

HKU03x Humanity and Nature in Chinese Thought

Week 8: Xunzi and Legalism (Han-Fei-zi)

Section 8: The rest of the story--Qin & Han

- After the Han Dynasty was established, it tried to find a way to maintain its rule and stability so as to not fall in the same abrupt manner as the Qin Dynasty had.
- After a long period of debate and discussion, the Han eventually set up a Confucian orthodoxy.
- The 法 *fa*^{measurement} are to be applied to the ordinary people, and the Confucian 禮 *li*^{ritual} are to be applied to the officials.
- The Han Dynasty sought to recover the lost knowledge from the past. As a result, scholasticism emerged, whereby intellectuals aimed mainly to uncover knowledge from the past rather than trying to understand the issues for their own sake.