Who was Confuscius?

* Ancient Chinese philosopher
* Circa 550 BC
* His teachings, preserved in the Analects focused on creating ethical models of: family, public interaction, education.

What inspired his philosophies?

During the sixth century B.C., competing Chinese states undermined the authority of the Chou Empire, which had held supreme rule for over 500 years.

* Traditional Chinese principles began to deteriorate, resulting in a period of moral decline. Confucius recognized an opportunity—and an obligation—to reinforce the societal values of compassion and tradition.
* His social philosophy was based primarily on the principle of "ren" or "loving others" while exercising self-discipline. He believed that ren could be put into action using the Golden Rule, "What you do not wish for yourself, do not do to others." (Lunyu 12.2, 6.30).

Political Beliefs

* Confucius’ political beliefs were likewise based on the concept of self-discipline.
* He believed that a leader needed to exercise self-discipline in order to remain humble and treat his followers with compassion.
* In doing so, he would lead by positive example. According to Confucius, leaders could motivate their subjects to follow the law by teaching them virtue and the unifying force of ritual propriety.

Educational Beliefs

* His philosophy of education focused on the "Six Arts": archery, calligraphy, computation, music, chariot-driving and ritual.
* To Confucius, the main objective of being an educator was to teach people to live with integrity.
* Through his teachings, he strove to resurrect the traditional values of benevolence, propriety and ritual in Chinese society.