

Chinese Cultural Studies: Pinyin/Wade-Giles Names

Although the the pinyin system is easier than the Wade-Giles sytem, some names are so familiar in Wade-Giles, and appear so different in pinyin, that the follwing list might prove useful. It should also be added that, further complicatin the issue, some names are traditionally known in dialect form rather than "correct" Wade-Giles [for instance the Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek], others are known from the distinct names given by the Chinese postal service in the early 20th century, and finally some names derive from exclusively European sources, for instance "Formosa" for Taiwan, and "Canton" for "Guangzhou". I have tried to sort all these out below. The table is also a useful reference for dates and so forth.

For more information on Chinese see

A general introduction to The Chinese Language and Pronunciation
a more specific discussion of Chinese Logographic Writing and
a discussion of Chinese Pronunciation

Traditional	Pinyin	Significance
PEOPLE [in approx chron. order]		
Confuci us, K'ung Fu-tsu	Kung Fu Zi 551-479 BCE	philosopher - Confucian
Lao-tzu	Laozi 6th C BCE?	philosopher - Daoist
Mo-tzu	Mozi, Mo Di 470-391? BCE	philosopher - Mohist
Mencius, Meng-tsu	Mengzi, 372-289? BCE	philosopher - Confucian
Hsün-tzi	Xun zi 298-235 BCE	philosopher - Confucian
Sun Tzu	Sun Zi , c. 5-6th cent.? BCE	war theorist
Chuang Chou, Ch'uang-tzu	Zhuangzi c. 300 BCE	philosopher - Daoist
Shang Yang	Shang Yang, d. 338 BCE	philosopher - legalist

Ch'ih-shih Huang Ti	Qin Shi Huang Di	First emperor
Ssuma Ch'ien	Sima Qian c.145-85 BCE	historian
Han Fei-tzu	Han Fei Zi 280?-233/4 BCE	philosopher - legalist
Fa-hsien	Faxian c.399-414 CE	Buddhist traveler
Chu Hsi	Zhu Xi 1130-1200 CE	philosopher - neo-Confucian
Ssuma Kuang	Siam Guang 1019-1086 CE	historian
Li T'ai-po	Li Bo ,c.1200 CE	poet - S. Song dynasty.
Chu Yüan-chang CE	Zhu Yuanzhang r.1368-1398	1st Ming - the Hung Wu emperor
Tsao Hsueh-chin CE	Cao Xueqin ?1724-1764 C	novelist - Dream of Red Chamber
K'ang-hsi	Kang Xi 1661-1722 CE	2nd Qing emp.
Yung Cheng	Yong Zheng 1723-1736 CE	3rd Qing emp.
Ch'ien-lung	Qian Long 1736-1795 CE	4th Qing emp.
Tz'u Hsi	Cixi 1838-1908 CE	the "empress dowager"
Lu Hsun	Lu Xun d.1936 CE	modern writer
Sun Yat-sen [dialect form], Sun Wen	Sun 1866-1925 CE	politican - nationalist
Yüan Shih-k'ai	Yuan Shikai, d. 1916 CE	President ROC, 1912
Ch'iang Kai-shek [dialect form]	Jiang Jieshi 1888-1975 CE	politician - nationalist
Mao Tse-tung	Mao Zedong 1893?-1976 CE	Communist leader
Chou En-lai	Zhou Enlai d. 1976	Communist politician

Teng Hsiao-peng Deng Xiaoping Communist politician

DIVINE BEINGS

Amitabha [Sanskrit] O-mi-to Fo Jap. "Amida", Buddha of
Western Paradise

Maitreya [Sanskrit] Mi-lo Fo the Buddha to come

Avalokitesvara [Sanskrit] Guan Yin Bodhisattva of Infinite
Kuan Yin [Wade Giles] Compassion

DYNASTY NAMES

Shang Shang c. 16C-1027 BCE Chinese bronze age

Chou Zhou 1027-221 BCE "classic" period of Chinese
culture

Ch'in Qin 221-206 BCE origin of western name
"China"

Han Han 206 CE-221 CE now name of ethnic Chinese

Sui Sui 589-618 CE

T'ang Tang 618-907 CE

Sung Song 960-1127

Yüan [Mongol] Yuan 1280-1368

Ming Ming 1368-1644 means "brilliant"

Ch'ing [Manchu] Qing [Manzhou]
1644-1911CE

Kuomintang [the KMT] Gua Min Dang, f. 1912 CE Chinese Nationalist Party

PLACES - Cities [north to south]

