I. Introduction
   A. Why are we studying this topic?
      1. I-Kuan Tao is not a religion.
         a) It is not a continuation of a religion, a philosophy, or a set of teachings.
         b) It is a continuation of the Lineage of Tao, the spirit of the Patriarchs, and the mission of direct Tao transmission.
      2. Tao is formless. So we have to look at phenomena to realize Tao. The Lineage of Tao is one set of phenomena.
   B. Definition of Terms
      1. Lineage of Tao: a line of patriarchs who are the primary enlightening masters responsible for transmitting Tao and also responsible for the continuation of the Lineage.
         a) It is sacred heavenly secret, and it is very difficult to describe.
         b) It is not a lineage of philosophy or thinking, and it does not belong to a particular religion or sect.
         c) It is different from the Confucian Lineage of Tao and it is different from heritage of Chinese culture.
         d) It is beyond culture, nationalities, race and gender.
         e) It is of this whole physical world.
      2. Heavenly Post: a post in which an enlightened being is responsible for all living beings; all living beings take refuge in this enlightened being.
      3. Post of Tao Transmission: a post in which an executor actually performs the tasks and the mission of the enlightened being of the Heavenly Post.
      4. Heavenly Decree: a mandate from God; also known as the Mandate of Heaven or the Divine Authority.
      5. Enlightening Masters with Heavenly Decree: any enlightened person who has a decree from God to transmit Tao to others; all patriarchs are enlightening masters, but not all enlightening masters are patriarchs.
      6. The Three Eras of Calamities: a theory which interprets and systematizes human history.

II. Perspectives of World History
   A. Generally, Eastern civilizations view time as a cycle, Western civilizations view time as a line.
   B. Specifically, Chinese Neo-Confucian Shao Yong devised the "Yuan-Hui Theory" to systematize time.
      1. 12 Hours in a Day, 30 Days in a Month, 12 Months in a Year, 30 Years in a Shi, 12 Shi's in a Yun, 30 Yun's in a Hui, 12 Hui's in a Yuan.
2. There are 10,800 Years in a Hui, for a total of 129,600 Years in a Yuan.

C. I-Kuan Tao disciples use the "Yuan-Hui Theory" to describe world history.
   1. During the First Hui, Heaven was created; during the Second Hui, Earth was formed; during the Third Hui, human beings were born.
   2. Currently, the time is at the end of the Seventh Hui and beginning of the Eighth Hui.
   3. In the Ninth Hui, human beings will disappear; in the Tenth Hui, Earth will end; in the Eleventh Hui, Heaven will close.

III. The Heavenly Posts
   A. According to the "Yuan-Hui Theory," human beings exist from the beginning of the Fourth Hui to the beginning of the Ninth Hui (half of a Yuan). Within these 64,800 years, there are ten generations of Buddhas responsible for the Heavenly Posts.
   B. The first seven generations of Buddhas are to govern the World. They governed the World from the beginning of the Fourth Hui to the middle of the Seventh Hui. During this time, there was no human history. Human beings were acting according to Tao.
      1. Chiai Fo for 6,000 years (during the Fourth Hui).
      2. Shengyu Fo for 4,800 years (during the Fourth Hui).
      3. Jiasanchun Fo for 3,720 years (during the Fifth Hui).
      4. Youchanggeng Fo for 7,080 years (during the Fifth Hui).
      5. Konggu Fo for 5,284 years (during the Sixth Hui).
      6. Longye Fo for 5,516 years (during the Sixth Hui).
      7. Jitian Fo for 5,800 years, with Fuxi as the representative for 500 years (during the Seventh Hui).
   C. The last three generations of Buddhas are to bring all living beings back to their originality. Human history began in the latter half of the Seventh Hui. Human beings forgot about Tao, so they need enlightened beings to guide them back to Tao. During this time, human civilization advanced tremendously, but often at the expense of the Earth and human lives. Thus, human beings brought disasters upon themselves, and the Eras of Calamities began.
      1. Dipamkara Buddha (Randeng Fo) was responsible for the Era of the Green Sun (1,500 years, during the Seventh Hui).
      2. Sakyamuni Buddha (Shijiamouni Fo) was responsible for the Era of the Red Sun (3,000 years, during the Seventh Hui).
      3. Maitreya Buddha (Mi-le Fo) is responsible for the current Era of the White Sun (10,800 years, during the Eighth Hui).

