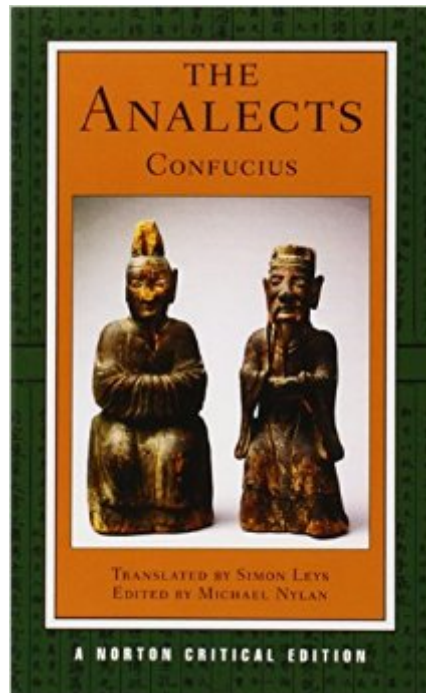


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# The Analects (Norton Critical Editions)



## Synopsis

Leys has made Confucius speak English more persuasively than any translator to date. His achievement is one of simplicity. . . . Leys sees his task as making the Confucius of the Analects fully persuasive again. He does this brilliantly. • Stephen Owen, *The New Republic*

The Norton Critical Edition aims to situate the historical figure of Kongzi, the legendary figure of Confucius, and the Analects (or Lunyu), the single most influential book ascribed to the Master's circle of disciples, within their evolving ethical, cultural, and political contexts. Simon Leys's acclaimed translation and notes are accompanied by Michael Nylan's insightful introduction. Eleven essays by leading experts in the field of Chinese studies discuss a broad range of issues relating to the Analects, from the origins of the classicists (Ru) and the formation of the Analects text to the use (and abuse) of the Master's iconic image in twentieth- and twenty-first-century Asian, diasporic, and Western settings. Collectively, these readings suggest that the Confucius we thought we knew is not the Kongzi of record and that this Kongzi is a protean figure given to rapid change and continual reevaluation. Contributors include Henry Rosemont Jr., Nicolas Zufferey, Robert Eno, Thomas Wilson, Sébastien Billioud and Vincent Goossaert, Julia K. Murray, Mark Csikszentmihalyi and Tae Hyun Kim, Eric L. Hutton, Luke Habberstad, He Yuming, and Sam Ho. 20

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## Customer Reviews

I have not yet found a translation and commentary on the Analects that suits my purposes, and I

think I must give up on these new English editions. There is nothing particularly offensive about this edition, but it is not a copy you will want to keep close at hand, the way one can do with the Norton edition of Emerson's Prose and Poetry. Here are the main sections of this translation:1) Two introductions, including a very useful and welcome comparison of three earlier translations.2) The Analects, without any footnotes, commentary, or original Chinese -- giving off the impression of being stark naked. The translation is quite good, and does not jump at the chance to make arbitrary revisionist changes like Slingerland, or wrecking the text with philosophical expressions like Ames and Rosemont. My main critique is that it does not lend itself to quick and easy discovery of the interpretation, the original text, and the translator's textual notes. As such it is less than ideal for serious study. Even Legge's translation would be better in this respect. One positive thing about this choice of format is that it makes it clear how vague Confucius is without any context and why a guiding hand and critical mind are so necessary for Confucianism, but having read many Analects translations, I get the idea by now.3) A healthy collection of endnotes, placed right in the middle of the book and hard to flip back and forth to easily.

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