

# [Compare and contrast the writings of confucius, ha](https://assignbuster.com/compare-and-contrast-the-writings-of-confucius-ha/)

mmurabi, and the booThree of the most   
famous writings from ancient civilizations are the writings of   
Confucius, Hammurabi's code of laws, and Egypt's Book of   
the Dead. At first, they seem very different, they're from   
different times, regions, and religions, but they all offer a   
peek into what values ancient people considered important.

One of the values that all three civilizations is justice and   
fairness. I feel that this is best viewed in Hammurabi's laws.

All of the penalties for the crimes are very stiff, but fair. I feel   
that it is fair that " If he has broken the limb of a patrician, his   
limb shall be broken" It's like in the Bible " An eye for an eye,   
and a tooth for a tooth." In Egypt, in the Book of the Dead,   
a man couldn't proceed into the after life unless he was found   
innocent of any wrong doing on Earth. In Confucius'   
writings, he never actually says the word " justice", but he   
does say " Great Man cherishes excellence; Petty Man, his   
own comfort. Great Man cherishes the rules and regulations;   
Petty Man special favors." To me, that mean " Great Man is   
fair, Petty man is unfair." The second of these three values is   
responsibility and respect to one's family and elders, and   
responsibility and respect to others families and elders. This   
is most evident in Confucius' writings. He is constantly   
stressing family values and responsibility. One quote that   
shows this is " Let the sole sorry of your parents be that you   
might become ill." This stresses personal responsibility and   
respect to your parents. Hammurabi showed responsibility   
by saying " If a builder has built a house for a man, and has   
not made his work sound, and the house he built has fallen,   
and caused the death of the man's son, the builder's son shall   
be put to death." That quote shows a man's responsibility for   
himself and his family. In Egypt, during the ritual of the dead,   
it is said that the dead man, in order to pass into the afterlife,   
must profess that he has not done anything to hurt anyone.

This shows responsibility because if the man did not tell the   
truth, he was responsible for not entering the afterlife.

Knowing that they would be responsible for their actions, the   
Egyptians tried not to hurt people in their mortal lives. The   
final value that all three cultures had in common was being   
truthful. All three cultures relied heavily on the truth. In   
Hammurabi's laws, it says " If a man has borne false witness   
in a trial, or has not established the statement that he has   
made, if that case be a capital trial, that man shall be put to   
death." In other words " If you lie, you die." When Confucius   
examined himself every day, he asked the question " have I   
been false with my friends?" In Egypt, it was important that a   
man be truthful when brought before Osiris, because if they   
didn't tell the truth, they would be banished from the afterlife.

One of the lines of the Book of the Dead reads " I have not   
committed sin in the place of truth," which I read as " I have   
not lied." Each one of these three civilizations used different   
methods to enforce them. In Sumer, Hammurabi's strict   
punishments kept people from disobeying them. On the   
other hand, Egypt didn't use any kind of physical   
punishment, but they used threats. The people thought that if   
they went against the values, Osiris, god of the afterlife,   
would punish them after their died. In China, the values   
weren't enforced, but they were protected by the   
government. In the second century B. C., Confucianism   
became the official philosophy of China, thus preserving it   
for the future. I am greatly impressed by Hammurabi's ideas.

His laws may sound harsh, but they had to be. In ancient   
Sumer, you had to be harsh or people wouldn't even listen. I   
don't agree, however, with his double standards. I feel that a   
life is worth just as much whether it's a patrician or a   
plebeian. I think that Confucius' ideas are the ones that come   
the closest to my own beliefs. I like the fact that Confucius'   
ideas are still just as relevant today as they were in ancient   
China.