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* The views expressed in this issue of Global Talk do not necessarily represent those of the organization.

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From the ancient civilizations people have been looking for answers to their questions concerning life and happiness or the after-life. And, from this point it is clear that philosophy's space in our lives is the point where some answers may not be definitely arrived at or even fully appreciated. Many people think that philosophy started in ancient Greece, but the actual fact is that it existed way before the Greeks. Religions that we know today, those that answer the questions of life and death are not the only religions that have ever existed on Earth. Keeping this concept in mind, it is obvious since our existence, humans have sought and are still seeking answers to happiness. It is human nature to question the unknown. Hoping they make it known, but what if we do not like the answers we seek when they find it, would we accept it or just leave it behind? What if we knew the answers would it affect them and make their life better or worse?

For me life comes once, and it is a chance I either take it or miss. I do not want to seek answers I already know in my religion. Life is simple in my perspective: you want to be happy, make other people happy, and see the result in yourself. “Treat others as you want them to treat you” is advice I have taken from my father and by making people happy you are making yourself even happier. Leave a smile on others that would make them do the same to you regardless of the amazing feeling you would have when you do so, and continually your life would become happier and easier.

So, why would you look for answers for happiness while you already have them?

Zaid Almutairi

Work Cited:
http://www.2dah.org/vb/showthread.php?t=6714
http://www.9or.cc/data/media/11/9or.cc-r-(37).jpg
我国战国时期著名的思想家, 教育家, 军事家, 墨家学派的创始人。他曾提出“兼爱”、“非攻”等观点, 创立墨家学说, 并有《墨子》一书传世。墨学在当时影响很大, 与儒家并称“显学”。

孟子(约公元前372年~前289年)生于周烈王四年, 死于周赧王二十六年, 山东邹城人, 汉族。名轲, 字子舆, 又字子车, 子居, 父名激, 母邹氏, 是中国古代伟大的思想家, 教育家, 战国时期儒家代表人物之一。著有《孟子》一书, 属语录体散文集。《孟子》一书是孟子的言论汇编, 由孟子及其弟子共同编写而成, 是记录了孟子的语言、政治观点和政治行动的儒家经典著作。孟子师承孔子, 继承并发扬了孔子的思想, 成为仅次于孔子的一代儒家宗师, 有“亚圣”之称, 与孔子并称为“孔孟”。

庄子(约前369年—前286年), 汉族。名周, 字子休(一说子沐), 后人称之为“南华真人”, 战国时期宋国蒙(今安徽省蒙城县, 有说今河南省商丘县东北民权县境内)人。著名的思想家、哲学家、文学家, 是道家学派的创始人, 老子哲学思想的继承者和发展者, 先秦庄子学派的创始人。他的学说涵盖着当时社会生活的各个方面, 但根本精神还是归依于老子的哲学。后世将他与老子并称为“老庄”, 他们的哲学为“老庄哲学”。

三月

Vocabulary

1. Mèngzǐ / Lăozǐ / Zhuāngzi / Mòzǐ 孟子 / 老子 / 庄子 / 墨子
2. Confucianism Kŏngzĭ xuéshuō; rúxué, rújiā 孔子学说; 儒学, 儒家
3. zǐ yuē 三子 yuē zǐ yuē zǐ yuē zǐ
4. săn jūn kě duó shuài yě pǐ fū bù kě duó zhì yě 三军可夺帅也, 匹夫不可夺志也
5. The Master said, “An army may be deprived of its commander, yet a man can not be deprived of his will.”
### Ma philosophie personelle
Par Colette Crouse

En général, la vie est plus simple est plus plaisant que nous voulons croire. C'est vrai, même si malheureux, que quelques vies sont plus délicates que d'autres. Néanmoins, c'est vrai aussi que la plupart de vies sont plus délicates que c'est nécessaire. Nous compliquons des choses insignifiantes pour donner du sens à nos vies, et par conséquent nous devenons des combattants dans un champ de bataille où nous sommes nous-mêmes nos ennemis les plus grands. Les meilleures plaisirs sont ceux qui sont les moins criants: des rires, du soleil, une tasse de thé quand il fait froid. En aimant les petites choses dans la vie, on est rarement déçu.

