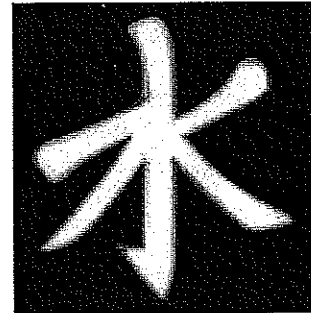


## CONFUCIANISM

Confucianism is a system of moral, social, political and religious thought developed by the Chinese philosopher Confucius (551–479 BCE). Confucian ethics focus on familial duty, loyalty and humaneness. While officially outlawed in Communist China, Confucianism continues to have influence in East Asia and around the world, and the religion has experienced a resurgence in interest over the past few decades.

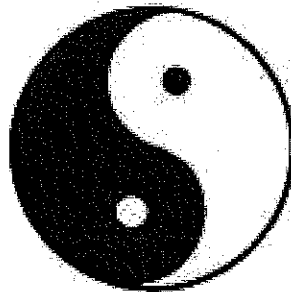


## DAOISM

Daoism, also known as Taoism, is the other of the two great systems of Chinese religious or philosophical thought. It is traditionally traced to the mythical fourth-century BCE Laozi, “Old Philosopher,” and the two texts: *Daodejing* (“The Book of the Way and Its Power”) and *Zhuangzi*.

Daoists believe that the Dao is the first-cause of the universe, a force that flows through all life. Daoism teaches that each believer’s goal is to harmonize himself with the Dao. Development of virtue is the chief task and the Three Jewels to be sought are compassion, moderation and humility. Each person must nurture the Ch’i (air, breath) that has been given to them.

The Yin Yang is a familiar Daoist symbol representing the balance of opposites in the universe. When they are equally present, all is calm. When one is outweighed by the other, there is confusion and disarray.



## ESSENTIAL NON-FICTION

HOOBLER, Dorothy and Thomas. (2009). *Confucianism* (World Religions). 3rd ed. Chelsea House.  
ISBN 1-6041-3107-1. Grades 7 and up.

*Confucianism* is part of the 14-volume World Religions series, recently revised and published in full colour. Aimed at younger readers, this volume introduces the concepts and beliefs of Confucianism, tracing its historical development and recent evolution within the context of Chinese history, and discussing its popular resurgence in the twenty-first century.

RUGGIERO, Adriane, Ed. *Confucianism* (Religions and Religious Movements).  
ISBN 978-0-7377-2567-4. Grades 11 and up.

Recommended for older high school readers, this book describes the philosophy of Confucianism and provides an analysis of its founder's major works and ideas. Ruggiero also examines Confucianism's origins in China, its influence on Chinese history and society, its spread to other countries, and its status in modern Asia.



HARTZ, Paula R. *Daoism*. ((2009). (World Religions). 3rd ed. ISBN 1-6041-3115-2. Grades 7 and up.

Hartz explores the mystical philosophy known as Daoism, tracing its evolution and examining its restoration under China's religious freedom clause, including the renewal of Daoist monasticism. She also looks at the impact of tourism on the monastic tradition. The clear, well-written text is supported by maps, sidebars, colour photographs, a glossary and bibliography.

HOFF, Benjamin. (1983). *The Tao of Pooh*. Penguin. ISBN 0-1400-6747-7. Grades 7 and up.

This classic text uses Winnie-the-Pooh as a tool and analogy to teach lessons on natural living and simplicity, the major principles of Daoism.

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