

## An Introduction to Chinese Philosophy

This second edition of *An Introduction to Chinese Philosophy* presents a comprehensive introduction to key ideas and arguments in early Chinese philosophy. Written in clear, accessible language, it explores philosophical traditions including Confucianism, Daoism, Mohism, Legalism and Chinese Buddhism and how they have shaped Chinese thought. Drawing on the key classical texts as well as up-to-date scholarship, the discussions range across ethics, metaphysics and epistemology, while also bringing out distinctive elements in Chinese philosophy that fall between the gaps in these disciplinary divisions, thereby challenging some prevailing assumptions of Western philosophy. Topics include: human nature, selfhood and agency; emotions and behaviour; the place of language in the world; knowledge and action; and social and political responsibility. This second edition incorporates new ideas and approaches from some recently excavated texts that change the landscape of Chinese intellectual history.

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Second Edition

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## Preface

This book covers major philosophical traditions in early Chinese philosophy, focusing especially on its foundational period, prior to 200 BCE. It discusses on concepts, themes, reasoning and argumentative methods in Chinese philosophy, introducing readers to fundamental ideas in the different traditions, debates among thinkers, cross-influences between traditions, as well as interpretive theories about these ideas, including views expressed in contemporary scholarship. The chapters are organised partly on the basis of thematic coherence and continuity and loosely according to chronological order. A Chronology is provided at the outset, placing key thinkers in relation to one another. This list is selective and brief, situating only those thinkers and periods that are discussed in the book. The at-a-glance table should help the reader locate thinkers in their historical context in relation to other thinkers. Dates are also included in the text in places where they are integral to the specific point being made.

In a number of chapters, a section discussing *textual matters* is included. These cover, for example, details of different versions of texts, connections between text and thinker, or the dating of texts, where relevant. Some of this material is quite technical, though readers should find the information helpful in understanding how Chinese intellectual history shapes our grasp of Chinese philosophy.

For the sake of consistency, within citations, English transliterations of Chinese concepts, and names of thinkers and texts, have been modified to the standard Pinyin system. However, the names of modern and contemporary scholars (e.g. Fung, Yu-lan) have been retained so as not to confuse bibliographic data. A short list of Suggestions for Further Reading, of primary and secondary sources, is provided at the end of each chapter. A more



extended Bibliography is included at the end of the book. Two separate lists, Primary Texts (listed alphabetically by title) and Secondary Sources (listed alphabetically by author), provide more extensive reading suggestions. References to primary texts follow this format: Graham, *Chuang-Tzu*, 2001; and secondary sources are listed in this way: Fingarette, 1983. The Glossary at the end of the book is set out in three sections, comprising texts and sections of texts, names and proper nouns and concepts and themes. The lists are alphabetically arranged in Pinyin transliteration, and, where possible, an English translation is provided.

Finally, it is advisable to read the chapters in the order in which they appear, as each chapter builds upon the preceding ones. Chapter 1 is important as it presents key themes and argumentative methods in Chinese philosophy, developed in subsequent chapters. Readers might find it beneficial to revisit some of the discussions in Chapter 1 at appropriate points.

Chronology

Periods in Chinese History	Thinkers	Dates
Xia dynasty		c. 2070 BCE–c.1600 BCE
Shang dynasty		c. 1600 BCE–c.1046 BCE
Zhou dynasty		1122 BCE–221 BCE
Spring and Autumn period ( <i>Chunqiu</i> )		722 BCE–476 BCE
	Guan Zhong	d. 645 BCE
	Confucius (Kongzi)	551 BCE–479 BCE
	Deng Xi	d. 501 BCE
	Zisi	c. 483 BCE–c. 402 BCE
	Mozi	c. 480 BCE–c. 390 BCE
Warring States period ( <i>Zhanguo</i> )		475 BCE–221 BCE
	Gaozi	c. 420 BCE–350 BCE
	Zhuangzi	c. 399 BCE–295 BCE
	Mencius	c. 385 BCE–c. 312 BCE
	Gongsun Long	b. c. 380 BCE
	Hui Shi	c. 370 BCE–c. 310 BCE
	Yang Zhu	c. 350 BCE
	Shang Yang	d. 338 BCE
	Shen Dao	c. 350 BCE–275 BCE
	Shen Buhai	d. 337 BCE
	Xunzi	c. 310 BCE–c. 219 BCE
	Zou Yan	c. 305 BCE–c. 240 BCE
	Lü Buwei	c. 291 BCE–235 BCE
	Han Fei	c. 280 BCE–233 BCE
	Li Si	c. 280 BCE–c. 208 BCE
Qin dynasty		221 BCE–206 BCE
Han dynasty		206 BCE–220 CE

Periods in Chinese History	Thinkers	Dates
	Lu Jia	?–170 BCE
	Jia Yi	201 BCE–c. 168 BCE
	Dong Zhongshu	c. 195 BCE–c. 115 BCE
	Liu An	c. 180 BCE–122 BCE
	Sima Tan	d. 110 BCE
	Sima Qian	c. 145 BCE–c. 86 BCE
	Liu Xiang	79 BCE–8 BCE
	Yang Xiong	53 BCE–18 CE
	Ban Biao	3–54
	Wang Chong	27–97
	Ban Gu	32–92
	Ban Zhao	35–100
	Xu Gan	170–217
Wei dynasty		220–265
	He Yan	195–249
Jin dynasty	Wang Su	195–256
	Wang Bi	226–249
		265–420
	Guo Xiang	d. 312
	Dao-an	312–385
	Hui Yuan	334–416
	Kumarajiva	344–413
	(Jiumoluoshi)	
	Dao Sheng	c. 360–434
	Fa Xian	c. 337–422
Northern Wei dynasty		386–534
	Sengzhao	394–414
Southern and Northern dynasties		420–589
	Bodhidharma	470–543
	Zhi Yi	538–597
	Ji Zang	540–623
	Du Shun	557–640

Periods in Chinese History	Thinkers	Dates
Sui dynasty		581–618
	Xuan Zang	602–664
	Hong Ren	601–674
	Shen Xiu	c. 605–706
Tang dynasty		618–907
	Hui Neng	638–713
	Fa Zang	643–712
	Shen Hui	670–762
	Han Yu	768–824
	Li Ao	d. c. 844
	Linji Yixuan	d. 866
Five dynasties and Ten Kingdoms		907–960
Song dynasty		960–1260
	Zhu Xi	1130–1200
Yuan dynasty		1271–1368
Ming dynasty		1368–1644
	Wang Yang Ming	1472–1529
Qing dynasty		1644–1911