

## A Collaborative Approach to Philosophies of Justice and Harmony: Harmony versus Justice or Harmony and Justice?

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Harmony and justice are key themes in studies on individual morality, social ethics, and political order. In comparative investigations on the Chinese and Western philosophical traditions, these concepts have been used to either parse out the differences, or as evidence of some commonality, between great thinkers from Confucius, Mencius, and Zhuangzi, to Plato, Aristotle, and Rawls. In this paper I will seek an alternative approach. Rather than using justice and harmony to conduct a comparative or contrastive analysis of Chinese and Western philosophical traditions, I will attempt to initiate a collaborative dialogue. Here I shall argue that harmony and justice themselves, and also insofar as they are taken as repetitive of Chinese and Western philosophies, demonstrate an inherently connective and complementary relationship. Furthermore, as part of a collaborative approach they can and should function as mutually informative and corrective. Accordingly, when harmony and justice are integrated we gain a much richer appreciation of not only the comparison of Chinese and Western philosophies, but of ethics, morality, and order themselves.