Ancient Chinese Political Theories

Kuo-Cheng Wu

Although the history of ancient Chinese thought has been widely studied, the study of its political theories is relatively new. The Western conception of politics and political theory is grounded in the political philosophy of ancient Greece. The writings of Thucydides, Plato, and Aristotle, all of which are in the Western tradition, are the oldest known works that are systematically organized as political theory. This Western conception of politics has not been the dominant one in the Chinese tradition, which has been a consequence of the fact that the Chinese, unlike the Greeks, have not lived in a society that was divided by the existence of social classes. The Chinese have lived in a society that is an East Asian society, whereas the Greeks have lived in a society that is a Western society. The latter tradition has been the basis for the Western conception of politics. The former tradition, which is the Chinese tradition, has been the basis for the Chinese conception of politics. The Chinese have lived in a society that is a society of the peasantry, whereas the Greeks have lived in a society that is a society of the merchants and the aristocrats. The former tradition has been the basis for the Chinese conception of politics. The latter tradition, which is the Western tradition, has been the basis for the Western conception of politics. The Chinese have lived in a society that is a society of the peasants, whereas the Greeks have lived in a society that is a society of the merchants and the aristocrats. The former tradition has been the basis for the Chinese conception of politics. The latter tradition, which is the Western tradition, has been the basis for the Western conception of politics.