

Buddhism dbq essay

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The Buddhist religion, starting in India and spreading to China, was being accepted all over Asia. Although Buddhism was spreading, not all of the people in China wanted it to become their main religion over Confucianism and other small religions that had popped up. Some of the people in China thought that by accepting Buddhism that they would be going against their own traditions and their way of life. Two other documents that would be helpful in finding how the Buddhist religion affected the people of China would be a diary entry from a merchant to show how the people of the lower class looked at Buddhism, and a Map that shows the spread of Buddhism across China to see how many people converted to Buddhism. Many who accepted Buddhism saw the religion as a way to start their life fresh and keep their life simple.

Zhi Dun, a Chinese scholar, says that the basics of Buddhism are that if you serve Buddha, and obey his “ laws”, then you will be enlightened and will enter “ Nirvana”. As a high government official he believes that the “ laws” of Buddhism are needed to run a correct and proper society. In the document by Buddhist monk, it talks about “ The Four Noble Truths”, the first speech spoken by Buddha, introducing Buddhism. Buddha talks about “ the Noble Truth of Sorrow”, “ the Noble Truth of arising Sorrow”, and “ the Noble truth of the Stopping of Sorrow” to show that if the people convert to Buddhism that their lives will be simple if they follow the rules. Buddha thinks that the “ Noble truths” are the way to reach Nirvana and the way to lead your life.

In the document by the Anonymous Chinese scholar he supports the Buddhist religion and compares it to Confucianism, “ Comparing a white deer

to a unicorn. ” He says that there is no way that the two religions can compare, that they both look at the worlds in their own way. He thinks that Buddhism is the laws that Confucianism follows just told differently.

In the document written by Zong Mi, a leading Buddhist scholar, talks good about not only Buddhism, but also Confucianism and Daoism. He thinks that Buddhism, Confucianism, and Daoism each think about the peoples need and how to keep an orderly society and that all of the leaders should be respected greatly. All of these documents have a positive outlook at Buddhism and show the reason why the people should convert to Buddhism. Some people saw Buddhism as a threat of their societies. During the time of the Tang there was a lot of turmoil and suffering and many people thought that by inviting a new religion they would fall into an even bigger hole than they already where in. Han Yu, a Confucian scholar and official at the Tang court, says that Buddhist in his mind are “ barbarians”. Because he was a Confucian scholar he believed in Confucianism and saw it part of his duty to end Buddhism in China so then he would be seen as a hero and maybe even boost his status.

Tang Emperor Wu, not only hated Buddhist, but he also wrote a law saying that Confucianism will better the nation unlike Buddhism. He wrote the law by his own self saying that Buddhism is not the way of life and he didn’t ask his people really, he states he did but he does not, so he is biased against Buddhism. Those two documents show that the people of the Tang era see Buddhism as a threat and would rather turn to Confucianism. Some of the Chinese people look at both Buddhism and Confucianism as 2 different religions that can coincide with each other both bettering the nation in its

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different ways. In the document by an anonymous Chinese scholar he says that Buddhism and Confucianism can't be compared and that they both have a different view on the way people should chose to lead their lives. " All written works need not necessarily be the words of Confucius.

" Not all of the religions should be compared to Confucianism. Another document that says that they can be together was the one written by Zong Mi, he states that the main teachers of the different religions in China had their own unique way of teaching and that they just had different views but in the end they all had a way to better the nation. Some of the people of the higher status had views that the world can be shared and that there is room for other religions. Throughout time Buddhism has slowly spread through China and Asia and lead many people to find that their own religion may not be what they are looking for in life and cause them to change their traditional religion to Buddhism so they can live a better, simpler life.