

Confucianism

Basic Beliefs

The main goal is to achieve harmony through

- Mercy
- Social Order
- Fulfilling Responsibilities

The 5 cardinal relations are

- Father - Son
- Older brother - Younger brother
- Husband - Wife
- Sovereign - Subject
- Friend - Friend

The 5 virtues are

- Jen- Generosity and goodwill
- Yi- Duty to protect nature/ humanity
- Li- To conduct oneself rightly
- Chih- Wisdom
- Hsin- Faithfulness and trustworthiness

How Confucianism Creates Social Cohesion

- Confucius created schools and programs for kids to come together and learn, putting them on paths to become scholars and more
- “Institutions” were not churches, but family, schools, and states
- Parents, teachers, and officials were the only “priests”
- The confucist society was based on the amount of effort given by each individual

How Confucianism Creates a Form of Social Control

- Women were suppressed and belittled as a result of Confucianism
- To achieve a perfect society one must conform to a strict set of rules and fill their societal roles
- Was encouraged by nobility and the imperial family to be taught because Confucianism teaches loyalty, and subordination to the government and the officials
- This system also put elders in charge (filial piety) making the opinions of the younger generations have little importance

How Confucianism Forms a Sense of Purpose

- People who follow Confucianism adhere to the “rules” of the religion, mainly revolving around the respect for one another, especially parents and elders. This gives people encouragement to be kind and respectful people and then being rewarded for those actions, deterring people from being disrespectful, unjust, and manipulative.

- In Confucianism a meaningful life is when one develops innate moral potential to the fullest while fulfilling social obligations. When people have this mindset it adds happiness and joy in their life to know that it has meaning and a purpose, instead of just going through life with no goals or intention.
- Even though Confucianism doesn't technically believe in life after death, A large Confucianist practice involves worship to ancestors. Ancestor worship is thought to cultivate the virtue of filial piety as well as instilling harmonious relationships in society. What happens after death is less important than how the living fulfill their full obligations until they die.