Chinese medicine is a microcosmic branch of ancient Chinese philosophy and cosmology. The better one understands the philosophical foundations of Chinese medicine, the deeper one’s knowledge of its core concepts and terminology can be. Theories such as yin and yang, the five phase elements, the hierarchical relationship between matter, energy, and consciousness, the supremacy of spirit, and the twelve organ networks were first mentioned in the Daoist and Confucian classics of the Han and Pre-Han periods of Chinese antiquity (fl. 700 BC - 200 AD) before they appeared in the keystone works of Chinese medicine. The following represents a comprehensive list of relevant philosophical, scientific, and literary works from the formative period of Chinese medicine in English translation.

GENERAL TEXTS


**YIJING TRANSLATIONS AND COMMENTARIES**


DAOIST TEXTS


CONFUCIAN TEXTS


---

**MONOGRAPHS ON HAN AND PRE-HAN CULTURE**


*7000 Years of Chinese Civilization: Chinese Art and Archaeology From the Neolithic Period to the Han Dynasty*. Milan: Silvana Editoriale, 1983.


