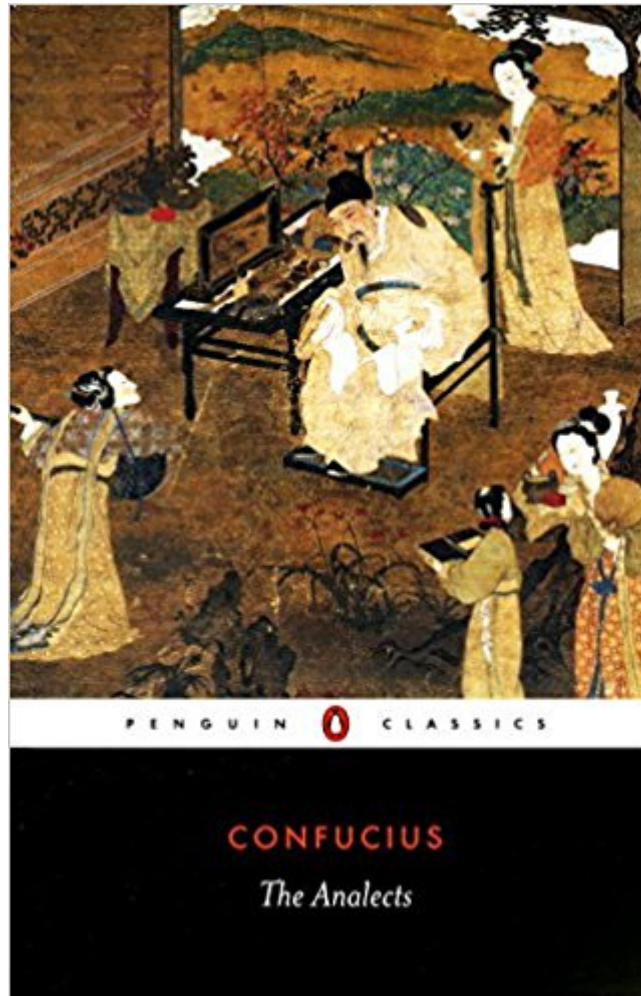




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The Analects (Penguin Classics)



Synopsis

The Master said, "If a man sets his heart on benevolence, he will be free from evil." The Analects are a collection of Confucius's sayings brought together by his pupils shortly after his death in 497 BC. Together they express a philosophy, or a moral code, by which Confucius, one of the most humane thinkers of all time, believed everyone should live. Upholding the ideals of wisdom, self-knowledge, courage and love of one's fellow man, he argued that the pursuit of virtue should be every individual's supreme goal. And, while following the Way, or the truth, might not result in immediate or material gain, Confucius showed that it could nevertheless bring its own powerful and lasting spiritual rewards. This edition contains a detailed introduction exploring the concepts of the original work, a bibliography and glossary and appendices on Confucius himself, The Analects and the disciples who compiled them. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

Book Information

Paperback: 160 pages

Publisher: Penguin Classics; 1st edition (September 3, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0140443487

ISBN-13: 978-0140443486

Product Dimensions: 5.4 x 0.9 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 125 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #10,896 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Other Eastern Religions & Sacred Texts > Confucianism #6 in Books > Literature & Fiction > World Literature > Asian > Chinese #87 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Philosophy > Eastern

Customer Reviews

"For more than two millennia, the teachings of Confucius have served as a guide for a

substantial portion of humanity.Â Â English-language readers seeking to understand this remarkable body of thought are fortunate to have Annping Chin's highly readable and judiciously annotated edition of The Analects.Â Â • Henry A. Kissinger's "An astonishingly lucid exposition of The Analects. A kind of serene insight pervades the commentaries.Â Â • Harold Bloom's "An incomparable new volume that combines a fresh and sympathetic translation with a wonderfully readable annotation. It is a joy to use and will unlock a whole new level of meaning for English-language readers.Â Â • Orville Schell, Director of the Center on U.S.-China Relations and co-author of Wealth and Power: China's Long March to the Twenty-First Century

A record of the words and teachings of Confucius, The Analects is considered the most reliable expression of Confucian thought. However, the original meaning of Confucius's teachings have been filtered and interpreted by the commentaries of Confucianists of later ages, particularly the Neo-Confucianists of the Song dynasty, not altogether without distortion. In this monumental translation by Professor D. C. Lau, an attempt has been made to interpret the sayings as they stand. The corpus of the sayings is taken as an organic whole and the final test of the interpretation rests on the internal consistency it exhibits. In other words, The Analects is read in the light of The Analects. This results in a truer understanding of Confucius' thought than the traditional interpretation and paves the way for a re-assessment of its importance in the history of Chinese thought and its relevance to the present day world. This volume also contains an introduction to the life and teachings of Confucius, and three appendices on the events in the life of Confucius, on his disciples, and on the composition of The Analects. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

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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