

# *Prof. Rex Li's Writings*

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**Title:** Ancient Greek and Ancient Chinese Ideas

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**Summary/ Abstract:** It is surprising that Ancient Greeks and Ancient Chinese think alike.

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### Ancient Greek and Ancient Chinese Ideas

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Many ancient Greek and Chinese ideas are strikingly similar. Both countries had master thinkers summarizing the then existing knowledge. Thinkers of both culture proposed ideal governance to kings and lords. The utopia is for public good, for maximizing human development. On the other hand, there are a few explicit differences, in addition to different meanings in the terms used and different cultural historical context. The geography is different too. China is an inland-bound country with one supreme rule while Greece is a coastal amalgamation of cities. Karl Jasper called it the "axial age".

Greece	China	Review
Plato / Aristotle	Confucius	
Philosopher-king	君子	
Golden mean	中庸	
Republic / Utopia	大同	
Academy / Lyceum	弟子三千	
Just = Harmony	各盡所能，各取所需	
Just = Right position	各安其位，君君、臣臣...	
Equal opportunity	✕	
✕	修齊治平	
Democracy / Freedom	民本/民貴君輕	