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The origin of philosophical thought

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Main Concepts

The origin of philosophical thought

- Atman
- Brahman
- Buddha
- Veda
- Taoism (daosizm)
- Hinduism
- «I-Ching» («The book of changes»)
- Confucianism
- Upanishads

Academic material

General principles of the philosophy East and West

Mythology as an early form of social consciousness (mind)

- It is the basis for the origin of both western and eastern philosophy;

Mythological consciousness is a syncretic, but on the other hand, it sets the philosophical questions about the origins and development of the world, life and death.

Philosophy

was born as a form of social consciousness with the origin of class society and the state: Ancient India – I millennium BC, China – VI-V centuries BC, Greece – VII-VI centuries BC.

Academic material

General principles and differences between the philosophy of the East and West

General principles of the philosophy East and West

Philosophy of East and West are turned to the universal values (good and evil, justice and injustice, happiness and suffering, etc.)

Understanding the cosmological problems and personal existence

The methodological significance: typical desire for scientific search of true knowledge

Differences between the philosophy of the East and West

Eastern philosophy focused on addressing the problem of human from the point of view of practice. Western philosophy is multi problematical. It offers the general principles of being and knowledge.

- **Eastern Philosophy is developed in close cooperation with religion. Western philosophy is more committed to the scientific method, sometimes we can see strong atheistic tendency (Democritus, Epicurus, Lucretius...)**

Academic material

Ancient Indian Philosophy

Vedas

First scriptures – Vedas (Sanskrit: Knowledge):(Rigveda, Samaveda...) have been set up by the tribes of Aryans, who came from Central Asia in XVI centuries BC

Upanishads

- Philosophical commentary of the Vedas – Upanishads, under which Brahma is the supreme objective reality. Brahman is the unity of a holistic spiritual substance. Atman is an individual soul. Karma is a rebirth of the soul in accordance with the principle of retribution.

Academic material

Ancient Indian Philosophy

Vedic literature contains knowledge of the field of agriculture, medicine, astronomy, crafts, military equipment.

Vedic religion is polytheistic.

Brahmanism originated at the beginning of the millennium, sanctifying social inequality (suffering is insignificant because the phenomenal world is an illusion, the only reality is the spirit of the world)

Jainism (VI c. BC), also questioned the Vedic values.

Academic material

Buddhism

Buddhism began to spread in a V c. BC in India, China, South-East Asia

Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha) (560-483 years BC)

Main ideas

People need to try to overcome suffering and Varna-caste system.

“The Four Noble Truths”

The theory of causality (no acts which would not have consequences, as all the world for a reason)

Impermanence elements (nothing is permanent, nothing is a guarantee of well-being).

“The Middle Way” (moderation in all things)

“Eightfold Path”

Academic material

Ancient Chinese Philosophy



The ancient Chinese cosmological concepts: the spirits (or Gods), the Yin and Yang – the symbols of light and dark, positive and negative. They take on the character of the cosmic forces that are in a constant aspiration (tendency) to each other. Universe, society and morality formed because of this.

Academic material

Ancient Chinese Philosophy



Cosmogony ideas were set out in the ancient text of the “I-Ching” (“Book of Changes”) During the V-III centuries BC have been established “a Hundred schools of thought”:

Taoism (Lao-tzu and Chuang-tzu), Confucianism (Confucius), the school of Moism (Mo-tzu), Legalism – school of lawyers (Shang Yang)

Academic material

Taoism

The founder is Lao-tzu (604 year BC).

“Tao” – the way of the stars and the goodness, the principle of the universe and human behavior.

The main book is “Tao Te Ching” (“The doctrine of the Tao and Te”).

The main idea is– unity of man and the sky. A person can not influence to the order of the world. His destiny is peace and humility (passivity).

The basic principle of Taoism is the theory of non-action.

The purpose of this theory is the moving into oneself, the achievement of spiritual purification, the mastery of your own body.

Follower of Lao-tzu was Chuang-tzu (369-286 years BC).

Academic material

Confucianism

Main idea

Moral improvement by following rules and rituals

The founder of the theory is Confucius (551-479 years BC)

The main problems:

The system of ethics

Political issues

The behavior of the individual

Public administration

Academic material

The main principles of Confucianism

“Zhen” – “What do not wish for yourself, do not do to others”

“Lee” – respectfulness. “Educated person makes demands to themselves, but inferior person makes demands to others”.

“Cheng-min” – correction of names. “Everyone has to behave according to his own knowledge and the position. The Emperor is the Emperor, the father is the father, the son is the son”.

“Chun-tzu” – the image of the noble person. “All people can be highly moral, but it is privilege of the people of mental activity. Commoners have to serve the aristocratic elite.

“Wen” – education

“D” – obedience (submission) to elders and positions.

“Zhong” – devotion (loyalty) to the Emperor, the moral authority of the government. “If the government will not be covetous (greedy), then people will not steal”

Academic material

Moism and Legalism

Moism

The founder is Mo Tzu (479-400 years BC). He was opposed to Confucianism.

The basic idea is – there is no pre-determined destiny, you need to help each other and practice in socially useful work

To nominate wise and respectable people to manage the country, whatever their position in society.

Legalism

The founder is Shang Yang (390-338 years BC).

The basic idea is that humanity is the cause of all wrongdoing.

The politics is incompatible with morality. He developed the theory of a despotic state.

To force instead of persuasion

Acquired knowledge

- Personalities and terminology of philosophy in India and China
- Specific philosophical schools of India and China
- General principles of development of Philosophy East and West
- Tendencies of cultural dialogue between East and West

Recommended books

1. Alexeev P.V., Panin A.V. Philosophy. – M., 1997.
2. Introduction to Philosophy: Textbook for higher education. – M., 2003.
3. Philosophy: Textbook for higher education/Edited by V.N. Lavrinenko, V.P. Ratnikov. – M., 2001.
4. Ilyin V. History of Philosophy: Textbook for higher education. – St. Petersburg., 2003.
5. Carotene R. Introduction to Philosophy. – M., 2003.
6. Modern Philosophical Dictionary. – M., 1998.