

Document 3: Confucianism & Taoism

An Overview

Confucianism – A philosophical and religious tradition where the key to maintaining society is through traditional social relationships (between father and son, husband and wife, ruler and subject, etc.). It states that human beings are teachable and can improve both individually and through interactions with the community.

Daoism (sometimes spelled Taoism) – A philosophical and religious tradition that promotes harmony and unity with nature. It encourages people to live calmly and peacefully. It teaches that intervening in life’s events causes conflict and destruction, so people should limit their interference and only do what is required.

Confucianism	Taoism
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Founded by Confucius in 6th-5th century BCE. ● Main principle is ren, which describes that people should behave in a loving, selfless, and moral way. ● Principles of li and yi dictate actions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Li describes the actions that are right because of the needs of society. ○ Yi describes the actions that are inherently right, good, and moral. ● Hsiao is the principle of filial piety, which means that children should respect their parents. ● Virtue is seen as leading by the proper moral example 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Founded by Laozi in 6th-5th century BCE. ● Main principle is the Dao, which means “the Way.” All things in the universe are connected together through the Dao. ● Wu Wei is the method of following the Dao. This involves living in harmony and letting things take their natural course without interference. ● Principle of Yin Yang states that opposites fit together and depend on each other for harmony (i.e., darkness and light, life and death). ● Virtue is seen as being true to oneself, instead of satisfying the standards set by others.