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Why Modern Confucian is still relevant

Confucius was the leader and founding father of one of the most influential East Chinese religions, Confucianism. Confucius was born in 551bc into an impoverished family. His father died at a young age, and soon after, Confucius dedicated himself to becoming a master of literature. It was then Confucius created his philosophy called Confucianism. Confucianism is based on the concept that cultivating relationships paired with everyone following proper roles is the key to putting society into a beautiful harmony.

In comparison to what we have learned so far, we did not discuss that Confucius's father died at a young age. His father's death makes it all the more intriguing that he emphasizes the importance of the relationship between the father and son. So much, he deems it as the most crucial relationship out of them all. Confucius was also very adamant about the importance of family and emphasized it as the central point of his philosophy. Yet ironically, Confucius divorced his wife, had no family, and lived with a bunch of other scholars most of the time. Maybe it was through his lack of family that drove Confucius to see the importance of having a family. Perhaps it was through his loss that he realized the importance of family in developing harmony in society.

As well Confucius had a tough time getting people to adhere to his philosophy. He visited many kings and dukes, but they would refuse to follow his beliefs. After many years he settled realizing that teaching was something that he was much better at doing. It was then that Confucius took on the role of a teacher. Only then did Confucianism begin to gain followers.

Although Confucius's beliefs did not pick up until later after his death, his views became the dominating philosophy in China. Confucianism soon grew until it became adopted by the Chinese government as the governing political ideology. It became the guiding principle for millions of families on how to cultivate relationships.

Although Confucius died nearly three thousand years ago, his impacts can still be felt in modern China. Most Chinese families still follow traditional Confucius roles of men being the provider and women running the house. Women are thought to remain as housewives and take care of the children while the men work and do their jobs. Confucius emphasized this belief, and it became a pillar in Chinese culture. Sadly this philosophy remains dominant in China. A recent statistical pole concluded that only 8% of women are in corporate positions compared to 42% in the United States.

However, there are some substantial misconceptions of Confucius brought by politics in China that have distorted the image who Confucius was. When looking back on his writings, many of his philosophies revolve around people doing good for the sake of good. He firmly believed that doing so would cause a rippling effect of goodness to help bring harmony. However, the Chinese government distorted Confucius in multiple ways to make him the character they want him to be to gain control. The Confucius they created is an imperial who is exceptionally obedient to the emperor. Real Confucius did not behave as China has portrayed

him. Instead, the government created another Confucius to use as a stage prop to spread communism and remain in control. As a result, there has been an alarming amount of Confucian institutes popping up with new modern relevance for China. Many institutes in China are run coinciding with the government. Because of there controversy, many United States universities such as Penn State and the University of Chicago dropped relationships with Confucius institutes.

Nonetheless, Confucianism has completely changed and shaped the culture and history of China. His impact will be felt for many decades to come.