

Readings In Classical Chinese Philosophy

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the third edition of ivanhoe and van norden s acclaimed anthology builds on the strengths of previous editions with the addition of new selections for each chapter selections from shen dao a new translation of the writings of han feizi selections from two texts highly

influential in later chinese philosophy the great learning and mean and a complete translation of the recently discovered text nature comes from the mandate each section of this volume begins with a brief introduction and concludes with a lightly annotated selective bibliography also included are four appendices important figures important periods important texts and important terms additional materials including study questions for selected chapters will be available on the title support page for this volume on the hackett publishing company website hackettpublishing.com/rccp support in spring 2023

this book shows that classic chinese philosophy is as rational as western approaches dealing with the problems of logic epistemology language analysis and linguistic topics from a philosophical point of view it presents detailed analyses of rational and methodological features in confucianism taoist philosophy and the school of names as well as mohist approaches in classical chinese philosophy especially in regard to ideas of valid knowledge the authors also provide new arguments against cultural relativism and antirational movements like religious fundamentalism that do not pay due attention to what all human beings have in common to cultural universals

this book is an introduction in the very best sense of the word it provides the beginner with an accurate sophisticated yet accessible account and offers new insights and challenging perspectives to those who have more specialized knowledge focusing on the period in chinese philosophy that is surely most easily approachable and perhaps is most important it ranges over of rich set of competing options it also with admirable self consciousness presents a number of daring attempts to relate those options to philosophical figures and movements from the west i recommend it very highly lee h yearley walter y evans wentz professor religious studies stanford university

this new edition offers expanded selections from the works of kongzi confucius mengzi mencius zhuangzi chuang tzu and xunzi hsun tzu two new works the dialogues robber zhi and white horse a concise general introduction brief introductions to and selective bibliographies for each work and four appendices that shed light on important figures periods texts and terms in chinese thought

this ambitious book presents a new interpretation of chinese thought guided both by a philosopher's sense of mystery and by a sound philosophical theory of meaning that dual goal hansen argues requires a unified translation theory it must provide a single coherent account of the issues that motivated both the recently untangled chinese linguistic analysis and the familiar moral political disputes hansen's unified approach uncovers a philosophical sophistication in daoism that traditional accounts have overlooked

this book rewrites the story of classical chinese philosophy which has always been considered the single most creative and vibrant chapter in the history of chinese philosophy works attributed to confucius mozi mencius laozi zhuangzi xunzi han feizi and many others represent the very origins of moral and political thinking in china as testimony to their enduring stature in recent decades many chinese intellectuals and even leading politicians have turned to those classics especially confucian texts for alternative or complementary sources of moral authority and political legitimacy therefore philosophical inquiries into core normative values embedded in those classical texts are crucial to the ongoing scholarly discussion about china as china turns more culturally inward it can also contribute to the spirited contemporary debate about the nature of philosophical reasoning especially in the non western traditions this book offers a new narrative and interpretative framework about the origins of moral political philosophy that tracks how the three normative values humaneness justice and personal freedom were formulated reformulated and contested by early chinese philosophers in their effort to negotiate the relationship among three distinct domains the personal the familial and the political such efforts took place as those thinkers were reimagining a new moral political order debating its guiding norms and exploring possible sources within the context of an evolving understanding of heaven and its relationship with the humans tao jiang argues that the competing visions in that debate can be characterized as a contestation between partialist humaneness and impartialist justice as the guiding norm for the newly imagined moral political order with the confucians the mohists the laoists and the so called fajia thinkers being the major participants constituting the mainstream philosophical project during this period thinkers lined up differently along the justice humaneness spectrum with earlier ones maintaining some continuity between the two normative values or at least trying to accommodate both to some extent while later ones leaning more toward their exclusivity in the political public domain zhuangzi and the zhuangists were the outliers of the mainstream moral political debate who rejected the very parameter of humaneness versus justice in that discourse they were a lone voice advocating personal freedom but the zhuangist expressions of freedom were self restricted to the margins of the political world and the interiority of one s heartmind such a take can shed new light on how the zhuangist approach to personal freedom would profoundly impact the development of this idea in pre modern chinese political and intellectual history

goldin thus begins the book by asking the basic question what are we reading while also considering why it has been so rarely asked yet far from denigrating chinese philosophy he argues that liberating these texts from the mythic idea that they are the product of a single great mind only improves our understanding and appreciation by no means does a text require single and undisputed authorship to be meaningful nor is historicism the only legitimate interpretive stance the first chapter takes up a hallmark of chinese philosophy that demands a western reader s cognizance its preference for non deductive argumentation chinese philosophy is an art hence the title he

demonstrates more than it is a rigorous logical method then comes the core of the book eight chapters devoted to the eight philosophical texts divided into three parts philosophy of heaven philosophy of the way and two titans at the end of an age