### Des mots de sagesse
Par Darrell Nourani

Happiness is the reason and the goal of life, the final aim and the end of human existence.

– Aristotle

« Le bonheur est la raison et le but de vivre, le bien suprême et le fini de l'existence humaine ». Cette citation fut écrite par le grand philosophe grec Aristote. La vérité de cette citation se trouve dans son universalité. On ne peut pas vivre une bonne vie sans être heureuse. Une personne sans le bonheur est une personne morte. Alors, je suis homme bien équilibré et homme qui croit en le bonheur et la joie de vivre.

### Les philosophes français les plus célèbres
– Descartes
– Montesquieu
– Diderot
– Rousseau
– Voltaire
– Sartre
– Foucault

### Des citations des philosophes français...en anglais
– Diderot: “I have been, and still am, angry at being mediocre.”
– Descartes: “An optimist may see a light where there is none, but why must the pessimist always run to blow it out?”
– Rousseau: “To write a good love letter, you ought to begin without knowing what you mean to say, and to finish without knowing what you have written.”
– Voltaire: “Life is thickly sown with thorns, and I know no other remedy than to pass quickly through them. The longer we dwell on our misfortunes, the greater is their power to harm us.”
– Foucault: “In its function, the power to punish is not essentially different from that of curing or educating.”
– Sartre: “We do not know what we want and yet we are responsible for what we are - that is the fact”
PHILOSOPHIE AUS DEUTSCHLAND

Immanuel Kant wurde im Jahr 1724 in der Stadt Königsberg geboren. Kant war ein neuer Denker seiner Zeit und war ein großer Einfluss auf die Aufklärung. Kant hat gesagt, dass der rationale Gedanke vor allem ist. Kant sagte, dass Vernunft ohne Gefühl und Religion sein muss. Kant schrieb viele Bücher z.B. Kritik der reinen Vernunft und Kritik der Urteilskraft. Kant stellte vier Fragen: „Was kann ich wissen, was soll ich tun, was darf ich hoffen, und was ist der Mensch?“ Kant hat sich sein ganzes Leben mit diesen vier Fragen beschäftigt. Kant ist ein wichtiger Mann nicht nur in der deutschen Geschichte, aber auch für die Weltzukunft.

Conner Taylor


Grant Barba

Die Bedeutung des Lebens


Lena Moro

Das Lebensmotto einer Studentin


Hayley Belli

Deutsche Philosophen

• G.W.F. Hegel (1770 - 1831)

• Arthur Schopenhauer (1788 - 1860) „Das Leben kann als ein Traum angesehen werden und der Tod als Erwachen.“ „Life can be seen as a dream and death as an Awakening.“

• Karl Marx (1818 - 1883) „Religion als Opium des Volkes“ „Religion as opium of the people“

• Friedrich Nietzsche (1844 - 1900) „Gott ist tot!“ „God is dead!“
### La Sopravvivenza del Machiavellismo

Quando Niccolò Machiavelli scrisse il suo trattato *Il principe* (1513), l'opera sorprese allora con la sua verità spoglia, e sorprende ancora oggi con la sua rilevanza nel mondo contemporaneo. Due dei capi più concentrati sul potere sono Vladimir Putin, il primo ministro della Russia, e Robert Mugabe, il presidente dello Zimbabwe. Dovrebbero essere detronizzati entrambi, ma tramite la loro virtù machiavellica, hanno potuto mantenere il loro potere finora.

I capi di stato generalmente fanno il possibile per resistere la democrazia, sempre con lo stesso obiettivo: preservare il potere. Nel caso di Putin, dopo aver finito il suo mandato, si è fatto primo ministro. Quest'azione di Putin non era nascosta, ma sembra così con Mugabe. Mugabe ha perso un'eletzione contro Tsvangirai in marzo, 2008, ma invece di abdicare, da lì in avanti lui e il suo esercito hanno commesso tante atrocità al partito del suo oppositore e al popolo. Secondo Machiavelli, benché possa esserci bisogno della crudeltà per mantenere uno stato, ci sono limiti: "Debbbe ... el principe farsi temere in modo che, se non acquista lo amore, che fugga l'odio. L'odio è ciò che spinge la gente alla rivoluzione.

