



Chinese
Culture
Reading
in English



黄建滨 主编

中国文化阅读

900 单词话中国



浙江大学出版社
ZHEJIANG UNIVERSITY PRESS

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1. Confucius

Confucius (孔子, 551 BC—479 BC), named Kong Qiu (孔丘), also known as Zhong Ni (仲尼), was a great thinker, philosopher and educator in ancient China. He was the author of the *Spring and Autumn Annals* (《春秋》), the first historical annals in China. And his teachings and wisdoms may be found in the *Analects of Confucius* (《论语》), which was compiled many years after his death. His philosophy emphasized personal and governmental morality, correctness of social relationships, justice and sincerity. Confucius' thoughts have been developed into a system of philosophy known as Confucianism. Confucianism is a complex system of moral, social, political and philosophical thought that has had great influence on the culture and history of East Asia.



New Words and Expressions

Confucius	<i>n.</i>	孔子
thinker	<i>n.</i>	思想家
philosopher	<i>n.</i>	哲学家
educator	<i>n.</i>	教育家
ancient	<i>a.</i>	古代的
annals	<i>n.</i>	编年史
wisdom	<i>n.</i>	智慧
analects	<i>n.</i>	文选
compile	<i>v.</i>	编写
philosophy	<i>n.</i>	哲学
emphasize	<i>v.</i>	强调
governmental	<i>a.</i>	政治的
morality	<i>n.</i>	道德
correctness	<i>n.</i>	正确
relationship	<i>n.</i>	关系
justice	<i>n.</i>	公正
sincerity	<i>n.</i>	诚信
Confucianism	<i>n.</i>	儒家思想
philosophical	<i>a.</i>	哲学的
Asia	<i>n.</i>	亚洲

Exercise One

Directions: Decide whether the following statements are true or false.

1. Kong Qiu was a great thinker, philosopher and educator in ancient China.
2. Confucius was the author of the *Spring and Autumn Annals* and the *Analects of Confucius*.
3. The *Analects of Confucius* recorded Kong Qiu's moral, social, political and philosophical thought.
4. Confucius' thoughts have been developed into a system of philosophy known as Confucianism.
5. Confucianism has influenced the world for more than 2,000 years.



Exercise Two

Directions: Answer the following questions.

1. Which book recorded Confucius' teachings and wisdoms?
2. What did Confucius' philosophy emphasize?
3. What is Confucianism?



2. Mencius

Mencius (孟子, about 372 BC—289 BC), named Meng Ke (孟轲), was a great educator and thinker in ancient China and the representative of Confucianism in the Warring States Period (战国时期). Mencius inherited Confucius' theory of moral ideas and made it further more systematic into his policy of benevolence. Politically he put forward a people-oriented thought, arguing that the people were more important than the kings and a ruler could not govern without the people's support. As for education, he carried forward Confucius' thought of "making no social distinctions in teaching". The theory that human nature is good is the center of Mencius' ideological system and the logical standpoint and theoretical basis of his policy of benevolent government. But his policy of benevolence wasn't carried out since it was considered to be impractical at that time. In order to spread his theories, he wrote the book *Mencius* (《孟子》) with his followers.



New Words and Expressions

Mencius	<i>n.</i>	孟子
representative	<i>n.</i>	代表
inherit	<i>v.</i>	继承
systematic	<i>a.</i>	系统的
policy	<i>n.</i>	政策
benevolence	<i>n.</i>	仁爱
politically	<i>ad.</i>	政治上
put forward		提出
people-oriented	<i>a.</i>	以人为本的
argue	<i>v.</i>	争辩
govern	<i>v.</i>	治理
education	<i>n.</i>	教育
carry forward		发扬
distinction	<i>n.</i>	差别
nature	<i>n.</i>	性质
ideological	<i>a.</i>	思想的
logical	<i>a.</i>	逻辑的
standpoint	<i>n.</i>	观点
theoretical	<i>a.</i>	理论的
basis	<i>n.</i>	基础
impractical	<i>a.</i>	不现实的
follower	<i>n.</i>	追随者



Exercise One

Directions: Decide whether the following statements are true or false.

1. Mencius was the representative of Confucianism in the Spring and Autumn Period.
2. Mencius inherited and developed Confucius' theory of moral ideas.
3. Mencius believed that the kings were more important than the people.
4. The center of Mencius' ideological system is the theory that human nature is good.
5. Meng Ke's policy of benevolence was carried out in his time.

Exercise Two

Directions: Answer the following questions.

1. What did Mencius do according to the passage?
2. What did Mencius' people-oriented thought hold?
3. How did Mencius spread his theories?

3. Li Dazhao

Comrade Li Dazhao (李大钊) was born in October 29, 1889. In 1913 he went to study in Japan. There he learned Marxist theory. He became one of the China's earliest Marxists and Communists. After the Chinese Communist Party was founded in 1921, he directed the Party work in north China. In 1922 he was sent by the Party to hold talks with Dr. Sun Yat-sen (孙中山) in Shanghai. He did a lot to help establish the Revolutionary United Front (革命统一战线).

Li Dazhao was put in prison by the enemy on April 6, 1927 and hung on April 28 at the age of 37. While he was in prison, he fought bravely and would not give in. Just before he was killed, he made a speech. His last words were, "You can kill me, but you can't kill all the Communists. Communism is sure to win."

Comrade Li Dazhao was not dead. He will never die. His name will be remembered by the Chinese people forever.



New Words and Expressions

comrade	<i>n.</i>	同志
Marxist	<i>n.</i>	马克思主义者
communist	<i>n.</i>	共产主义者
found	<i>v.</i>	创建
direct	<i>v.</i>	指导
establish	<i>v.</i>	建立
revolutionary	<i>n.</i>	革命的
united	<i>a.</i>	统一的
front	<i>n.</i>	战线
prison	<i>n.</i>	监狱
bravely	<i>ad.</i>	勇敢地
hang	<i>v.</i>	绞死
give in		投降
communism	<i>n.</i>	共产主义

