





Location	Date	Religion
Persia -- Zoroaster	600-583	Zoroastrianism (dualism)
India – Vardhamana	599-527	Jainism
India – Gautama the Buddha	560-480	Buddhism
India – Hindu reformers	ca 600	Vedanta Monism (Upanishads)
China – Lao-Tzu	604-517	Taoism
China – Confucius	551-479	Confucianism
Exile communities & restoration	ca 500	Law-centered Judaism

“[The early Greek philosophers] proceeded with preposterous boldness on an entirely unproven assumption. They held that the universe is an intelligible whole. In other words, they presumed that a single order underlies the chaos of our perceptions and, furthermore, that we are able to comprehend that order. . . .[They attempted] to reach a vantage point where the phenomena would reveal their hidden coherence. It was the unshakeable conviction of the Ionians, Pythagoreans, and early Eleatics that such a vantage point existed; and they searched for the road leading to it, not in the manner of scientists but in that of conquistadors.” – Henri Frankfort, Before Philosophy

“If you can realize how insufferably the world was oppressed by the notion that everything that happened was an arbitrary personal act of an arbitrary personal God of dangerous, jealous and cruel personal character, you will understand how the world jumped at Darwin.”

– George Bernard Shaw