The Qin Dynasty

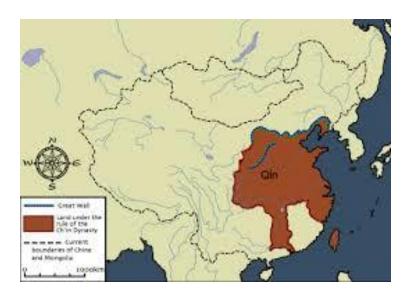
First Emperor

Qin Shi Huangdi

- The Qin state was one of many warring Chinese states;
- 221 B.C., defeated last of Qin's rivals;
- Dramatically changed Chinese politics;
- Founded a new dynasty;
- Dynasty's only ruler;

Warring States to Qin Supremacy





China, The Qin Dynasty and the Larger World



Governing

- Official ideology Legalism
- Opponents to his policy punished or executed;
- Books opposing official views burned;
- Highly centralized state;
- Central bureaucracy three divisions:
- civil, military, censorate
- Censorate inspectors whop checked on government officials;

Governing cont.

- Below central government provinces and countiesofficials traditionally inherit offices; now they are appointed and dismissed by the emperor;
- Reduced power of landed nobility by dividing their estates among the peasants;
- Peasants taxed directly by state:
 - eliminated rivals and gained tax revenues;
- Single monetary system;
- System of roads throughout empire;

Expansionist

Armies advanced-

south to Vietnam;

TO SUPPLY ARMIES - constructed canal from Yangtze River in central China to modern day Guangzhou in Canton;

Defense

Threat:

- nomadic tribes in north;
- These tribes were warriors on horseback,
- Became a challenge to Chinese communities on northern frontier;
- those communities began to build walls;

Shi Huangdi's Solution: strengthen and expand existing system of walls to keep nomads out;

Linked different sections of wall together;

NOT the Great Wall as we know it today;

*thousands of laborers conscripted;

Angered Many Chinese

- Landed nobility resented centralized rule and loss of hereditary positions;
- Confucian intellectuals did not embrace Legalism; books burned; speech censored; loss of influence;
- Common people endured harsh taxes and forced labor;

Emperor Shi Huangdi dies in 210 B.C.; 4 years later dynasty overthrown;

Terra Cotta warriors

- Elaborate underground palace complex;
- Army of life-sized soldiers and horses made of terra cotta fashioned to accompany emperor on his journey to afterlife;











