

Name _____ Global Studies-Northway/Brooks
Date _____ Period # _____

Confucianism

Confucius (Kung Fu-tzu b. 551 BC) was China's most famous philosopher. Confucianism, the way of life based on the ideas and teachings of Confucius, has probably influence more people than any other set of rules concerning human behavior. He taught that if each man knew the proper conduct expected of him, then he would follow it. He believed each man must work to keep the rules harmony and order. The family was to teach the rules of harmony and order. His ideas are collected in a book called the Analects. Confucius traveled throughout China lecturing the people on the wisdom of his ideas. To this day, his rituals are still practiced and his attitudes accepted by many especially in China, Korea and Japan.

Confucius taught society is divided into four classes.

Scholars and rulers because they provide harmony and order to society.
Peasants(farmers) because they produced the food society needs.
Craftsman and artisans because they produced the products society needs.
Merchants because they did not produce anything, but acted as middlemen.

Confucius did not rank soldiers because they were breaking the rules of harmony and order.

Confucius believed that there were five human relationships each with their own duties and responsibilities.

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| 1. Ruler to Subject | Ruler must set the proper example if not they people could overthrow him. |
| 2. Father to Son | The Father must be a worthy model for his children. He must guide behavior and develop character.
Children must respect, honor and obey their parents. This duty was known as filial piety. |
| 3. Husband and Wife | The husband was the head of the family. He was to see the reputation of his family was protected.
The wife was to bear children and obey her husband. |
| 4. Elder brother to Younger brother | The older son is to model the behavior for his younger brothers.
Younger brothers were expected to accept the place of the older brother without complaint. |
| 5. Friend to Friend | The only equal relationship. The Confucian Golden Rule applies.
" Do not do on to others as you do not want done to you." |

Confucius taught that family not the individual was the basic unit of Chinese life. The family included all relatives. The oldest person was the honored and obeyed family head. The family assumed responsibility for the livelihood and good conduct of its members. Marriage was not intended for individual happiness but to perpetuate the family. Individuals had to live by a code of ethics that guided all behavior. 1. Careful observance of ancient traditions. 2. Reverence for learning. 3. Cherishing of honesty. 4. Devotion to parents, family, and friends. 5. Obedience to the golden rule. For more than 2000 years, Confucianism dominated Chinese daily life and politics. Confucian writings served as official school textbooks. Confucianism stabilized society but often retarded progress. Intense family loyalty hampered the development of Chinese nationalism.

1. Explain Confucius' philosophy of life.

2. List the four class from highest to lowest.

3. Tell what criteria Confucius used to decide which class people fit into.

4. Explain why military people were not included in the class system.

5. List each of the human relationships.

6. Define filial piety.

7. Explain why Confucius felt family was so important to society.

8. What was the effect of Confucianism on Chinese society.