IV. The Lineage of Tao
   A. The Lineage of Tao consists of sixty-four generations of Patriarchs.
      1. Sixty-four is a symbolic number of completeness because in the *Book of Changes* the Eight Diagrams manifest into sixty-four diagrams.
2. The sixty-four diagrams symbolize all the possible changes in the physical world.

3. Thus, there will be no more patriarchs after sixty-four generations.

B. Tao is with different types of people in different time periods.

1. During the Era of the Green Sun, Tao was with kings. Kings and ministers were the patriarchs in the Lineage of Tao and the enlightening masters. The vehicle for propagating Tao during this time period was politics.
   a) e.g. King Yao, King Shun, King Wen of Zhou, King Wu of Zhou, Duke of Zhou, King David, King Solomon.
   b) there were no real philosophers or teachers during this time period.

2. During the Era of the Red Sun, Tao was with teachers. Teachers and religious masters were the patriarchs in the Lineage of Tao and the enlightening masters. The vehicle for propagating Tao during this time period was religions.
   a) e.g. Lao-Tzu, Confucius, the Buddha, Jesus Christ, Mohammed, Aristotle, Socrates.
   b) there were no sage kings anymore during this time period.

3. During the current Era of the White Sun, Tao is with the people. Ordinary people are the patriarchs in the Lineage of Tao and the enlightening masters. The vehicle for propagating Tao now is perhaps human relationships.
   a) e.g. Patriarch Lu, Patriarch Zhang, Matriarch Sun, Elder Han, Senior Chen, the transmitting masters.
   b) the propagation of Tao during this time period may not have to depend on religious teachings.

C. The Earlier Eighteen Generations of the East occurred in China, the Middle Twenty-eight Generations of the West occurred in India, and the Latter Eighteen Generations of the East occurred in China.

1. Fuxi: according to one Chinese legend, the first human being; discovered the Eight Diagrams; he was responsible for the Post of Tao Transmission in the Era of the Green Sun.

2. Shennong: sometimes known as Yan Di (the Red Emperor); famous for tasting the herbs to determine their functions; taught people to farm.

3. Xuanyuan: usually known as Huang Di (the Yellow Emperor); commonly regarded as the first Chinese ruler; his reign marked the beginning of official Chinese history at 2697 BC.

4. Shaohao: reigned around 2598 BC to 2515 BC.

5. Zhuanxu: reigned around 2514 BC to 2437 BC.

6. Di Ku: reigned around 2436 BC to 2367 BC.

7. Di Yao: or King Yao; the famous saintly king that reigned around 2357 BC to 2258 BC; regarded as the King of Heaven.
8. Di Shun: or King Shun; famous for his filial piety and farming skills; reigned around 2257 BC to 2208 BC; regarded as the King of Earth.

9. Xia Yu: the founder of the first dynasty in China, the Xia Dynasty; reigned from 2207 BC to 2198 BC; famous for taming the rivers to prevent flood and for his dedication to work; regarded as the King of Water.

10. Yiyin: the minister that helped King Tang to establish the Shang Dynasty; famous for disciplining the Crowned Prince after Tang died.

11. Shang Tang: the founder of the second dynasty in China, the Shang Dynasty; reigned from 1765 BC to 1760 BC.

12. Tai Gong Wang: commonly know as Jiang Taigong; the minister that helped the Zhou state overthrow the Shang Dynasty; he was famous for fishing with a needle; later became responsible for the Post of Tao Transmission in the Era of the Red Sun.

13. King Wen, King Wu, Duke of Zhou
   a) King Wen of Zhou was a famous sage king who was a feudal king during the last years of Shang Dynasty; famous for expanding the Eight Diagrams to sixty-four diagrams.
   b) King Wu of Zhou was the first king of the Zhou Dynasty; he was the son of King Wen and reigned China from 1121 BC to 1116 BC.
   c) Duke of Zhou was the also the son of King Wen; famous for helping the son of his brother to be a good king without wanting to become a king; a sage that devised and systematized the Chinese rites.

14. Lao-Tzu: 604 BC-531 BC; the founder of Taoism, the philosophy; the author of Tao Te Ching.

15. Confucius: 551 BC-479 BC; the founder of Confucianism; regarded as the greatest teacher in Chinese history; known as the Greatest Sage.

16. Yanzi, Zengzi
   a) Yanzi’s name was Yan Hui; the disciple of Confucius, died in his thirties, before Confucius; known as the Returning Sage.
   b) Zengzi’s name was Zeng Shen; the disciple of Confucius; the author of The Great Learning; famous for his filial piety; known as the Sage of Lineage.

17. Zisi: his name was Kong Ji; the grandson of Confucius; the author of The Doctrine of Mean; the disciple of Zengzi; known as the Sage of Explanation.

