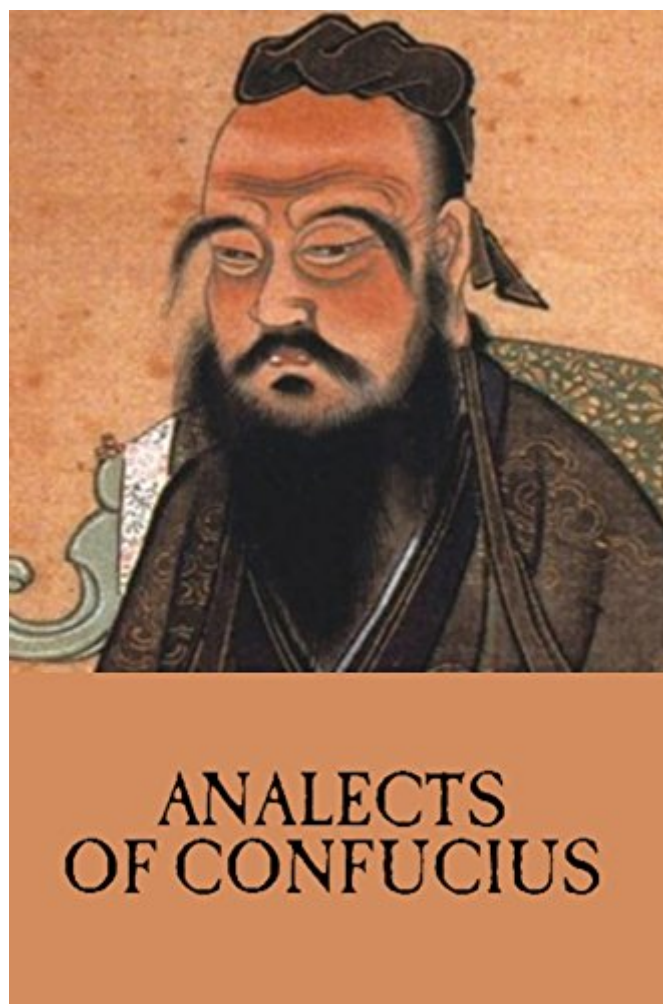


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The Analects (Illustrated)



Synopsis

Beautifully designed and carefully proofed for digital publication, this edition includes: 10 unique illustrations relevant to its content; Table of Contents with Quick Navigation. The Analects, or Lunyu (lit. "Selected Sayings"), also known as the Analects of Confucius, is the collection of sayings and ideas attributed to the Chinese philosopher Confucius and his contemporaries, traditionally believed to have been written by Confucius' followers. It is believed to have been written during the Warring States period (475 BC–221 BC), and it achieved its final form during the mid-Han dynasty (206 BC–220 AD).

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Customer Reviews

Analects, in case you were wondering, are "selected passages from the writings of an author." I mention this definition here because it seems that the only time we use the term "analects" is when we consider the writings of Confucius. Was there once a larger corpus of writings from Confucius, and is what we have today distilled from some larger body of work? If so, then I wish we had that entire larger body of philosophical work, the same way we have a good many books from classical Greek philosophers like Plato and Aristotle; but that being said, I certainly am glad that we have the Analects as a distillation of Confucius' philosophy. His Chinese name was Kung Fu-tzu, 孔 子, and the Latin name that he bears today was probably bestowed by Jesuit

missionaries to China in the 16th century. By any name, however, Confucius is a great philosopher who speaks to us today just as clearly as he spoke to the people of Chinese antiquity. He lived a long time ago — when he died in 479 B.C., the Spartan defense of Thermopylae had taken place just one year before — but it is astonishing how current and relevant his words and ideas remain. Analects is, of course, a Latin- and Greek-derived term; in Chinese, the book is 論語, the "Lun Yǎn." It is divided into 20 books, and contains a total of 512 Confucian sayings, most of them quite short. On this re-reading of "The Analects," I encountered some sayings that were already familiar to me: e.g., "To say you know when you know, and to say you do not when you do not, that is knowledge" (II.17, p. 65). Yet on this reading, I learned many things that I found new.

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