



CONFUCIUS IN EAST ASIA: CONFUCIANISM'S HISTORY IN CHINA, KOREA, JAPAN, AND VIET NAM

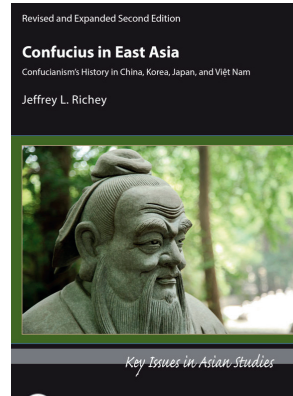
BY JEFFREY L. RICHEY — KEY ISSUES IN ASIAN STUDIES BOOK SERIES

SUGGESTED COURSES:

- Confucianism
- Chinese Philosophy
- Chinese History
- History - East Asia
- Anthropology

KEY CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS:

- Confucius
- East Asia
- Filial piety
- Self-cultivation
- Yin-yang



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130 pages

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<https://cup.columbia.edu/for-instructors>

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<https://www.asianstudies.org/store/confucius-in-east-asia/>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Does Confucianism encourage individualism? Why or why not?
2. Confucian cultures often are called "collectivist." Is this stereotype based in fact? Why or why not?
3. How have East Asian families been shaped by Confucian traditions?
4. How have East Asian politics been shaped by Confucian traditions?
5. How have Confucian traditions interacted with non-Confucian traditions (political, religious, etc.) in East Asian history?
6. Is Confucianism a "religion"? Why or why not?
7. Can contemporary East Asian societies be called "Confucian"? Why or why not?

EXTERNAL LINKS & RESOURCES:

- "The Analects of Confucius" <http://www.acmuller.net/con-dao/analects.html>
- "Confucius and Confucianism" <http://www.chinaknowledge.org/Literature/Classics/confucius.html>
- "Cult of Confucius" https://academics.hamilton.edu/asian_studies/home/culttemp/index.html
- "The History of East Asia: Every Year" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=12U3yLR_EeM&t=4s

EXTERNAL LINKS & RESOURCES CONTINUED:

- "The Twenty-Four Paragons of Filial Piety"
<https://www.ruf.rice.edu/~asia/24ParagonsFilialPiety.html>
- "What is religion in China? A brief history"
<https://tif.ssrc.org/2013/10/01/what-is-religion-in-china-a-brief-history/>

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"Jeff Richey has emerged as one of the most important scholars of Confucianism—both historical and contemporary—working today. This concise volume on Confucianism in East Asia provides an engaging overview of the influence the Sage has had across the region, from China and Korea to Japan and Vietnam. Richey presents Confucianism as both integral to the traditional cultures of East Asia, and as a continuing presence in the lives and political affairs of people in each of these lands."

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"Richey has written an engaging and well-crafted book that clearly delineates the oftentimes fitful development of Confucianism in China, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam. At the same time, he masterfully demonstrates how Confucianism slowly came to dominate politics, thought, and society in each of these places and still continues to inform their assumptions, values, and institutions. Richey also expertly underscores the outsized role that government has played in promoting and sustaining this tradition's formidable influence."

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