

## A cursory Look at the Classical Period: What and Where Is Chinese Philosophy?

### I. PHASES

- ☐ Ancient Period (Before 221 BC)\*
  - Spring and Autumn (722-476 B.C.)
  - **Warring States (475-221 B.C.): Foundational, “the Hundred Schools”**  
  
**Eastern Zhou** (1027-771 BC) – then “Spring and Autumn” period, “warring states,” constant warfare between local dukes – then the **Chin** dynasty took over the other states in 221.
    - **Taoist School**
    - **Confucian School**
    - Mohist School (Mo Tzu)
    - School of Names (Hui Shih)
    - Yin-Yang School (*I Ching*)
    - Legalist School (Han Fei Tzu)
  - Sun Tzu (c. 400-320 B.C.)
  - La Tzu ( c. 6<sup>th</sup> century B.C.); Chuang Tzu (369-286 B.C.)
  - Confucius (551-479 B.C.); Mencius (372-298 B.C.); Xun Tzu (313-238 B.C.)
- ☐ Middle Period (221 B.C. – 960)
- ☐ Neo-Confucian Period (960-1912)
- ☐ Modern Period (1912 – Present)

### II. TRAITS<sub>1</sub>

- ☐ Nature (e.g. *tao*) and Relation
- ☐ Harmony: cosmic (heaven-earth) interconnectedness of events
  - Balance between reason and intuition/emotion
  - Relational Analogies/Domestication: “familial” harmony between
    - wife and husband
    - son and father
    - younger brother and elder brother
    - friends and friends
    - governmental official and ruler
- ☐ Morality (e.g. *jen*) and Humanity
- ☐ Immanence and History; “ancestor worship” and “this-worldly” orientation
- ☐ Metaphysical Monism

<sup>1</sup> See, for a quick orientation, *Readings in Classical Chinese Philosophy*, pp. xi-xviii.