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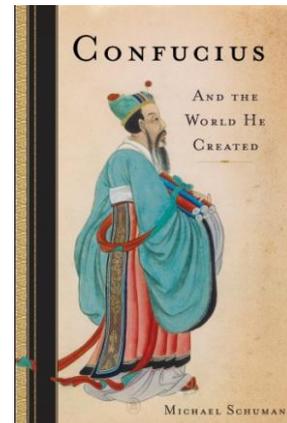
“Michael Schuman’s book is nothing short of indispensable reading for anyone trying to comprehend the local, regional, and global impact of China and its motivating philosophical underpinnings.”

—John Huntsman, former United States Ambassador to China

CONFUCIUS AND THE WORLD HE CREATED

By Michael Schuman

Published by Basic Books, 19 March, £20, Hb



Confucius is the most influential Chinese thinker in history. 2,500 years after his death his teachings are still deeply ensconced within the societies of East Asia and continue to shape the habits and beliefs of more than 1.6 billion people. Yet, he remains relatively unknown in the West. In a fascinating new biography of the philosopher, award-winning journalist, Michael Schuman, shows not only how Confucius has changed the world, but explains why it is more important than ever for Westerners to understand the philosopher and his legacy.

In his book, **CONFUCIUS: And the World He Created**, Schuman describes how his teachings are incorporated into all parts of life in East Asia, from government offices and corporate boardrooms to factory floors and schoolrooms, and even in the bedroom. He influences what they think about democracy, raise children, choose careers, socialize, and understand their own identities, and without an appreciation of the philosopher, Schuman contends that it’s not possible to conduct business, form relationships, or comprehend what motivates East Asians.

Little is known about Confucius’ life, and what is known was written by other people. For this reason there has been great debate over which of his recorded teachings can be deemed authentic. Schuman considers the evidence, and looks at the controversy surrounding his teachings, with some people attacking the philosopher for promoting dictatorship, the oppression of women, and a disregard for human rights, while others praise him for instilling discipline in his followers and for the importance he places on family life and education.

Combining philosophy, history, and current affairs, **CONFUCIUS: And the World He Created**, reveals the values at the heart of East Asian civilization, and is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand modern Asia.

About the author: Michael Schuman is a correspondent for *Time*, covering Asia and the global economy. His previous book was ***The Miracle: The Epic Story of Asia’s Quest for Wealth***. He lives in Beijing and is available for interviews and to write articles.

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