

Chinese Truth Quest: A Gathering of Beliefs from Dynastic China

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Abstract

This article looks at the Chinese people, with around 4,000 years of recorded history. With the help of several written works from experts in different disciplines, the article examines Chinese civilization, which grew from the plains northeast of Xi'an near the Yellow River; it observes the beginnings and continued formation of their beliefs; and it follows the formation of their rich culture. Several philosophers helped to shape their character, beliefs, and practices. Confucius and others who were influenced by his teachings showed people a right way of living with each other in society. The teachings of Lao-Tzu designed a way for understanding the world. Buddha sought to deliver people from a life of pain by addressing human desires. This combination of philosophies, teachings, and religions also brought about a folk religion—incorporating Confucian ideals for relationships, Daoist understanding of nature and gods, and eventually Buddhism's influence on the heart. This popular religion, which even came to include parts of Christianity and Islam, seeks both good fortune and protection from harm, through various rituals used to appease the gods. Folk religion can be seen in modern Chinese societies, with god shelves, ancestor worship, religious festivals, and fortunetellers. The Gospel message teaches people to know how to rely on God's power instead of their own. There are many blessings to found within Chinese culture; God continues to work through history, preparing the way for Chinese people to confront strongholds of the past and enter into His redeemed life.