

# A Sourcebook in Chinese Philosophy

Chan, W. (1969). *A sourcebook in Chinese philosophy*.  
Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press.

## CHAPTER 34— THE GREAT SYNTHESIS IN CHU HSI

A Book Review by S.A. Martin (2011)  
Confucius Teachings & Chinese Philosophy 808-327  
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# Introduction (p.588)

- Chu Hsi (Chu Yuan-hui) 1130-1200
- Among China's greatest philosophers
  - Confucius/Mencius/Lao Tzu/Chuang Tzu
  - **Chu Hsi**
- Profound influence in the Confucian Tradition in China/Japan/Korea
- Patriot-Scholar
- “Investigation of things”

# Overview of Chapter 34 (p.589)

## He Synthesized

- **Confucius** concept of *Jen* (humanity)
- **Mencius** doctrines of humanity & righteousness
- The idea of 'the investigation of things' in the **Great Learning**
- **Yin Yang** (passive/ active forces)
- **The 5 Agents** (water/fire/wood/metal/earth)
- Sung Dynasty **Neo-Confucianism**

# The 4 Books

1. Analects
2. Book of Mencius
3. Great Learning
4. Doctrine of the Mean

Chapters from the  
**Book of Rights**

# Chu Hsi & The Four Books

- Wrote commentaries on the original books
- Interpreted them in new lights
- Foundation of his social and ethical philosophy
- 1313 – 1905: Formed the basis of China's Civil Service Examinations
- Potentially the greatest influence on the lives and thought of the Chinese