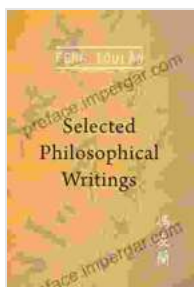


# Feng Youlan: A Master of Chinese Philosophy

Feng Youlan was one of the most influential Chinese philosophers of the 20th century. His work helped to shape modern Chinese philosophy and is still widely studied today. This article provides an overview of Feng's life and thought, and explores the key themes of his philosophy.



## Feng Youlan: Selected Philosophical Writings

by Dominic Pettman

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 4638 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 584 pages



## Life and Career

Feng Youlan was born in 1895 in Henan Province, China. He studied at Peking University, where he was influenced by the work of the philosopher Hu Shi. In 1919, Feng went to the United States to study at Columbia University. He returned to China in 1923 and taught at Peking University for the rest of his career.

Feng Youlan was a prolific writer. He published over 50 books and numerous articles on a wide range of philosophical topics. His work covered Chinese philosophy, Western philosophy, and the history of

philosophy. Feng's most famous work is his *History of Chinese Philosophy*, which was first published in 1931. This book is still considered one of the most authoritative works on the subject.

## **Philosophical Thought**

Feng Youlan's philosophy was deeply rooted in Chinese tradition. He was particularly interested in the work of the ancient Chinese philosophers Confucius, Laozi, and Zhuangzi. However, Feng also drew inspiration from Western philosophy, especially the work of the German philosopher Immanuel Kant.

One of the key themes of Feng's philosophy is the concept of "dao." Dao is a Chinese word that means "the way." Feng believed that dao is the ultimate reality of the universe. It is the source of all things and the guiding force behind all change.

Another key theme of Feng's philosophy is the concept of "qi." Qi is a Chinese word that means "vital energy." Feng believed that qi is the material force that animates all things. It is the source of life and the cause of all movement.

Feng's philosophy also includes a strong ethical component. He believed that the goal of life is to live in harmony with dao and to cultivate one's inner virtue. Feng advocated for a life of simplicity, compassion, and selflessness.

## **Legacy**

Feng Youlan was one of the most important philosophers of the 20th century. His work helped to shape modern Chinese philosophy and is still

widely studied today. Feng's legacy is not only his philosophical writings, but also his role as a teacher and mentor. He inspired generations of students to pursue the study of philosophy and to make their own contributions to the field.

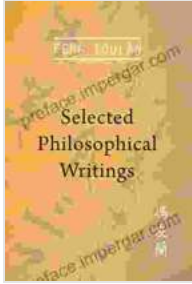
Feng Youlan was a master of Chinese philosophy. His work helped to shape modern Chinese philosophy and is still widely studied today. Feng's philosophy is a rich and complex body of thought that offers insights into the nature of reality, the human condition, and the meaning of life.



### **Further Reading**

- [Feng Youlan on the Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#)
- [Feng Youlan on the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#)

- History of Chinese Philosophy by Feng Youlan



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