

# Mou Zongsan's Kant and Early Confucianism: A Groundbreaking Exploration of East-West Dialogue

Mou Zongsan's *Kant and Early Confucianism* is a seminal work in the field of comparative philosophy. Published in 1997 as part of the Routledge Studies in Contemporary Philosophy series, the book explores the relationship between the philosophy of Immanuel Kant and the thought of the early Confucians, particularly Confucius and Mencius. Zongsan's work is a groundbreaking contribution to the East-West dialogue, challenging traditional assumptions about the incommensurability of these two philosophical traditions.



## Secret Subversion I: Mou Zongsan, Kant, and Early Confucianism (Routledge Studies in Contemporary Chinese Philosophy)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 389 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 146 pages  
Screen Reader : Supported



## Main Arguments

Zongsan argues that there are striking parallels between Kantian and Confucian thought, particularly in their shared emphasis on the importance of morality and the cultivation of virtue. He contends that Kant's moral philosophy, with its focus on the categorical imperative and the autonomy of the moral will, is not as radically different from Confucian ethics as it may initially seem.

Zongsan also argues that both Kant and the early Confucians recognize the importance of human flourishing and the need for a harmonious society. He suggests that Kant's idea of the highest good as a kingdom of ends is akin to the Confucian ideal of a society in which all individuals live in accordance with the principles of benevolence and righteousness.

## **Insights**

Zongsan's work offers several important insights into the relationship between Kantian and Confucian thought. First, he shows that there are significant areas of convergence between these two philosophical traditions, challenging the view that they are fundamentally incompatible. Second, he demonstrates that East-West dialogue can be fruitful and that it can lead to a deeper understanding of both traditions. Third, he provides a new perspective on the history of philosophy, suggesting that the East-West divide is not as sharp as it is often made out to be.

## **Implications**

Zongsan's work has important implications for our understanding of both Kantian and Confucian thought. It shows that Kant's philosophy is not as Eurocentric as it is sometimes portrayed and that it can be fruitfully engaged with non-Western traditions. It also suggests that Confucian

thought can be a valuable resource for contemporary moral and political philosophy.

Mou Zongsan's *Kant and Early Confucianism* is a major contribution to the field of comparative philosophy. It is a work of great scholarship and insight that challenges traditional assumptions about the relationship between Kantian and Confucian thought. Zongsan's work is essential reading for anyone interested in the East-West dialogue and in the history of philosophy more generally.

## **Image**



## References

Mou, Zongsan. *Kant and Early Confucianism*. Routledge, 1997.

## Author

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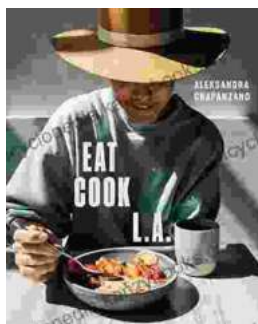
and political philosophy.



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