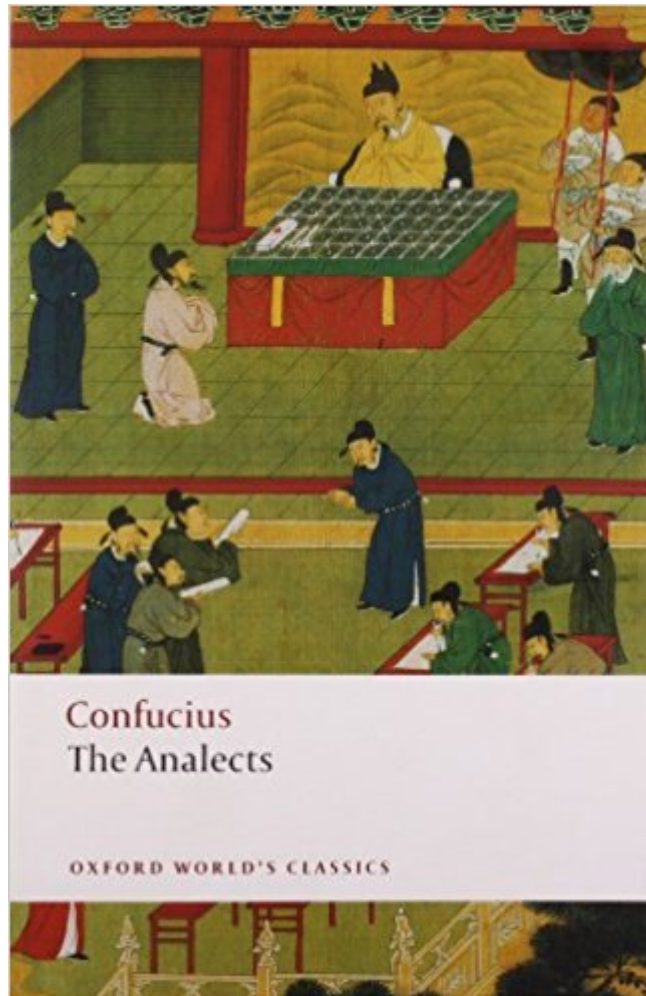




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# The Analects (Oxford World's Classics)



## Synopsis

Few individuals have shaped their country's civilization more profoundly than the Master Kong, better-known as Confucius (551-479 BC). His sayings and those of his disciples form the foundation of a distinct social, ethical, and intellectual system. They have retained their freshness and vigor throughout the two and a half millennia of their currency, and are still admired even in today's China. This lively new translation offers clear explanatory notes by one of the foremost scholars of classical Chinese, providing an ideal introduction to the Analects for readers who have no previous knowledge of the Chinese language and philosophical traditions.

About the Series: For over 100 years Oxford World's Classics has made available the broadest spectrum of literature from around the globe. Each affordable volume reflects Oxford's commitment to scholarship, providing the most accurate text plus a wealth of other valuable features, including expert introductions by leading authorities, voluminous notes to clarify the text, up-to-date bibliographies for further study, and much more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Raymond Dawson, Emeritus Fellow, Wadham College, Oxford.

The Analects are crucial to understanding the culture of China. For this reason we use it as an

anchor text in our document-based core course on the history of civilization. This edition is the most helpful I have seen. It is a good, smooth translation, and it is easily readable. Professor Wayne Detzler, Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, CT.

I bought this book as a gift for my boyfriend. I was iffy about buying it after reading the reviews, but he loves it! It is the real thing, and he appreciates that fact. I haven't read it myself, but I looked through it and read a few quotations. I felt connected Confucius in a feel-good way.

Confucius is just full of sayings, some I had heard, some were new to me. I have enjoyed reading this book and learned from it. My question is: Who wrote all of the sayings down and then saved them? OK, I looked my questions up and found that the Author was the Disciples of Confucius, and they wrote this in the 4th century BC, and was kept in a book called The Analects of Confucius. Google has more answers. :-) Enjoy

Given to friends. Necessary read.

An excellent read, which can provide valuable insight not only into ancient China, but also modern day China. Excellent questions are asked, and excellent answers are given, everyone could learn a thing or two from this book. However, due to the translation, following who the message is aimed at (Masters and students referring to one another, or translations of common Chinese salutations etc) can lead to some confusing moments.

I have actually read The Analects before, as a student. Then, as now, I was attracted to a philosophy that did not hold out a reward of eternal salvation as the basis for establishing common morality. You should be a good person because it is effective and desirable. Nothing more. At one point in the Analects, Confucius mocks someone who wants to know about death when in his opinion the person knows nothing at all about life. I like that. It is always interesting (at least to me) rereading something that I initially read many years ago and which has meant something serious to me on both readings. I am certainly better equipped to understand this now than I was 19 years ago. I am emotionally and intellectually better suited to appreciate the ideas. On the other hand, reading it as part of a class and as a student gave me what I am sure was a much better framework for placing the work against history and context. This was one of those books where I longed to take a class to go with the reading/digesting of the text. I am frustratingly sure that I have missed quite a

bit, and that both background and discussion would have been useful. The Introduction was actually rather helpful, in this case. D.C. Lau did a really able job of setting the stage for the reading. I had read Mencius two years ago and distinctly remember being frustrated by the introduction. I found it absolutely useless as a non-expert reader. I recognize that writing an introduction is rather a thankless job-- you either bore the experts or lose the newbies. I am not certain whether the Lau introduction to the Penguin edition of The Analects would bore an expert, but this (relative) newbie certainly appreciated its assistance. In the end, I appreciated this book in an almost physical way. It was like looking at a set of carvings. I took each paragraph out of the box, examined it, and returned it again. Some parts entranced me. Other bits I want to reconsider more later. Still other sections feel as though they will speak to a different me at a different point in my life. It would be impossible for me not to recommend the reading experience, but is that valuable if I do so out of ignorance? A lovely book. I am not qualified to judge the translation, so I will not try. (I am wondering if someone here can point me to a good text as to how this basic philosophy became the religion of Confucianism. Also: what Confucianism means as a religion rather than a philosophy.)

Item as described and fast shipping - recommended!

The binding is unique and special. This is my first time have any book of this binding. When I saw it I showed it off to my family. The translation of "The Analects" was done really good. It is easy to understand, but there is some repetitions. Also a few chapters really do not teach anything, but are informational about different figures (people) that was encountered.

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