CONFUCIANISM 101

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INTRODUCTION

DISCOVERING CHINA - CONFUCIUS - YOUTUBE

Discovering China - Confucius - YouTube
• Confucian Thought
  • broadens the scope of our compassion
  • adding moral dimension to the Golden Rule
  • offering options to Enlightenment mentality
ENLIGHTENMENT PROMOTED

- RISE OF MODERN NATION STATE
- RISE OF CAPITALISM
- INDIVIDUALISM
• LAO TZU,
• THE BUDDHA,
• CONFUCIUS
THE CONFUCIAN ETHIC PLACES...

- EMPHASIS ON FAMILY
  - The family experience teaches us how to interact with the larger world

- EMPHASIS ON EDUCATION
  - Education brings honor and financial stability to the family. 51
DIMENSIONS OF CONFUCIANISM

http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/at/conf_teaching/ct01.html
• **SELF-CULTIVATION: THE FULLY REALIZED HUMAN (JUNZI)**

• "A PERSON WHO IS ABLE TO CARRY INTO PRACTICE FIVE ATTITUDES IN THE WORLD CAN BE CONSIDERED AUTHORITATIVE...DEFERENCE, TOLERANCE, MAKING GOOD ON ONE'S WORD, DILIGENCE, AND GENEROSITY."

• 17.6 ANALECTS
SELF CULTIVATION

- "REN" (HUMANENESS)
- RADICAL MADE OF "PERSON" & "TWO"
- FOR CONFUCIUS, UNLESS THERE ARE TWO HUMAN BEINGS, THERE CAN BE NO HUMAN BEINGS. 49
FAMILY/SOCIAL DIMENSION

- THE FIVE RELATIONSHIPS---ALWAYS RECIPROCAL
  - SUBJECT ~ RULER
  - CHILDREN ~ PARENTS
  - WIFE ~ HUSBAND
  - ELDER BROTHER ~ YOUNGER BROTHER
  - FRIEND ~ FRIEND
EDUCATION DIMENSION

• THE FULLY DEVELOPED HUMAN (JUNZI)

  “EVEN WHEN WALKING IN THE COMPANY OF 2 OTHER MEN, I AM BOUND TO FIND A TEACHER. IDENTIFYING THEIR STRENGTHS, I FOLLOW THEM AND IDENTIFYING THEIR WEAKNESSES I REFORM MYSELF ACCORDINGLY” 7.22 ANALECTS

EDUCATION BASED ON CONFUCIAN CLASSICS

2:15, 17 THE ANALECTS
MORAL DIMENSION

- “DO NOT IMPOSE ON OTHERS WHAT YOU YOURSELF DO NOT DESIRE” 12.2 ANALECTS

- SHU
WHY THE REVERSE?

- West has transcendent God who sets boundaries: 10 Commandments, etc

- East does **not** have those religious guidelines

  - Therefore, Asians do not purport to know what is right for others, only what hurts others.
ZHONG & SHU

• GIVE COHERENCE TO CONFUCIAN PHILOSOPHY
• ZHONG = DOING ONE’S UTMOST
• SHU = PUTTING ONESelf IN THE OTHER’S PLACE
• SHARED “HEART-MIND”
• COMPASSION FROM THE HEART
• DOING FROM THE MIND
DAODEGANDONG

• BEING MOVED AND ACTING
• SICHUAN EARTHQUAKE
• COMPASSION NOT ENOUGH IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES
POLITICAL DIMENSION

• "IF YOU LEAD BY DOING WHAT IS PROPER, WHY OTHERWISE?" 12.17

Options

- Tu Wei Ming--Harvard

- Enlightenment mentality has pushed humanity to brink of self destruction environmentally & economically

- Confucian Humanism tries to “moralize” politics--articulating needs of people to government

- Responsibility of students & intellectuals
CONFUCIAN COMMITMENT TO

- Self Cultivation
- Family Cohesiveness
- Social Stability
- Political Order
- World Peace...
CONFUCIAN COMMITMENT

- Predicated on vision which regards secular world as sacred... ultimate meaning of life is realized through ordinary practical living.
LACK OF CLAIM TO ULTIMATE TRUTH

• Reflection of strong & pervasive conviction that the Way is pluralistic

• Religious tolerance is a natural outcome of Shu—do not do to others what you would not want others to do to you.
May Fourth Movement, 1919 was response to Western domination.

Blamed traditional culture & Confucianism for making China stagnant & backward.

Leaders of May 4 Movement chose to obliterate old culture in order to modernize.
CULTURAL REVOLUTION, 1966-76, FURTHER ERODED CONFUCIAN THOUGHT

FAMILIES SEPARATED

EDUCATION DEMEANED

WESTERN INFLUENCE EXPUNGED

The Chinese People's Liberation Army is the great school of Mao Zedong Thought.
RECENT CONFUCIANISM

- Late 1970s –Open Door Policy
- 1986 Contemporary Confucianism designated a National Project
- Now Confucianism believed commensurate with Protestant ethic in terms of role in rise of capitalism
Leadership has declared a “harmonious society”

Beijing Olympics: “Is it not good to have friends come from afar”? Analects 1:1

http://www.nytimes.com/2014/10/12/world/leader-taps-into-chinese-classics-in-seeking-to-cement-
POPULAR RELIGION

- Confluence of All or None
- Practice in the Home
  - Offering incense to ancestors
  - Conducting funerals
  - Consulting fortune tellers
FAMILY ALTAR