

Chapter 1 : Great Thinkers | Biography Online

*Great Thinkers of the Eastern World: The Major Thinkers and the Philosophical and Religious Classics of China, India, Japan, Korea, and the World of Islam [Ian P. McGreal] on www.nxgvision.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers.*

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Chapter 2 : The history of western philosophy - great thinkers

Great Thinkers of the Eastern World: The Major Thinkers and the Philosophical and Religious Classics of China, India, Japan, Korea, and the World of Islam.

It should be noted, first and foremost, that philosophy in its traditional sense was science – philosophers like Aristotle used rationality to come to scientific knowledge of the world around us. It was not until relatively modern times that philosophy was considered to be separate from the physical sciences. It is said that liberalism proper, the belief in equal rights under the law, begins with Locke. Locke is the man responsible, through Jefferson primarily, for the absence of nobility in America. Although nobility and birthrights still exist in Europe, especially among the few kings and queens left, the practice has all but vanished. He was soundly criticized by a lot of Christian polemicists those who make war against all thought but Christian thought, especially during the Middle Ages, because he was thought to be an atheist, whose principles for a happy life were passed down to this famous set of statements: Such intangible things he considered preconceived notions, which can be manipulated. Stoicism is based on the idea that anything which causes us to suffer in life is actually an error in our judgment, and that we should always have absolute control over our emotions. Put another way, the world is what we make of it. Epicureanism is the usual school of thought considered the opposite of Stoicism, but today many people mistake one for the other or combine them. Epicureanism argues that displeasures do exist in life and must be avoided, in order to enter a state of perfect mental peace ataraxia, in Greek. Stoicism argues that mental peace must be acquired out of your own will not to let anything upset you. Death is a necessity, so why feel depressed when someone dies? Why get enraged over something? The rage will not result in anything good. Of importance is to shun desire: He lived in the Persian Empire from c. 340-270 BC. The Dark Ages were not so dark. His two most well known works today are The Book of Healing which has nothing to do with physical medicine and The Canon of Medicine, which was his compilation of all known medical knowledge at that time. Influenced primarily by Aristotle, his Book of Healing deals with everything from logic, to math, to music, to science. He proposed in it that Venus is closer than the Sun to Earth. Imagine not knowing that for a fact. The Sun looks a lot closer than Venus, but he got it right. He rejected astrology as a true science, since everything in it is based on conjecture, not evidence. As a matter of fact, the petrification of the bodies of plants and animals is not more extraordinary than the transformation of waters. Petrification can occur in any organic material, and involves the material, most notably wood, being impregnated by silica deposits, gradually changing from its original materials into stone. Avicenna is the first to describe the five classical senses: It would take too long to explain them in this list, but they are all forms of syllogisms, and every philosopher and student of philosophy is familiar with them from the beginning of education in the subject. Thomas Aquinas founded everything he postulated firmly in Christianity, and for this reason, he is not universally popular, today. Even Christians consider that, since he derived all his ethical teachings from the Bible, Thomas is not independently authoritative of any of those teachings. But his job, in teaching the common people around him, was to get them to understand ethics without all the abstract philosophy. He was able to reach the masses with this simple, four-part instruction. He made five famous arguments for the existence of God, which are still discussed hotly on both sides: He has essence and existence, and these two qualities cannot be separated. He espoused significant principles of ethics and politics, in a time when the Greeks were espousing the same things. This may sound obvious to us today, but he wrote it in the early 3rd to late 4th BC. It is the same principle of democracy that the Greeks argued for and developed: The emperor must be honest and his subjects must respect him, but he must also deserve that respect. If he makes a mistake, his subjects must offer suggestions to correct him, and he must consider them. Any ruler who acted contrary to these principles was a tyrant, and thus a thief more than a ruler. Confucius also devised his own, independent version of the Golden Rule, which had existed for at least a century in Greece before him. His phrasing was almost identical, but then furthered the idea: The second statement is much more important, constituting an active desire to help others. The only other philosopher of antiquity to advocate the Golden Rule in the positive form is Jesus of Nazareth. Smart is the new sexy! Analytical geometry is the study of geometry using

