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## The origin of philosophical thought

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# Main Concepts

## The origin of philosophical thought

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- 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

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### 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

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### 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

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### 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

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### 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

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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

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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

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**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

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**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

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**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

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### Main idea

Moral improvement by following rules and rituals

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

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### The main problems:

The system of ethics

Political issues

The behavior of the individual

Public administration

# Academic material

## The main principles of Confucianism

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**“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

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### 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

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- 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

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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.