

CONFUCIANISM – a focus on the world and man's relationship to man; emphasis on humans, not gods; a philosophy of social organization; subordination of individual to community; social harmony over individual justice.

study of the **past** leads to harmony for society; learn clues from the past to find the one true Way of life; every question has a single correct answer; no “intellectual freedom”/ diversity.

Basis for:

DUTIES/RELATIONSHIPS – – society not based on individual rights; brought up to accept authority; one's significance comes from relationships, not self; identification is defined by place and relationships (which are assumed at birth); necessary to accommodate self to society (palm tree); no word in traditional language for “i”; “**sincerity**” means that man's behavior and what is expected of him are in accord (be faithful to social role, not inner self, because social role = the man) (no distinction between person's private and public roles); social harmony over equal justice

not one's role to participate in power struggles or governing of country (no political term for “people” till 20th century): commit when struggle is decided in the heavens; accept authority (but authority must follow strict code of obligations), i.e., follow the **mandate of heaven**

if man must react to circumstances beyond his control, he should do whatever possible to take advantage of them
[“As Heaven shapes our fate, we lend a hand.”]

FAMILY -- VILLAGE -- STATE (= important institutions; all based on the family, e.g., mandarins = fathers of the people, emperor = son of Heaven)

village (**xa**) = land, people, sacred; land = sacred and constant although people change; leaving village = leaving society and one's rights, duties, soul; ancestors mean a continuum, with death not marking an end (cyclical view of time/history).

identity involves keeping one's place (i.e., one's identity, **social** face); learn by repetition and imitation, not questioning (thus, father/grandfather/ancestors define who one is and how one will act)

hold in anger, feelings, resentments; father has absolute control; not a pluralist society; compromise not an answer because there is only one right answer; means hardened status quo

emperor (aided by virtuous men [based on education]) ruled with **Mandate of Heaven (a cosmic force)**; emperor ruled through virtue not might (people more concerned with the person than his programs, with his guiding nation through correct behavior)

responsible for harmony and order, a collective moral person [when told that a plague had entered Vietnam from the West, Minh Mang (r. 1847-83) said, "If I had not been lacking in virtue, how could disaster get in from overseas?"]; Did country have a good emperor? If so, human affairs would be regulated because of HIS moral virtue and benevolence.