algebra and the Cartesian coordinate system. He discovered the laws of refraction and reflection. He also invented the superscript notation still used today to indicate the powers of exponents. He advocated dualism, which is very basically defined as the power of the mind over the body: He rejected perception as unreliable, and considered deduction the only reliable method for examining, proving and disproving anything. He also adhered to the Ontological Argument for the Existence of a Christian God, stating that, because God is benevolent, Descartes can have some faith in the account of reality his senses provide him, for God has provided him with a working mind and sensory system and does not desire to deceive him. From this supposition, however, Descartes finally establishes the possibility of acquiring knowledge about the world based on deduction and perception. In terms of the study of knowledge therefore, he can be said to have contributed such ideas as a rigorous conception of foundationalism basic beliefs and the possibility that reason is the only reliable method of attaining knowledge. Paul accomplished more with the few letters we have of his, to various churches in Asia Minor, Israel and Rome, than any other mortal person in the Bible, except Jesus himself. But without Paul, the religion would have died in a few hundred years at best, or remained too insular to invite the entire world into its faith, as Jesus wanted. Paul had more than one falling out with Peter, primarily among the other Disciples. Peter insisted that at least one or two of the Jewish traditions remain as requirements, along with faith in Jesus, for one to be counted as Christian. Paul insisted that faith in Jesus is all that is required, and neither circumcision, refusal of certain foods or any other Jewish custom was necessary, because the world was now, and forevermore, under a state of Grace in Jesus, not a state of Law according to Moses. He is especially impressive to have systematized these principles flawlessly, having never met Jesus in person, and in direct opposition to Peter and several other Disciples. Many theologians and experts on Christianity and its history even call Paul, and not Jesus, the founder of Christianity. That may be going a bit too far, but keep in mind that the Disciples intended to keep Christianity for themselves, as the proper form of Judaism, to which only Jews could convert. Anyone could symbolically become a Jew by circumcision and obedience of the Mosaic Laws every one of them, not just the Big Ten. Paul argued against this, stating that as Christ was the absolute greatest good that the world would ever see, and Almighty because he and the Father are one, then the grace of Christ is sufficiently powerful to save anyone from his or her sin, whether Jewish, Gentile or anything else. If Socrates wrote anything down, it has not survived directly. Plato and Xenophon, another of his students, recounted a lot of his teachings, as did the playwright Aristophanes. It is only through philosophy that the world can be free of evils. He argued against democracy proper, rule by the people themselves, since in his view, a democracy had murdered his teacher, Socrates. All things of the material world can change, and our perception of them also, which means that the reality of the material world is weaker, less defined than that of the immaterial abstractions. Plato argued that something must have created the Universe. Whatever it is, the Universe is its offspring, and we, living on Earth, our bodies and everything that we see and hear and touch around us, are less real than the creator of the Universe, and the Universe itself. This is a foundation on which 4 based his understanding of existentialism. But consider that Aristotle is the first to have written systems by which to understand and criticize everything from pure logic to ethics, politics, literature, even science. Aristotle is also the first person in Western history to argue that there is a hierarchy to all life in the Universe; that because Nature never did anything unnecessary as he observed, then in the same way, this animal is in charge of that animal, and likewise with plants and animals together. The Medieval Christian theorists ran with this idea, extrapolating it to the hierarchy of God with Man, including angels. Thus, the angelic hierarchy of Catholicism, usually thought as a purely Catholic notion, stems from Aristotle, who lived and died before Jesus was born. Aristotle was, in fact, at the very heart of the classical education system used through the Medieval western world. His principles of ethics were founded on the concept of doing good, rather than merely being good. A person may be kind, merciful, charitable, etc. We could go on about Aristotle, of course, but this list has gone on long enough. Honorable mentions are very many, so list them as you like.

Chapter 3 : Top shelves for Great Thinkers of the Eastern World

Add tags for "Great thinkers of the Eastern world: the major thinkers and the philosophy and religious classics of China, India, Japan, Korea and the world of Islam". Be the first.

About Great Thinkers A list of some famous thinkers of the past, and the great thinkers of today. These are people who offered some new ideas and thought to help improve the situation of the world. These thinkers come from a range of different areas from science and philosophy to human rights and politics. Great thinkers of the Classical period

Homer c. Considered the greatest of the ancient Greek poets. Homer wrote two epic poems, *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*. His work was hugely influential in shaping Greek culture and literature.

Pythagoras was credited by Plato with many key ideas in maths, science, ethics and philosophy. As well as being credited with mathematical theorems, Pythagoras was a religious leader of a secret mystical school.

Confucius shaped Chinese culture – writing about family, loyalty, virtue and the respect of elders. His scientific works dominated Western science until the Renaissance. His ethics and philosophy shaped Western Christian thought. He is widely regarded as one of the most influential persons who ever lived, offering insights into all aspects of human knowledge.

Euclid BC Greek mathematician. Al -Khwarizmi – Persian Mathematician. He also developed algebra, a new branch of mathematics. He spread a philosophy of Advaita Vedanta, which stresses the underlying unity of creation – an important philosophical strand of Hinduism.

Leonardo Da Vinci – Artist and renaissance man. Da Vinci made many scientific discoveries. A supreme polymath, Da Vinci investigated anatomy, geology, mathematics. He was an artist, sculptor and is credited with having an unprecedented imagination and ability to invent new ideas.

William Shakespeare English poet and playwright. Galileo – Creating one of the first modern telescopes, Galileo revolutionised our understanding of the world supporting the earlier work of Copernicus.

Rene Descartes – French philosopher and mathematician. Descartes was an early exponent of rationalism and reason, laying an important framework for the European enlightenment. His use of logic and reason to address questions relating to religion were groundbreaking. He also made significant discoveries in maths and calculus.

Baruch Spinoza Jewish-Dutch philosopher. Spinoza was an influential rationalist, who saw an underlying unity in the universe. He was critical of religious scriptures and promoted a view that the Divine was in all, and the Universe was ordered – despite its apparent contradictions.

