

*The Hàn Empire*

*After years of war, Hàn followed Chín, making the survival of Confucianism even more doubtful than before.*

17. **The Epic of Chǔ and Hàn.** The founding of Hàn did not pass without being celebrated in literature. At one point in the epic, we see the Confucians being accepted by one local ruler, but that state was soon wiped out.

18. **Opposition.** Peace brought no better prospects, since the founding figure, the commoner Lyóu Bāng, had conspicuous contempt for Confucians. Nor did things improve under later Emperors, whose wives sided vigorously with the rival philosophy of Dàuism.

19. **Acceptance,** when it finally came under Hàn Wǔ-dì, was still contested to the very end.

20. **Afterward.** Wǔ-dì's long reign was followed by a long survival of Hàn itself, which after a brief interlude, was revived to last another two centuries. We conclude with a look backward at the content of Hàn Confucianism as Hàn had first defined it, in the curriculum of Wǔ-dì's Imperial Academy.

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*In Hàn times, and for centuries afterward, the contribution of Confucianism to the civil service made China what the Europeans, when they learned of it, found it to be: "the best governed country in the world."*