Harbin	Harbin	in Heilongjiang province [Manchuria]
Kirin	Jilin	in Jilin province [Manchuria]
Ch'angch'un	Changchun	in Jilin province [Manchuria]
Shenyang/Fengt'ien/Mukden	Shenyang	in Liaoning province [Manchuria]
Anshan	Anshan	in Liaoning province [Manchuria]
T'angshan	Tangshan	in Hebei province
Dalien/Talien/Dairen	Lüda	
Peking	Beijing	"northern capital", cap Yuan, Ming, Qing
Tientsin	Tianjin	
T'aiyuan	Taiyuan	in Shanxi province
Tsinan	Jinan	in Shandong province
Ch'ingtao or Tsingtao	Qingdao	in Shandong province
Lanchou	Lanzhou	in Gansu province
K'aifeng	Kaifeng	in Henan province, cap. N. Song dyn.
Ch'ang-an [now Sian]	Changan [now Xian]	in Henan. cap. Qin, Han, Sui, & Tang dyns.
Loyang	Luoyang	in Henan, cap. Han dynasty
Nanking	Nanjing	"southern capital", cap. Ming dyn., ROC

Shanghai	Shanghai	largest city in modern China
Hangchow	Hangzhou	In Zhejiang province. cap Sth. Song dyn.
Wuhan. inc. Hankow	Wuhan, inc. Hankow	in Hubei province
Ch'engtu	Chengdu	in Sichuan province
Chungking	Chongqing	in Sichuan province
Ch'angsha	Changsha	in Hunan province
Nanch'ang	Nanchang	in Jiangxi province
Foochow	Fuzhou	in Fujian province
K'unming	Kunming	in Yunnan province
Hsiamen or Amoy	Xiamen	In Fujian province, old treaty port
Canton	Guangzhou	in Guangdong province
Hong Kong	Xianggang	British trade port
Macao	Aumen	Portuguese trade port

PLACES - Provinces [nth.
to sh]

Heilungchiang	Heilongjiang	in Manchuria
Kirin	Jilin	in Manchuria
Liaoning	Liaoning	in Manchuria
Hopei or Hopeh	Hebei	around Beijing
Shantung	Shandong	
Shansi	Shanxi	loc. of Xian, early Chinese culture

Shensi	Shaanxi	
Kansu	Gansu	
Ch'inghai	Qinghai	
Henan	Honan	loc. of Luoyang, Tanf cap.
Anhui	Anhui	
Kiangsu	Jiangsu	location of Nanking
Szech'uan or Szechwan	Sichuan	now larges pop. in China
Hupei or Hupeh	Hubei	
Chekiang	Zhejiang	location of Hangzhou
Hunan	Guizhou	
Chianghsi or Kiangsi	Jiangxi	
Fukien	Fujian	
Yünnan	Yunnan	
Kwangsi	Guangxi	
Kwangtung	Guangdong	center of modern economic growth

PLACES - other

Yellow River	Huang Ho	
Yang-tse River	Yangzi	
Formosa [Portugues "beautiful"]	Taiwan	cuurent location of Rep. of China
Manchukuo	Manzhougou	Japanese client state in Manchuria

BOOKS

The Five Classics	Wu Jing	"jing" means "classic"
I Ching	Yi Jing	Book of Changes
Shu Ching	Shu Jing	Book of History of Documents
Shi Ching	Shi Jing	Book of Odes
Li Ching	Li Jing	Book of Ritual
-Li shi	-Li Ji	-best known part of Book of Ritual
Ch'un ch'iu	Chunqui	Spring and Autumn Annals
The Four Books	Shi Shu	Confucian classics - all after Confucius
Lun-yü	Lun yu	the "Analects"
Meng-tzu	Mengzi	sayings of Mencius
Ta Hsio	Da Xue	The Great Learning, pt of Book of Rites
Chung Yung	Jung Yung	The Doctrine of the Mean, pt of Book of Rites
Tao Te Ching	Dao De Jing	Classic of the Way and Virtue
Shih Chi	Shi Ji	"Historical Records" of Sima Qian

CONCEPTS

tien	tian	"Heaven"
tao	dao	the "Way"
ch'i	qi	"matter of an object"
	li	"form of an object"
wen	wen	writing, civil government
p'u		simplicity
	po	animal or life soul
	hun	spiritual, or personality soul
	shen	"gods"
wu	wu	action
wu wei	wu wei	non-action
yang	yang	male
yin	yin	female

Confucian Virtues

ren	"humanity" [humanitas]
li	ritual, courtesy
yi	uprightness
zhi	moral knowledge
xin	faithfulness, integrity
Zhing	loyalty, steadfastness

Misc

Ch'an

Chan

Chinese "Zen" Buddhism

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