John Locke – English political philosopher, Locke was a leading philosopher and political theorist, who had a profound impact on liberal political thought, around the time of the American and French revolutions. He is credited with ideas, such as the social contract – the idea government needs to be with the consent of the governed. Locke also argued for liberty, religious tolerance and rights to life and property.

Sir Isaac Newton Newton made studies in mathematics, optics, physics, and astronomy. In his *Principia Mathematica*, published in , he laid the foundations for classical mechanics, explaining the law of gravity and the Laws of Motion. Newtonian thought dominated the science of physics into the Twentieth Century.

Voltaire – – French philosopher and critic. Best known for his work *Candide* which epitomises his satire and criticisms of social convention. Voltaire was instrumental in promoting Republican ideas and satirised the excess of the absolute monarchy of France.

Benjamin Franklin played a key role in promoting the idea of a United States. He left a lasting legacy on American society. He expanded on Hobbes notion of a social contract to state it should be more egalitarian. He was an influence behind changes in French society which culminated in the French Revolution.

Rousseau sought to prevent the corruption of this natural man, through better civil government and promotion of virtue.

Adam Smith was a Scottish social philosopher and pioneer of classical economics. His work still plays an influential role in modern economics.

Immanuel Kant – German philosopher. Thomas Paine English-American writer and political activist. He was a strong advocate of American independence. Paine wrote many articles supporting the ideals of republicanism. This was an important influence on the American and French revolutions.

Rights of Man Thomas Jefferson – American Founding Father and the author of *The Declaration of Independence* In this declaration, Jefferson laid out the fundamental principles of America, calling for equality and liberty.

Mary Wollstonecraft – British author. Wollstonecraft was an early feminist. Ralph Waldo Emerson – American

Transcendentalist poet and writer. Emerson explored a variety of themes from mysticism to individualism. Abraham Lincoln US President from He led the US during the American civil war – fighting to maintain the union of American states. Lincoln led the north to victory and at the same time helping to end slavery. His speeches, such as the Gettysburg Address, have become key elements of what constitutes modern America. Charles Darwin – British naturalist and geologist. Darwin developed a theory of evolution against a backdrop of disbelief and scepticism. He collected evidence over 20 years, and published his conclusions in *On the Origin of Species*. She argued for equality and also for women to become more self-independent. She began campaigning within the temperance movement, and this convinced her of the necessity for women to have the vote. Leo Tolstoy – Russian writer and moral philosopher. Tolstoy wrote against serfdom and became a leading advocate of non-violence and pacifism – influencing people, such as Gandhi and Martin Luther King. Shaw was a socialist and independent thinker – challenging many conventions of the day. Awarded Nobel Prize for Literature for *Gitanjali*. Tagore was a towering figure in the Indian renaissance advocating, through poetry and prose, a universalist and humanist approach to life. Sri Aurobindo – Indian philosopher and poet. After retiring from politics and the Indian independence movement, Aurobindo turned to philosophy and became one of the leading spiritual figures and philosophers of the Twentieth Century. Russell was a leading pacifist and campaigner against nuclear weapons. Awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics for his discovery of the Photoelectric effect, which formed the basis of Quantum Theory. Also a noted peace advocate and humanitarian philosopher. John Maynard Keynes – one of the most influential economists of the Twentieth Century. Keynes advocated a role for government to manage aggregate demand and overcome recessions. His *General Theory* laid the foundations of Keynesian economics and the new branch of macroeconomics. George Orwell – – English author. Famous works include *Animal Farm*, and *1984*. Both were stark warnings about the dangers of totalitarian states. Orwell was a democratic Socialist criticising the inequality of the s, but also warned about the dangers of the Soviet Union and other totalitarian regimes. Alan Turing – – Computer scientist and code breaker. Turing had one of the greatest minds of the Twentieth Century. He helped crack the German Enigma code and became a leading developer in the emerging world of computer science. Rachel Carson – American conservationist. Rachel Carson was a pioneering environmentalist. It played an important role in advancing the global environmental movement. Schumacher – British economist. Schumacher was critical of materialist scientism and advocated giving greater importance to environment and decentralisation. James Lovelock – English environmentalist. Lovelock is an independent scientist who proposed the Gaia theory that the world, humans and the environment are all interconnected. He made frequent warnings about the dangers of damaging the environment. Noam Chomsky born American linguist, philosopher, prolific writer and political activist. Chomsky is one of leading intellectual figures in US – campaigning on many issues such as against the Iraq War and supporting the Occupy movements. Gorbachev initiated a policy of Glasnost and Perestroika. These policies of reform and openness led to the ending of Communist party rule in the Soviet Union, and the fall of the Berlin wall. In a short space of time, Eastern European countries attained freedom and democracy, allowing Eastern Europe to become part of the European Union. Stephen Hawking – English theoretical physicist, cosmologist, and author on books polarising scientific theories.

Chapter 4 : Great Thinkers of the Eastern World : Ian P. McGreal :

Great Thinkers of the Western World: The Major Ideas and Classic Works of More Than Outstanding Western Philosophers, Physical and Social Scientists, Psychologists, Religious Writers and Theologians.

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