

FREE & PROSPEROUS. How can we make our country less vulnerable to terrorist attacks? **W**e are a liberal society and protective measures can only be taken so far - beyond a certain point they will be intrusive, restrictive and intolerable. **T**hus - in reality - free and prosperous countries will always be vulnerable to 9/11-like attacks. **B**ut these attacks will end when the countries that breed terrorism are free and prosperous too.

“If you want freedom, give others freedom - if you want prosperity, give others prosperity.”

The above is a version of the Confucian principle of Reciprocal Mutual Respect; it cultivates harmony.

Confucianism is an ethical philosophy that stresses the importance of moral development of the individual, so that society can be governed by moral virtue rather than the use of coercive laws and force. Confucius fostered human relationships in the context of humaneness - his teachings are imbued with Virtue Ethics.*

Confucius believed social disorder stemmed from failure to perceive, understand and deal with reality. Confucius' concept of humaneness is best expressed in the ancient Golden Rule: What you do not wish for yourself, do not do to others. Expressed positively: We will provide to others what we want for ourselves.

**Virtue Ethics stress integrity rather than rules - you do what's right rather than what is prescribed.*

Confucius
was a 500BCE Chinese philosopher who emphasised morality, justice and sincerity in social relationships.

*see also ENLIGHTENMENT 3
CONFUCIANISM*