

CHINESE RELIGION

Term Chinese Religion is extremely broad. Includes:

- 1. Organized Religion- Buddhism, Taoism**
- 2. State Sponsored Rites- Confucianism**
- 3. Local cults, practices, beliefs- popular religion or popular Taoism**

All of these share an ancient cultural base of beliefs. Harmony of forces and energies, heaven and earth, living and dead, of great importance.

- 1. Ancestor Veneration- Obsession, fear of dead, proper rites**
- 2. Multiple Deities- Of heavens, localities, fields, door, etc.**
- 3. Sacrifice- deities offered sacrifices for benefits.**
- 4. Temple Based Worship- Home shrines also.**
- 5. Occult Practices- Divination, channeling, amulets, faith healing, astrology, magic spells, mediums, ghosts, etc.**
- 6. Longevity and Immortality**
- 7. Messianism- Mandate of Heaven, change of government religiously based.**

ORGANIZED RELIGIONS

State Confucianism- Established during Han dynasty.

Taoism- Different types develop from 5th C. B.C.E.

Buddhism- From 1st C. C.E.

Ordinary Chinese not concerned with Philosophical Taoism or Confucianism

Pursuit of worldly success, appeasement of the dead and spirits, seeking hidden knowledge about the future.

- 1. Ritualistic respect for the dead**
 - 2. Harmony and Balance in everyday life**
 - 3. Methods of divination**
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