

Sywndž

Sywǎndž came of a noble family of Jàu, possessed of both means and ambition .At the time of his birth in 0310, Mencius was still alive, though of little account after the disaster which had followed his advice to Chí, about annexing Yēn.

14. **The Great Rú.** From the beginning, Sywǎndž took his own way. He went to Lǔ for his education. Passing up the Analects group, who were in decline after rejecting war, he instead studied the classical tradition of the Shī. He then sought office in one state after another, finally winning a prestige appointment as senior resident at the Chí Academy.

15. **Sywǎndž in Chǔ.** Then, seeing where the winds of the time were blowing, he accepted an appointment under Chǔ, which had conquered part of Lǔ. When that conquest was completed, and he found himself in charge of Lǔ, he promptly destroyed all the schools of thought within his reach. In Chǔ he continued to teach the Shī, making yet more solid the foundation for his later reputation.

16. **The Chín Interlude.** All such things were suddenly imperiled when Chín completed its conquest of the northern states, and established its universal Empire. How would the Confucian enterprise, in Sywǎndž's or in any other version, survive?

The Chín Empire collapsed after less than 20 years, only to be succeeded by yet another Empire, that of Hàn, and the survival of Confucianism, in any form, continued to be in doubt.