

20. ANTOINE LAURENT LAVOISIER (1743 - 1794). "Most important figure in the development of chemistry"
19. NICOLAUS COPERNICUS (1473 - 1543). "... has revolutionized our conception of the universe...was the starting point of modern astronomy."
18. AUGUSTUS CAESAR (63 BC - 14 AD). "Founder of the Roman Empire, is one of the great pivotal figures in history."
17. SHIH HUANG TI (259 BC - 210 BC). "...united China by force of arms and instituted a set of sweeping reforms. Those reforms have been a major factor in the cultural unity that China has maintained ever since."
16. CHARLES DARWIN (1809 - 1882). "...originator of the theory of organic evolution by means of natural selection."
15. MOSES (fl. 13th c. BC). "Probably no person in history has been so widely admired as this great Hebrew prophet."
14. EUCLID (fl. c. 300 BC). "The 'Elements' has been used as a textbook for more than two thousand years...with the appearance of his book all prior geometry textbooks were superceded and promptly forgotten."
13. ARISTOTLE (384 BC - 322 BC). "...greatest philosopher and scientist of the ancient world."
12. GALILEO GALILEI (1564 - 1642). "...probably more responsible for the development of the scientific method than any other individual."
11. LOUIS PASTEUR (1822 - 1895). "...generally acknowledged to be the most important single figure in the history of medicine...Most famous for his advocacy of the germ theory of disease and for his development of the technique of preventative inoculation."
10. ALBERT EINSTEIN (1879 - 1955). "...greatest scientist of the twentieth century and one of the supreme intellects of all time...best known for his theory of relativity."
9. CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS (1451 - 1506). "His discovery [of the Americas], which inaugurated the age of exploration and colonization in the New World, was one of the critical turning points in history."
8. JOHANN GUTENBURG (1400 - 1468). "...develop[ed] the first method of utilizing movable type and the printing press in such a way that a large variety of written material could be printed with speed and accuracy."

7. TS'AI LUN (fl. c. 105 AD). "...the inventor of paper."
6. ST. PAUL (c. 4 AD - c. 64 AD). "...the foremost proselytizer of the new religion of Christianity. His influence on Christian theology proved to be the most permanent and far-reaching of all Christian writers and thinkers."
5. CONFUCIUS (551 BC - 479 BC). "...great Chinese philosopher...was the first man to develop a system of beliefs synthesizing the basic ideas of the Chinese people."
4. BUDDHA (563 BC - 483 BC).
3. JESUS CHRIST (c. 6 BC - c. 30 AD).
2. ISAAC NEWTON (1642 - 1727). "...greatest and most influential scientist who ever lived".
1. MUHAMMAD (570 - 632).

The author places him higher than Christ on the basis that he was "the only man in history who was supremely successful on both the religious and secular levels". He also contends that Christianity was the product of two people (Christ and St.Paul), whereas Islam was solely down to Muhammad. Christ does, however, get the nod over Buddha based on the fact that Christianity has far more followers than Buddhism (according to the figures he quotes).