

Précis:

Make a précis of the following passage and suggest a suitable heading.

The civilization of China - as every one knows, is based upon the teaching of Confucius who flourished five hundred years before Christ. Like the Greeks and Romans, he did not think of human society as naturally progressive; on the contrary, he believed that in remote antiquity rulers had been wise and the people had been happy to a degree which the degenerate present could admire but hardly achieve. This, of course, was a delusion. But the practical result was the Confucius, like other teachers of antiquity, aimed at creating a stable society, maintaining a certain level of excellence, but not always striving after new successes. In this he was more successful than any other man who ever lived. His personality has been stamped on Chinese Civilization from his day to our own. During his life time, the Chinese occupied only a small part of present day China, and were divided into a number of warring states. During the next three hundred years they established themselves throughout what is now China proper, and founded an empire exceeding in territory and population any other that existed until the last fifty years. In spite of barbarian invasions, and occasional longer or shorter periods of Chaos and Civil War, the Confucian system survived bringing with it art and literature and a civilised way of life. A system which has had this extra ordinary power of survival must have great merits, and certainly deserves our respect and consideration. It is not a religion, as we understand the word, because it is not associated with the super natural or with mystical beliefs. It is purely ethical system, but its ethics, unlike those of Christianity, are not too exalted for ordinary men to practise. In essence what Confucius teaches is something is very like the old-fashioned ideal of a 'gentleman' as it existed in the eighteenth century. One of his sayings will illustrate this: 'The true gentleman is never contentious...he courteously salutes his opponents before taking up his position,...so that even when competing he remains a true gentleman'.

Role of Confucius in China

The civilization of China depends upon the teaching of Confucius. He did not think human society was naturally advanced. Although he believed that primitive rulers were brilliant and that people were pleased with them, but this was false belief. Practically progress was due to Confucius. As, he was victorious over all others. During his period, China captured a small part of land and was distributed into many conflicting states. For next years, Chinese settled themselves throughout region which they occupy today. In times of war and chaos, Confucius system remained alive due to its arts and literature. Such a system deserves respect and attention. This system was based on moral principles. The Confucianism was old and existed in eighteenth century.

Words in passage: 383 words

Words in précis: 319 words