Religion

Officially illegal in China during Cultural Revolution
Confucius ~ a 5-point story
Also called Kung Fu Tzu or “Kung the Master”

1. Born into a modest family around 550 BCE.
2. Lost his father at age 3.
3. Wandered the land to offer advice to kings during times of great brutality.
4. Not listened to.
5. Died a quiet death.

Affable, calm, friendly, loved a good dinner.
500 years before Confucius
“Age of Grand Harmony”

Heaven and earth were complementary
Chou kings completed the work that Heaven had begun
What happens on earth affects heaven.

* 

Confucius sought to re-animate this harmonious past.
Five Constant Relationships

- Father/son
- Husband/wife
- Elder brother/younger brother
- Elder friend/younger friend
- Ruler/subject

These relationships affect cosmic order.
The Self in Confucianism

Nexus of all relationships

Teacher~ Student~ Lesson
Harmonious Dualism

Do not do to others what you would not have them do to you.

Our relationships are dynamic and resonant.

We interpenetrate each other.
Temple of Heaven, Beijing (Confucianism)
LaoTzu
“venerable philosopher”

- (For our purposes) born around 600 BCE
- Simply no historical basis, just a mosaic of legends
- Conceived under the influence of a star
- Born under a plum tree
- The hair on his head was already white

Saddened by his people he left seeking solitude. As he passed through the last gate, the gatekeeper begged him to at least write something... Tao te Ching.
water

strong ~ supports objects
unobtrusive ~ fits containers
subduing ~ carves canyons
clarifying ~ muddy water clears
pliable
enduring
moving
seeks the lowest point
wu wei

do-nothingness
pure effectiveness
go with the flow

The ox fell apart with a whisper.
(Story from Smith 136)
The Self in Taoism

There is no teacher
There is no student
There is no lesson
 Tai Ch’i

- Breathe
- Invite ch’i from the cosmos and remove blocks to its internal flow
- Empty the mind
- Surrender

Tai Chi 24-form
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TBvF6r6D0vc
Yin Yang

**Confucianism**
- Society
- Learning
- Ritual
- Virtue
- Paternal
- Hierarchical
- Dignity
- Civilization

**Taoism**
- Solitude
- Unlearning
- Spontaneity
- P’u
- Maternal
- Flowing
- Simplicity
- Nature
Man Mo Temple, Hong Kong (Taoism)
Silk Road
The Buddha

Siddhartha Gautama ~ a Hindu prince. He tried yoga and Hindu asceticism. Then he simply sat. He “awakened.”

Hindus say the Buddha is an avatar of Vishnu. His name means “the awakened one.”
The Dalai Lama

- Tenzin Gyatso 1935 -
- Tibetan Buddhism
- 14th reincarnation of the Dalai Lama
- 1989 Nobel Peace Prize

“Respect all religions and also respect non-believers.”
The Self in Buddhism
“Extinguish the self”

Anatta
Lama Temple, Beijing (Buddhism)
THE LIFE OF THE PROPHET MOHAMMAD (PBUH)

1. Birth and childhood
2. Khadija, Cave and Commissioning
3. Hijra
4. Night journey
5. Hajj
1. Birth and Childhood

THE LIFE OF THE PROPHET MOHAMMAD (PBUH)

Miraculous birth in Mecca: born clean, circumcised, with cord already cut

Orphaned at young age

Caravanned with uncle in his clan (Koreish)
La ilaha illa-allah
Mohammadan rasul Allah

There is no god but God
Mohammad is his prophet

Muslim Prayer: No Excuse to Miss It
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LK4MxwGIgwg
Great Mosque, Xi’an (Islam)
Christianity
Vicarious Suffering, Forgiveness
Portuguese Missions to Macao
Macao Churches (Christianity)
Some Differences between East and West

Western Religions
• Mediterranean
• Monotheistic
• Dualist
• Revelatory
• Prayerful
• Focus on differences

Eastern Religions
• India, China
• Monistic
• Non-dualist
• Self-actualizing
• Meditative
• Focus on resonances
The Chinese sage: dressed in a Buddhist cap, Confucian robes and Taoist slippers.
Human Beings are good by nature.

Until 1949 Chinese schoolchildren learned to write with this Confucian tenet.