

## Indian and Chinese Philosophy

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# **Indian and Chinese Philosophy**



PETER LANG  
EDITION

## Introduction

In the socialist era it was complicated to find information about Eastern cultures in our country and it was even harder to get the professional books about the philosophy of these cultures. With open borders and possibilities, there were far too many offers at once. Not only concerning books, but also movies and other forms of art, meditation courses, martial arts, and of course plenty of goods. Thanks to the internet, the world has become even more globalised, the Asian countries that had been relatively distant were no longer distant or irrelevant to us. Among books, which should have told us more about the Eastern way of thinking, the genre of esoterism dominated and that made an overview of who were the important thinkers and schools more difficult. Most textbooks about the history of philosophy or various introductions into philosophy did not include

Eastern thinking at all or it was scarcely mentioned. That situation has changed significantly over the past two years and especially someone who speaks a foreign language, mainly English, can easily find relevant works about any aspect of Eastern philosophy.

This textbook offers a brief overview of the main philosophical schools of the two most significant cultures in ancient Asia, from where these thoughts have spread widely – it concerns ancient India and China. Considering the major culture and language differences, a little space was dedicated to a broader context of Indian and Chinese philosophy and language, because many terms, which are used, do not have a proper Slovak equivalent.

This textbook is mainly aimed at students studying a bachelor's degree in humanities and anyone who is interested in getting to know something about the era of Indian and Chinese philosophy, in which the most important philosophical concepts were born. These philosophical concepts then contributed to the formation of their cultures. It offers rather an overview of themes and relations.

I hope the following textbook will help the reader to get an overview of the broad problematics of Eastern philosophy. Those who are interested can learn even more thanks to the bibliography. As this text relates to the original ancient texts, copyright does not constitute an obstacle and many of these texts can be accessed on the internet not only in the original language but there

are plenty of translations available too. The number of good quality studies and comments are increasing on the internet and I have included a reference to some of them. The following textbook meets its target if it helps the reader to step into the world of Eastern thinking and Eastern mentality so that it would be beneficial for the reader and eventually they could see the western view of reality and thinking in a different light.

In Trnava, December 31, 2014 Adrián Slavkovský