tribe named Chuan Jung at the foot of Mt. Lishan near the Chou capital.<sup>⑨</sup>

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① **rose up in revolt**: 起来暴动; 造反. ② **at the end of**: 在...的末年. ③ **set in** 开始, 来临. ④ **not only...but also**: 不但...而且; 不仅...甚至. ⑤ **executing any found talking behind his back**: 要是背后对他说长道短, 也抓来杀了. 这是现在分词短语, 补充说明 *suppressed*. *found talking behind his back* 是过去分词短语作定语, 修饰 *any*. 相当于一个定语从句: *who were found talking behind his back*. ⑥ **make common cause (with somebody)**: 和某人一齐起来; 和某人同心协力. ⑦ **who was later killed by a tribe named Chuan Jung at the foot of Mt. Lishan near the Chou capital**: 他后来被犬戎族杀死在(周都)骊山的下面.

After that the royal house of Chou could not maintain itself in and around present-day Shensi and King Ping, who succeeded<sup>①</sup> King Yu, moved to Loyang in Honan Province where he set up what is recorded in history as the Eastern Chou Dynasty<sup>②</sup> (770-249 B.C.). From that time on,<sup>③</sup> the rule of the king of Chou existed only in name,<sup>④</sup> as the slave system was on the decline<sup>⑤</sup> and giving way to<sup>⑥</sup> the rising feudal system.

### THE SPRING AND AUTUMN PERIOD — A TIME OF CHANGE

By the time of the Spring and Autumn Period, not only had the Chou kings become rulers in name only<sup>⑦</sup> as a result of the slaves' continual escapes and revolts, but the rule in the various vassal states was also quite unstable.

For example, in 550 B.C., slaves in the state of Chen were ordered to build a city wall under overseers who killed them at will. Angered by the atrocities,<sup>⑧</sup> the slaves rose in revolt<sup>⑨</sup> and killed the slave-owners Ching Hu and Ching Yin.<sup>7</sup>

In 478 B.C., Shih Pu of the state of Wei took the opportunity of<sup>⑩</sup> an uprising of handicraft slaves to besiege

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① **succeed:** 继…的王位. ② **what is recorded in history as the Eastern Chou Dynasty:** 历史上称为东周. ③ **from that time on:** 此后; 从那以后. ④ **only in name:** 名义上的; 挂个空名. ⑤ **be on the decline:** 走向衰亡, 正在衰退. ⑥ **give way to:** 占位给; 让路. ⑦ **not only had the Chou kings become rulers in name only:** 不仅周王的统治空有其名. 强义词语 *not only* 开头的句子, 主语和谓语用倒装语序. ⑧ **Angered by the atrocities:** 被暴行所激怒. 这个过去分词短语用作原因状语. ⑨ **rose in revolt:** 造反, 暴动. ⑩ **took the opportunity of:** 利用…的时机.

the chief slave-owner Prince Chuang. The prince fled, to be killed by the Chi people from Jungchow within his domain.<sup>8①</sup>

In 470 B.C., handicraft slaves in the state of Wei rose in revolt again. Without arms, they took up<sup>②</sup> their tools as weapons to attack the slave-owners, putting the chief slave-owner Prince Cheh to flight.<sup>9③</sup>

In the state of Cheng, the slaves assembled in a reed marsh and attacked the slave-owners.<sup>10</sup> And when slaves in the state of Tsin were given an order to work, they ran away as if from a pursuing enemy.<sup>11④</sup>

At the same time,<sup>⑤</sup> as the new rising feudal landlord forces were developing, divisions were occurring within the ruling class. The house of Chi of Lu state, for example, changed its governing methods under conditions of the new social changes.

In 562 B.C., the three houses of Chi Sun, Shu Sun and Meng Sun, who were senior officials of the state of Lu,<sup>⑥</sup> began dividing the prince's estates,<sup>⑦</sup> i.e., the land and slaves of the biggest slave-owner of the state.

In dealing with the holdings he received,<sup>⑧</sup> Chi Sun acted according to the new situation<sup>⑨</sup> and freed the slaves

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① to be killed by the Chi people from Jungchow within his domain: (结果) 被他辖区内的“戎州人”己氏杀死。不定式短语的这种用法,表示谓语动词的结果。② took up: 拿起,举起。③ put...to flight: 把...赶跑。④ as if from a pursuing enemy: 好象有敌人追来似的。⑤ At the same time: 同时; 另一方面。⑥ senior officials of the state of Lu: 鲁国大夫。⑦ began dividing the prince's estates: 开始瓜分公室。dividing 是动名词作谓语动词 began 的宾语,它本身也要求有宾语。⑧ In dealing with the holdings he received: 在处理他所得的奴隶方面。holding 所有物,即奴隶。⑨ act according to the new situation: 适应新的形势而行动。

allotted to him, renting land to them to till as tenants. Shu Sun, however, maintained the original relationship under the slave system, while Meng Sun used a combination of the old and new systems. Twenty-five years after, the three houses again divided the prince's remaining estates into four parts (the Chi house got two parts), and all followed the method adopted by Chi Sun.<sup>12</sup>① That is to say,<sup>②</sup> the three houses were gradually changing over to<sup>③</sup> the feudal landlord class.

Another example illustrating this trend is furnished by Tien Cheng-tzu of the state of Chi. In the struggle against the decadent slave-owning aristocracy of Chi, he used a small measure in collecting grain for land rent and a large measure when lending grain to the peasants.<sup>④</sup> Though the method was an expedient one used by the new rising feudal landlord class to wrest power from the slave-owning aristocracy,<sup>⑤</sup> Tien won the support of the masses and was welcomed by them.<sup>13</sup> In 485 B.C., he finally killed the chief slave-owning aristocrat Prince Chien and seized the power of Chi.

