



## **How Three Great Ideas Influence Principal Instructional Leadership in Shanghai**

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Leadership is contextual, and great ideas are always on the bottom. Similar to Dr. Mortimer Adler's *Six Great Ideas*, Chinese culture has three great ideas: Zhi (Wisdom), Ren (Morality), Yong (Courage). Across the data collected from interviews with principals in Shanghai, a major finding is that the traditional great ideas influence on how school principals' instructional leadership in such a modern city. The paper is comprised of the six sections. Following the first introductory section, the second section reviews the literature on instructional leadership in Shanghai. The third section reviews the three great ideas of the Confucian societies. The fourth section introduces the background the study and the sources of data. The fifth section reports the major findings and answers the question: How the three great ideas influence school principals' instructional leadership, including the way of leadership, the mode of thinking, the relationship between principals and teachers, and the self-perception of principal. The final section will summarize the paper and further discuss the role of great ideas in shaping principal instructional leadership in Shanghai.