

HAN FEI TZU: BASIC WRITINGS

Han Fei Tzu (280?-233 B.C.) was a prince of the ruling house of the small state of Han. A representative of the Fa-chia, or Legalist, school of philosophy, he produced the final and most readable exposition of its theories. Ironically, Han Fei Tzu's advice was heeded not by the king of Han but by the king of Ch'in, who, soon after ascending the throne in 246 B.C., conquered all of China and, as First Emperor of the Ch'in, established the Ch'in dynasty. Han Fei...



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Reader's Opinions

Burton Watson, one of the premier scholars of Classical Chinese, once again brings a lesser-known Chinese philosopher to public knowledge, this time the austere legalist Han Fei Zi. Watson provides not only well-translated excerpts, which give a representative portrayal of Master Han Fei and his school of Legalism (which was the state...