



Smithsonian Associates

Confucianism (rujiao 儒教) and Daoism (daojiao 道教)

Charles B. Jones, Ph.D.

Tuesday, October 25, 2022 - 6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. ET

Commonalities:

- Born in the political situation of the “Spring and Autumn” (春秋 777-476 B.C.) and “Warring States” (戰國 475-221 B.C.) periods.
 - Concerned with rulership and survival (Confucius and Laozi)
 - Withdrawing from the situation (Zhuangzi and Liezi)
- Concept of the “Way” (*Dao* 道)
 - As path
 - As directions
 - As means to any goal
 - As the “way” of things
- Early Chinese thought concerned with action, not substance

Confucius

Ritual Propriety (*li* 禮)

- Appropriateness (*yi* 義)
- Humanity (*ren* 仁)
- The Way/Dao
 - A way without a destination
 - A human way
- The “princely man” (*junzi* 君子)

Daoism

- The *Dao*
- Being and Nonbeing (*you* 有, *wu* 無)
- Yin and Yang (陰陽)
- The “Myriad Things” (*wanwu* 萬物)
- Reversion: returning to the source
- Non-action (*wuwei* 無為)