18. Mencius: 372 BC-289 BC; his name is Meng Ke; regarded as the second greatest figure in Confucianism; the disciple of Zisi; author of the Book of Mencius; known as the Lesser Sage.
19. Mahakasyapa: the disciple of the Buddha; lived around 400 BC; the 1st Zen Patriarch.
20. Ananda: the disciple of the Buddha; lived around 400 BC; the 2nd Zen Patriarch.
27. Buddhhamitra: the 9th Zen Patriarch.
29. Punyayasas: the 11th Zen Patriarch.
30. Asyaghosa: the 12th Zen Patriarch; lived around 600 years after the death of the Buddha (around 100 AD); he was regarded as the author of *Awakening of Faith*.
32. Nagarjuna: the 14th Zen Patriarch; lived around 200 AD; famous for teaching about emptiness, and his teachings became the Madhyamika School; a common patriarch of virtually all Mahayana Buddhism.
33. Kanadeva: the 15th Zen Patriarch; also taught about emptiness.
34. Rahulata: the 16th Zen Patriarch.
35. Sanghanadi: the 17th Zen Patriarch.
36. Sanghayasas: the 18th Zen Patriarch.
39. Vasubandhu: the 21st Zen Patriarch; 320 AD-400AD; famous for teaching about consciousness-only and his teachings became the Yogacara School.
40. Manura: the 22nd Zen Patriarch.
41. Haklenayasas: the 23rd Zen Patriarch.
42. Sinha: the 24th Zen Patriarch.
43. Vasiastia: the 25th Zen Patriarch.
44. Punyamitra: the 26th Zen Patriarch.
45. Prajnatara: the 27th Zen Patriarch.
46. Bodhidharma: the 28th Zen Patriarch; went to China around 526 AD.
47. Bodhidharma: he then became the 1st Zen Patriarch of China; famous for establishing the Shao-Lin Temple.
49. Sengcan: 3rd Zen Patriarch of China.
50. Daoxin: 4th Zen Patriarch of China; famous for establishing the East Mountain School.
51. Hongren: 5th Zen Patriarch of China.
52. Huineng: 6th and last Zen Patriarch of China; there were no Zen Patriarchs after him; 638 AD-712 AD; his famous teachings were recorded in the *Platform Sutra*.

53. Bai Yuchan, Ma Duanyang: the 7th Patriarchs; received the Heavenly Decree around 676 AD.

54. Luo Weichun: the 8th Patriarch; a contemporary of the 7th Patriarchs (around 600 AD).

55. Huang Dehui: the 9th Patriarch; received the Heavenly Decree around 1660.

56. Wu Jinglin: the 10th Patriarch; received the Heavenly Decree around 1740.

57. He Liaoku: the 11th Patriarch; received the Heavenly Decree around 1800.

58. Yuan Tuian: the 12th Patriarch; received the Heavenly Decree around 1810.

59. Yang Huanxu, Xu Huanwu: the 13th Patriarchs; received the Heavenly Decree around 1830.

60. Yao Hetian: the 14th Patriarch; established Xi Qian Tang.

61. Wang Jueyi: the 15th Patriarch; received the Heavenly Decree around 1870; established Dong Zhen Tang.

62. Liu Qingxu: the 16th Patriarch; served from 1886-1905; named the group I-Kuan Tao.

63. Lu Zhongyi: the 17th Patriarch; 1848-1925; served from 1905 to 1925.

64. Zhang Tianran, Sun Huiming
   a) Patriarch Zhang is our holy teacher; 1889-1947; received the Heavenly Decree in 1930.
   b) Matriarch Sun is also our holy teacher; 1895-1975; received the Heavenly Decree in 1930.

V. Posts of Tao Transmission
   A. Fuxi was responsible during the Era of Green Sun.
   B. Jiang, Taigong was responsible for the Era of the Red Sun.
   C. Jigong and Yuehui are responsible for the current Era of the White Sun.

VI. Conclusion
   A. The mission of I-Kuan Tao is time significant.
      1. Since right now we are at the end of a chaotic world and the beginning of a peaceful world, human beings have the choice to have a smooth transition or a disastrous transition.
      2. If everyone is able to act according to the True Nature, then the transition to a peaceful world will be smooth.
      3. The mission of I-Kuan Tao is to help living beings realize their True Nature in this time of transition and decision.
   B. Let us hope that all human beings can return to the True Nature and act according to the Conscience so that we can all create a World of Great Harmony smoothly and peacefully.