Putin ha la stessa credenza nella importanza della guerra, ma il suo approccio è diverso da quello di Mugabe. L'apparenza della forza militare gli basta. Il maggio scorso, per l'anniversario della fine della seconda guerra mondiale, c'è stata una grande parata militare intesa come, nelle parole di Putin, "una dimostrazione della nostra capacità crescente nella sfera della difesa." Questa asserzione, infatti, è machiavellica; con questa parata, Putin voleva veramente esibire i poteri offensivi della sua nazione, non difensivi. Ma nel mondo politico globale, se Putin avesse detto "offesa" invece di "difesa," sarebbe stato considerato minaccioso.

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### Vocabolario

- Qual è il senso della vita?
- Qual è la tua filosofia di vita?
- What is the meaning of life?
- What is your personal philosophy?

### Famous philosophers:

- Severino Boezio, Gallileo

**Dominant philosophies of Italian philosophers:**

1. Religion, art, and science can coexist together. 2. The universe is infinite. 3. Absolutism. 4. Pensiero debole vs. pensiero forte.

**Famous philosopher's quote:** Galileo Galilei: "I detrattori della corruccibilità meriterebber d'esser cangiati in statue."

**Translation:** "Detractors of corruptibility deserve being turned nto statues."

By: Danièle Malia Meleho'ala Christina Campbell

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**Fast Spreading Slow Food**

Slow food is an anti-fast food movement founded in 1986 by an Italian journalist, socialist, and activist named Carlo Petrini. Since its establishment, the Slow Food Movement has spread from its origin in Rome, Italy, all across the globe; and has even managed to infiltrate the home of fast food itself, the United States. Numerous cultures have benefited from the movement’s efforts to prevent the disappearance of cultural foods and small producers and to revive the tastes, senses, and appreciation of the food people eat. This complex retaliation of the Slow Food Movement against the globalization and homogenization of food systems is the direct result and influence of Italian food history and culture.

It all began in the spring of 1986, when McDonald’s was opened in Rome, Italy (Alva). Carlo Petrini recognized that the 1986 opening of McDonald’s in Rome was only encouraging this transformation of Italian food. And far as he was concerned, his sacred land had been infringed upon. As a result, Petrini decided to take a stand against the proliferation of fast food by founding The Slow Food Movement. Petrini feels it is crucial that people question not just the source of their food, but the economic, social, and environmental impact of their food choices as well. Since its inception, the Slow Food has spread to 132 countries and consists of over 85,000 members, all of whom belong to over 1,000 convivia, or smaller groups, scattered all over the world.

By: Megan Emad

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**The Prince: Path to domination? Or Destruction?**

I’ve recently become quite intrigued by Niccolo Machiavelli’s book of guidelines for public domination, “The Prince.” Machiavelli’s insight that led to his views on military matters was greatly influenced by his study of Roman antiquity. During the days of ancient Rome, however, rulers had to be much more cold-hearted than modern leaders to survive in power.

This book has had a very major role in shaping our world today. Machiavelli has contributed to political theory and strategies, and has come to be known as the “father of political science.” America’s founding fathers were familiar with Machiavelli’s writings, and many had begun studying it at an early age.

Machiavelli’s writings are based on the use of deviousness and force to gain and maintain power. When taken in their entirety, his contributions to the political nature of man explore many facets of human behavior. Perhaps more than any other writer, Machiavelli exhibited an insight and clarity that was well ahead of his time. Those who study and ponder his work will be will be enlightened for doing so.

By Andrew Ellsberg

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**What is the meaning of life?**

Qual é o senso della vita?

**What is your personal philosophy?**

Qual é a tua filosofia di vita?