It may be seen from the above events that the Spring and Autumn Period was a time of radical change.

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① and all followed the method adopted by Chi Sun: 就都采用 (遵从) 季氏 (采用) 的办法了. ② That is to say: 就是说, 换句话说. 插入句. ③ change over to: 转化为..., 向...转化. ④ when lending grain to the peasants: 农民向他借贷时. 这是省略式时间状语从句, when 后头省略了主语 he 和系词 was. ⑤ used by the new rising feudal landlord class to wrest power from the slave-owning aristocracy: 新兴封建地主阶级为夺取齐国奴隶主贵族的政权而采取的. 这是过去分词短语, 用作定语, 修饰表语 one (指代 the method).

## DECLINE OF THE SLAVE-OWNING ARISTOCRACY

Society was changing, time was marching on.<sup>①</sup>

The slaves were rebelling, and the new rising feudal landlord forces were taking the offensive.<sup>②</sup> Pounded by the tide of history<sup>③</sup> in the stream of great social change, the slave-owning aristocrats were in desperate straits<sup>④</sup> and on their way out.<sup>⑤</sup>

Let us look for a moment at<sup>⑥</sup> what happened to<sup>⑦</sup> so-called ancient sage-kings such as Shun of the Yu times, Yu of the Hsia times and Tang of the Yin Dynasty. The descendants of their tribes had long become slaves themselves.<sup>14</sup> The descendants of the eight aristocratic families of the state of Tsin — Luan, Hsi, Hsu, Yuan, Hu, Su, Ching and Po — also became slaves during the Spring and Autumn Period.<sup>15</sup> That is to say, the social change was effecting a reciprocal transformation in the relationships between the higher and the lower,<sup>⑧</sup> between the ruler and the ruled.

This transformation is like geographical changes in the natural world. As an ancient poet put it: "Cliffs sink into valleys; ravines heave up into peaks." Everything in society undergoes constant change, and the verses precisely

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① **time was marching on:** 时代在前进。 ② **were taking the offensive:** 进攻, 采取攻势。 ③ **Pounded by the tide of history** 在历史潮流的冲击下。这是过去分词短语作状语。 ④ **be in desperate straits:** 惶惶不可终日。 ⑤ **on their way out:** 走上末路。 ⑥ **look for a moment at:** 看一下。 ⑦ **what happened to...:** ...所遭遇的。 ⑧ **between the higher and the lower:** 上下之间。the higher, the lower 作名词用。

express the type of change in social relationships that was going on in the Spring and Autumn Period.

## WHICH SIDE WAS CONFUCIUS ON?

At a time of such epochal change — when the slaves were struggling for emancipation, the rising forces were continually gaining victories in their resistance fight, and some aristocratic slave-owners decayed and became slaves<sup>①</sup> — the whole slave system was on the verge of<sup>②</sup> collapse. This was an objective law of historical development independent of man's will.

Where did Confucius stand at this critical time of social change? Did his standpoint, political attitude and thinking proceed with the development of society? Did he side with<sup>③</sup> the new rising forces, oil the wheels of change over to the feudal system? Or did he go against the tide of the times,<sup>④</sup> side with the decaying slave-owning aristocracy and stubbornly uphold the moribund slave system? In other words,<sup>⑤</sup> did Confucius seek to effect social reform, or did he try hard to stand pat?<sup>⑥</sup> Was he progressive or reactionary?

This involved a struggle between two classes, two roads and two lines at that time. A look at Confucius' words

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① **when the slaves were struggling for emancipation, ... and became slaves:** 有奴隶们在斗争中争取解放, ... 沦为奴隶。两个破折号之间的从句是插入语, 对前面的时间状语作进一步的解释。② **on the verge of:** 濒于..., 快要...。③ **side with:** 与(某人)站在一起, 和(某人)抱同样的见解。④ **go against the tide of the times:** 逆时代潮流。⑤ **In other words:** 换句话说, 换言之。⑥ **to stand pat:** 顽固守旧, 反对改革。



and actions throughout his lifetime will show clearly where he stood in this struggle.

<sup>1</sup>The name "Spring and Autumn Period" comes from the *Spring and Autumn Annals*, a historical record (722-481 B.C.) of the state of Lu. However, historians generally take the year 770 B.C., the first year of the Eastern Chou Dynasty, as the beginning of the Spring and Autumn Period and 476 B.C. (when the Warring States Period began) as its end.

<sup>2</sup>Archaeological excavations at Houchiachuang in Anyang, Honan Province, have revealed large Yin tombs each containing the remains of nearly 400 slaves.

<sup>3</sup>*Tso Chuan*, Prince Ting, 4th year.

<sup>4</sup>*Discourses of the States*, "Discourses of Chou."

<sup>5</sup>*Historical Records*, "Annals of Chou Dynasty"; also *Discourses of the States*, "Discourses of Chou."

<sup>6</sup>*Discourses of the States*, "Discourses of Chou."

<sup>7</sup>*Tso Chuan*, Prince Hsiang, 23rd year.

<sup>8</sup>*Ibid.*, Prince Ai, 17th year.

<sup>9</sup>*Ibid.*, Prince Ai, 25th year.

<sup>10</sup>*Ibid.*, Prince Chao, 20th year.

<sup>11</sup>*Ibid.*, Prince Chao, 3rd year.

<sup>12</sup>*Ibid.*, Prince Chao, 5th year.

<sup>13</sup>*Ibid.*, Prince Chao, 26th year, and 3rd year.

<sup>14</sup>*Ibid.*, Prince Chao, 32nd year.

<sup>15</sup>*Ibid.*, Prince Chao, 3rd year.