

PHILOSOPHY

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Ethical leadership: confucianism as a “soft power” in the international political space

The article analyzes the principles of the “noble husband” of Confucius as an ideal political figure. The concept of “ethical leadership”, based on Confucian ideas, is contrasted with Western rhetorical leadership. In the international political discourse, Chinese politicians actively promote the image of the Chinese “father of the nation”, who possesses such qualities of a “noble husband” as humanity, justice, intelligence, sincerity and respect. Confucianism is used in the international political arena as a tool of “soft power” to demonstrate the attractiveness of Chinese philosophical ideas in the state structure.

Key words: ethical leadership, Confucianism, Western leadership, Confucius, “noble man”, “Father of the nation”.

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