specific chinese models for theories of knowledge were premised upon a structurally ordered external reality since natural or cosmic order is organic it naturally follows the flow of structural patterns and operates in accordance with structural principles that regulate every existence in this worldview our mind is also structured in accordance with this all embracing but open organic system the axioms of our recognition and thought are therefore not arbitrary but follow this rationally designed structure the compatibility of both the cosmic and mental structures is the basic precondition that enables humans to perceive and recognize external reality the present study shows that this paradigm of structural epistemology can already be found in the earliest chinese theories of knowledge the introduction of chinese models and their incorporation into western discourses fills an important theoretical gap in the western model of structuralism this book offers an insight into epistemological systems that arose outside the discourses of the euro american tradition it can thus help us to eliminate and supersede certain culturally conditioned prejudices as to the superiority and omnipresence of western theoretical models while demonstrating incontrovertibly that the results of western discourses are by no means the only force driving theoretical innovation at the present time

li zehou is widely regarded as one of china s most influential contemporary thinkers he has produced influential theories of the development of chinese thought and the place of aesthetics in chinese ethics and value theory this book is the first english language translation of li zehou s work on classical chinese thought it includes chapters on the classical chinese thinkers including confucius mozi laozi sunzi xunzi and zhuangzi and also on later eras and thinkers such as dong zhongshu in the han dynasty and the song ming neo confucians the essays in this book not only discuss these historical figures and their ideas but also consider their historical significance and how key themes from these early schools reappeared in and shaped later periods and thinkers taken together they highlight the breadth of li zehou s scholarship and his syncretic approach his explanations of prominent thinkers and key periods in chinese intellectual history blend ideas from both the chinese and western canons while also drawing on contemporary thinkers in both traditions the book also includes an introduction written by the translator that helpfully explains the significance of li zehou s work and its prospects for fostering cross cultural dialogue with western philosophy a history of chinese classical thought will be of interest to advanced students and scholars interested in chinese philosophy comparative philosophy and chinese intellectual and social history

dealing with the subject of chinese philosophy this two volume set covers the period of the philosophers from the beginnings to around 100 bc a philosophical period as remarkable as that of ancient greece it also discusses a period lesser known in the west the period of classical learning from the second century bc to the twentieth century

the history of chinese philosophy is a comprehensive and authoritative examination of the movements and thinkers that have shaped chinese philosophy over the last three thousand years an outstanding team of international contributors provide seventeen accessible entries organised into five clear parts identity of chinese philosophy classical chinese philosophy i pre han period classical chinese philosophy ii from han through tang classical chinese philosophy iii from song through early qing modern chinese philosophy from late qing through 21st century this outstanding collection is essential reading for students of chinese philosophy and will be of interest to those seeking to explore the lasting significance this rich and complex philosophical tradition

guided by 20th century theories of language hansen s novel approach to interpretive theory launched the modern analytical study of ancient chinese philosophy this 1983 publication challenged authority based traditional religious accounts stemming from 18th and 19th century missionary dictionaries and reliance on interpretive authority hansen shows that one tiny grammatical question has profound implications for the understanding of chinese philosophy this is surely a decisive breakthrough a great success his observations about chinese thought in general are always stimulating and illuminating a book which excites one to rethink things from the foundations a c graham an ambitious and provocative book concerning the relationship between language and thought in ancient china a novel and powerful theory about the nature of classical chinese language a better understanding of many issues in classical chinese philosophy p j ivanhoe the importance of this book lies in its engaging style novel ideas and rigorous argumentation which can serve as a model for future work in chinese philosophy hansen takes chinese philosophy seriously as philosophy for anyone tired of the superficial summaries or scholastic commentaries that so often characterize this field hansen s book will be a memorable and welcome change michael martin

this book is an introduction in the very best sense of the word it provides the beginner with an accurate sophisticated yet accessible account and offers new insights and challenging perspectives to those who have more specialized knowledge focusing on the period in chinese philosophy that is surely most easily approachable and perhaps is most important it ranges over of rich set of competing options it also with admirable self consciousness presents a number of daring attempts to relate those options to philosophical figures and movements from the west i recommend it very highly lee h yearley walter y evans wentz professor religious studies stanford

university a substantial and highly accessible introduction to the indigenous philosophies of china van norden shares his clear distillations of classical chinese philosophies using conceptual frameworks many will find familiar this reader friendly book sets the historical and cultural contexts for the philosophies discussed and includes appendices study questions and imaginative scenarios which aid us in appreciating some of the most important philosophy ever developed ann pirruccello professor of philosophy university of san diego this lucid introduction to early chinese thought offers historical textual and conceptual analyses of the schools of classical chinese philosophy illuminating their basic themes theories and arguments and providing readers with an intellectual bridge between chinese and western thought introductory texts such as this are especially needed today as the study of philosophy faces the challenges of globalization and the urgent need for dialogue among different philosophical traditions an ideal text for introductory courses this book will also inspire graduate students scholars and experts in philosophy in general and chinese philosophy in particular with its theoretical insights and comparative methodology vincent shen lee chair in chinese thought and culture departments of philosophy and east asian studies university of toronto

