A History of Classical Chinese Thought

Li Zehou

Translated, with a philosophical introduction, by Andrew Lambert



Contents

	Foreword: Translator's Introduction Li Zehou and the Articulation of a Chinese	x
	Modernity xi	
	Li Zehou's Characterization of the Chinese	
	Intellectual Tradition xvii	
	Assessing Li Zehou's Scholarship xxii	
	A Note About Translation xxv	
1	Reevaluating Confucius	1
	The Characteristics of 'Ritual' 1	
	The Formation of Confucian Humaneness (Ren) 7	
	i. A Foundation in Bloodline and Kinship 8	
	ii. Ritual Propriety Initiated Externally 9	
	iii. Humanism 13	
	iv. Personal Character 16	
	v. Practical Rationality 19	
	Strengths and Weaknesses 23	
	On Mencius 29	
2	A Preliminary Exploration of the Mohists	51
	Ideas Representative of Small-Scale Producers and Workers 51	
	Mohist Thought Has Not Disappeared 63	
3	Sunzi, Laozi, and Han Fei	77
	The Features of the Military Strategists' Dialectic 77	
	The Three Levels of the Laozi 83	
	Sagely Wisdom That Enriches the People 95	

4	Key Features of the Xunzi, Yizhuan and the	
	Doctrine of the Mean	108
	The Characteristics of the Human Race 108	
	The Establishment of a Confucian Worldview 124	
	Tian, Ren, and Dao 133	
5	Qin and Han Dynasty Thought	142
	The Synthesis of Daoism, Legalism, Yin-Yang	
	Cosmology, and Confucianism 142	
	Dong Zhongshu's Cosmological Account of Tian	
	and Humanity 152	
	Yin-Yang and the Five Phases 163	
	The Historical Impact of Five-Phase Schema 172	
6	Zhuangzi and Chan Buddhism	183
	Zhuangzi's Philosophy as Aesthetics 184	
	A Metaphysics of Personal Character 196	
	Momentariness and Eternity as the Highest Realms 204	
	Conclusion 220	
7	Some Thoughts on Neo-Confucianism	228
	From Cosmology to Ethics 228	
	The Establishment of a Rational Ontology and Its Contradictions 239	
	Mind (Xin) as Transcendence and Sensibility 248	
	A Twofold Legacy 258	
	Additional Thoughts 263	
8	Engagement in Practical Affairs and Statecraft	276
	'Sageliness Within' and 'Kingliness Without' 276	
	Government by Character Versus Government by	
	Law 286	
	The Study of the Classics and the Study of History 295	
9	Some Thoughts on Chinese Wisdom	308
	The Question of Historical Eras 308	
	The Foundation of Kinship Ties 311	
	Pragmatic Reasoning 315	
	A Culture Characterized by Sensitivity to Delight 317	
	'Tianren Heyi': The Unity of the Cosmos and	
	Humanity 325	

	Contents ix
Afterword	335
Bibliography Index	339 348