

## Confucianism and Government

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### Study Guide 7-3

#### Biography

##### Confucius (551-479 BC)

According to tradition, Confucius, or Master Kong, served in minor government positions until he became a teacher. As a teacher, Confucius traveled throughout China teaching his ethical philosophy to many students. Today, Confucius is considered one of the most influential teachers in the world. In fact, his birthday is an official holiday in Taiwan, where September 28 is celebrated as Teacher's Day.

1. What was the focus of the teachings of Confucius?
2. What were the two basic principles that Confucius said people should conduct their lives?
3. Why did Confucianism decline during the Period of Disunion?
4. How did people join the bureaucracy?
5. How did Neo-Confucianism differ from Confucianism?
6. What benefits did scholar-officials have?

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7. How long did some students study for the civil service exam?
  
8. How long were some of the civil service exams?
  
9. What did some dishonest students do to pass the civil service exams?
  
10. Why do you think the Song and later governments emphasized (pushed for) Neo Confucianism? In other words, how might the government benefit from Confucius' ideas?

### Linking to Today

#### **China's Government**

Today China has one of the last remaining Communist governments in the world. Political power in China is centralized much more than in the United States, with most decisions coming from high level national officials rather than from state and local officials. However, China still has a bureaucracy. Over 10 million officials are employed to keep the country running.