Confucius
Born 551 BC
Died 479 BC
Founder of the humanistic school of philosophy- known as the Ju or Confucianism- taught the concepts of benevolence, ritual and modesty- WAS A THINKER< POLITICAL FIGURE- EDUCATOR- AND FOUNDER OF THE ‘Ru School of Chinese thought’
GREATLY INFLUENCED CHINESE CULTURE

In 6th century bc china began to turn into a collection of city states- ruler of china was the King of Chou- occupied imperial capital at loyang in northcentral china
PERIOD DEPICTED AS THE TIME OF GREAT MORAL DECLINE- time of political social and spiritual crisis that ruined traditional way of life
Confucius was a school teacher, found this situation horrifying and tried to revive the moral teachings of old sages from the past.
HE FAILED- NOT IMPORTANT----> his teachings had a profound influence on later chinese thought and formed the basis for the dominant chinese ideology- represents a turning point in human history, opens door to new forms of self- reflection
Taught as a ‘philosopher’ how an individual should live their life and interact with other people, and how government should be
Didn’t teach about a god- instead about responsibilities

Confucius is the latinized name of K‘ung Fu-tzu- real name was K‘und Ch‘iu. After his death, there were many myths about him, making it hard to make an accurate description of confucius
Glorified as a chinese saint
New images of confucius have emerged in more recent times
Birth date is either 551 or 552 bc
He belonged in an aristocratic class known was the shih- not particularly wealthy, but gained power and respect because of their knowledge- served as court officials, scholars, and teachers-- confucius first occupation was keeper of the Lu granary and supervisor of the fields- LOW POSITIONS, but consistent with his shih status

Started his teaching career at about the age of 30- served as a tutor - spent a lot of his time studying and teaching and gathered a large number of students- his teaching included rituals, music, history, and poetry
TAUGHT SIX ARTS- writing, math, ritual, modesty, music, charioteering, and archery and dealt with texts handed down from the past that he edits

3 clans in the state of lu china- Meng, Shu, Chi- most powerful clan was the Chi in confucius time

Finally obtained power in government of lu in 501- was eventually promoted to minister of justice-