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By Andrew Ellsberg
### JAKUCHO
Jakucho, with literary achievements and accomplishments as a Buddhist nun, earned the Nonino International Prize in January of 2006. Born Setouchi Harumi in 1922, she grew up in Tokushima prefecture and eventually graduated from Tokyo Women’s University with a major in Japanese literature.

At the age of 51, Setouchi took her Buddhist vows under Kon Toko of the Chuson-Ji Temple in Iwate and obtained the name Jakucho. Traditionally, Buddhists are expected to “throw away whatever you were before” but to many people’s surprise, Jakucho continued to write and balanced both her novels and Buddhism.

Despite her years, she was known to demonstrate her strong Buddhist convictions by “conduct anti-war hunger strikes” during the Gulf War and the Afghanistan bombing in 1991.

Jakucho continued to preach and give speeches, and even “assumed posts as a college president and a curator of literary museums.” She accepted a post as head chief of Tendai-ji Temple, and after twenty years stepped down in 2005.

Jakucho is also known for her translation of “The Tale of Genji” into modern Japanese, which was completed in 1998.

### GROUPISM
Generally speaking, Japanese people tend to be groupists. Actually it depends on individuals; however, the old philosophy still exists in current society. A funny example is that young people, especially junior high and senior high school students, usually go to the restroom with some friends. Can you believe that?

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<td>What is the meaning of life?</td>
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<td>What is your personal philosophy?</td>
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<td>What are your country’s most famous philosophers?</td>
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<td>あなたの人生観は何ですか。</td>
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<td>あなたの国の有名な哲学者を教えてください。</td>
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<td>あなたの国の一般的でつかなくな 学ぼ は なんですか。</td>
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Russian thought is essentially nature and proper boundaries of philosophy. Russian philosophy has been primarily the creation of writers and critics who derived their ideals and values from European sources and focused on ethics, social theory and the philosophy of history, in the belief that philosophers had thus far simply interpreted the world: the task was now to change it. This passionate social commitment generated much strict fanaticism, but it also inspired the iconoclastic tendency made philosophically respectable by Nietzsche: the revaluation of values from an ironic outsider’s perspective. The principal contribution of Russian thinkers to world culture has so far consisted not in systems, but in experiments in the theory and practice of human emancipation. Some of these led to the Russian Revolution, while others supplied remarkably accurate predictions of the nature of an ideal community in power. Like Dostoevskii’s character Shigalëv who, starting from the idea of absolute freedom, arrived by a strict logical progression at the need of absolute tyranny, Russian philosophers have specialized in thinking through (and sometimes acting out) the practical implications of the most seductive visions of liberty that Europe has produced over the last 200 hundred years.

By Daria Shulgina

In many countries, the supreme authority is assigned to religious beliefs but in Russia, it was philosophy that served as the ultimate measure of truth and stood as the foundation of all political and economic changes. The State may have held all the power, preventing many philosophical ideas to develop, yet philosophers rose above this and raised fundamental question of being that were unaddressed by the State. For example, Solov’yov is considered to be Russia’s greatest philosopher and his goal was to fuse all conflicting concepts into a single form of reason. Nikolai Fedorov was the founder of cosmism and the scientific resurrection of the dead. Vasily Rozanov was an existential thinker of sex, marriage, and everyday life. Finally, Nikolai Berdyaev studied personality and freedom and believed that we are to enter an “Eighth Day of Creation.”

By Anya Klyukanova

Русская философия

Русская философия

Russian section

(Февраль - Март, 2009)

Русские фразы и выражения

What is the meaning of life?
-В чем смысл жизни? или Почему мы здесь? (на земле) (V chem. smisl zhizni? ili Pochemu my zdes’? na zemle)

What is your personal philosophy?
-Какая ваша личная философия? (Kakaja vasha lichnaya filosofiya)

Name your country’s most famous philosophers?
-Назовите известных философов в вашей стране? (Nazavite izvestnykh filosov v vashe stranye?)