this book will help you to appreciate the variety subtlety and wisdom of a unique philosophical tradition to understand the major schools of thought that have shaped chinese civilization to draw on a rich cultural resource for different perspectives on questions of our time to recognize traditional concepts that continue to inform chinese thinking today china an emerging superpower is heir to an ancient civilization that owes little to outside influences this compelling introduction to chinese philosophy describes the major traditional schools of thought that continue to underpin much of chinese thinking today it includes an outline of the country s early history and traces the development of chinese thought which evolved in a continuum and generally in isolation from the rest of the world from the earliest concerns with ritual and divination until the arrival of buddhism in the first century the best known strand of chinese philosophy is confucianism which is basically a philosophy of relationships between different levels in a hierarchy from the ruler down to the individual in complete contrast the almost contemporary school of laozi espoused the wisdom and freedom of the dao based on the concept of alignment with nature and reverence for the environment there followed schools of analytical logic legalism and the arrival of buddhism which became associated in china with the mystical writings of laozi adding the dimension of compassion these schools gradually fused in a neo confucian synthesis that went unchallenged in china until the encounter with the west the book touches on the relationship between philosophical thought and politics and brings the reader up to date by looking at the considered way in which china has adapted foreign ideas in modern times written by a distinguished author in clear everyday language it is a fascinating and accessible introduction to an important subject access the world s philosophies simple guides philosophy is a series of concise introductions to the

major philosophies of the world written by experts in the field these accessible guides offer a fascinating account of the rich variety of arguments ideas and systems of thought articulated by different cultures in the attempt to explore and define the nature of reality and the meaning purpose and proper conduct of life the simple guides will appeal to analytical thinkers and spiritual seekers alike taken together they provide a basic introduction to the evolution of human thought and a point of reference for further exploration and discovery by offering essential insights into the world views of different societies they also enable travellers to behave in way that fosters mutual respect and understanding

this book offers a profound exploration of the epistemological frameworks that have influenced chinese intellectual history from ancient times through the song dynasty s neo confucianism it provides a nuanced analysis of how knowledge systems within chinese culture developed and interacted with each other across different historical epochs by examining classical texts and philosophical movements rošker brings to light the unique approaches to knowledge and understanding in the chinese tradition setting them against the backdrop of western epistemological thought translated by marko ogrizek the book serves as a vital resource for anyone keen to understand the dynamic interplay of ideas that bridge the east and west linking ancient wisdom with modern perspectives

philosophical ideas of different schools such as confucian taoist legalist mohist nominalist military strategist yin and yang and agriculturist in periods prior to the qin dynasty 221 202 b c are expounded and analyzed against their times in the book advantages and disadvantages of different theoretical functions are also investigated from a critical perspective in addition the book presents the authors personal views on the category of chinese philosophy and the relations between traditional chinese thoughts and modern sciences

this book is both a good introduction to chinese philosophy and an invaluable reference tool for sinologists comments by important chinese thinkers are arranged around sixty four key concepts to illustrate their meaning and use through twenty five centuries of chinese philosophy this unique guide was prepared by zhang dainian one of china s most famous living philosophers zhang reaches back to include concepts in use before the oracle bones c 1350 1100 b c what could be called a philosophical prehistory but the focus of the work is those concepts that gained currency in classical chinese philosophy especially those whose meanings are deeper and more difficult to grasp translated and edited by edmund ryden in consultation with the author the book also includes helpful introductory commentary by ryden for each section

huang lao thought a unique and sophisticated political philosophy which combines elements of daoism and legalism dominated the intellectual life of late warring states and early han china providing the ideological foundation for post qin reforms in the absence of extant texts however scholars of classical chinese philosophy remained in the dark about this important school for over 2000 years finally in 1973 archaeologists unearthed four ancient silk scrolls the silk manuscripts of huang lao this work is the first detailed book length treatment in english of these lost treasures

a history of chinese philosophy in the so called axial period the period of classical greek and indian philosophy during which time china evolved the characteristic ways of thought that sustained both its empire and its culture for over 2000 years it is comprehensive lucid almost simple in its presentation yet backed up with incomparable authority amid a well honed discretion that unerringly picks out the core of any theme garlanded with tributes even before publication it has redrawn the map of its subject and will be the one essential guide for any future exploration for anyone interested in the affinities between ancient chinese and modern western philosophy there is no better introduction contemporary review the book is an expression of first rate scholarship filled with deep insights into classical chinese thought at the same time it provides a comprehensive and well balanced discussion that is accessible to the general reader it is the rare kind of book that will be used as a standard text in introductory courses and be regularly consulted and cited by specialists working in the field philosophical review for those who will read only one book on chinese philosophy a c graham s disputers of the tao is it journal of the history of philosophy a c graham 1919 1991 is considered by many to have been the leading world authority on chinese thought grammar and textual criticism and the greatest translator of chinese since waley he taught at the school of oriental and african studies london university where he was professor of classical chinese until 1988 yale ann arbor tsing hua brown and honolulu he was a fellow of the british academy his numerous works include two chinese philosophers 1958 poems of the late t ang 1965 chuang tzu the seven inner chapters 1981 and studies in chinese philosophical literature 1986

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