

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 who checked on government officials;

Governing cont.

- Below central government – provinces and counties-officials 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;