Name the dominant philosophies in your country?
-Назовите господствующие философии в вашей стране? (Nazavite gospodstvuyuschiy v vashe stranye?)

Famous philosopher’s quote:
-"The Karamazovs are not scoundrels but philosophers, because all real Russian people are philosophers..."
-Dmitry Karamozov, from Fyodor Dostoevsky’s “The Brothers Karamozov.”
**Filosofías Sociales**

Por: Vania Loredo

El significado de la vida es una de las preguntas más estudiadas en el mundo. Cada uno tiene su propio significado; éste está formado por el tipo de cultura en el que se ha criado. Por ejemplo, en el Perú la fe católica les pide a sus seguidores de que sigan una vida decente y cumplan todas las reglas que la iglesia les imponga ya que irán al cielo cuando mueran.

Personalmente, la filosofía de mi vida es haz lo que te haga feliz, vive como quieras vivir si es que te hace sentir bien. Pienso que uno tiene que darle sentido a su vida si es que quiere ser feliz; sino cual sería el punto de vivir.

En Perú, la gente tiene una filosofía establecida por la iglesia y las costumbres peruanas. Por consiguiente, la filosofía peruana es enfocada en los cambios sociales basados en color de la piel y la posición social de los indígenas, más conocido como el Indio. El problema del indio es uno de los problemas sociales que enfrenta perú. Esta idea es basada en la opresión del indio ante una sociedad que no se preocupa por él.

Uno de los más influyentes filósofos en perú es José Carlos Mariátegui que escribió los 7 Ensayos de la Realidad Peruana. Basada en la filosofía marxista, Mariátegui expresa la situación del indio en el perú. Mariátegui lo describe como” El problema del indio es un problema de identidad nacional”.

“Hace algún tiempo que se constata el carácter religioso, místico, metafísico del socialismo. Jorge Sorel...decía en sus Reflexiones sobre la Violencia: ‘Se ha encontrado una analogía entre la religión y el socialismo revolucionario, que se propone la preparación y aun la reconstrucción del individuo para una obra gigantesca. Pero Bergson nos ha enseñado que no solo la religión puede ocupar la región del yo profundo; los mitos revolucionarios pueden también ocuparla’. Renan, como el mismo Sorel lo recuerda, advertía la fe religiosa de los socialistas, constatando su inexpugnabilidad a todo desaliento.” - Mariátegui

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**VOCABULARIO**

- **Qué es la significa de la vida?**
- **Qué es tu filosofía personal?**
- **Quienes son los filósofos más famosos de tu país?**
- **Cuáles son las filosofías dominantes en tu país?**

“La mayor parte de los hombres tiene una capacidad intelectual muy superior al ejercicio que hacen de ella.”
– José Ortega y Gasset
1) **What is the meaning of life? /Why are we here (on Earth)?**
   Je, nini maana ya maisha? / Kwanini tunaishi hapa Duniani?

2) **What is your personal philosophy?**
   Je, nini falsafa yako binafsi?

3) **Tanzania’s most famous philosopher:**
   Mwanafalsafa maarufu Tanzania ni "Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere".

4) **Dominant philosophies in Tanzania:**
   Falsafa za Tanzania hadi 1990: "Ujamaa na Kujitegemea"- (Dominant philosophies until 1990s: 'Socialism and Self Reliance'), na (and) Kutofungamana na Upande wowote ("Non Alignment").

**Famous philosopher's quotes:**
- Nukuu maarufu: "Violence is unnecessary and costly. Peace is the only way"....J.K.Nyerere (1922-99)
  
  "Vita si ya lazima, na ni ya ghali. Amani ndiyo njia pekee".J.K.Nyerere (1922 - 1999)

- “Small nations are like indecently dressed women. They tempt the evil-minded.”

  "Mataifa madogo ni kama wanawake waliovaa kiholela. Huwuvutia wenyewe wazimu"....J.K.Nyerere(1922 - 99)
WHAT SAY YOU?

Global Talk wants your input!
Short articles, news, lyrics, poems etc.
on ANY cultures in ANY languages.

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