

Aim: Did Emperor Shi Huangdi improve China?



# Setting the Stage: The Qin

- Previous rulers: Zhou Dynasty
- Zhou ruled from 1027 BCE to 256 BCE.
- “Warring States” period: 475 BCE-221BCE.
- Feudal society... the Qin would emerge and unify China.

# *Qin Dynasty (221-207BCE)*

- Shi Huang Di- Emperor
- Brought an end to the Warring Period
- First and only Emperor
- Freed the peasants and made nobles his prisoners.
- Built road systems throughout his empire.
- Government was based on Legalism.
- Standardized everything and made Legalism the only legitimate way of thought.
- Burned all books and banned other schools of thought.

In order to organize their subjects, rulers created “**administrative institutions**”.

- **Centralized Government**

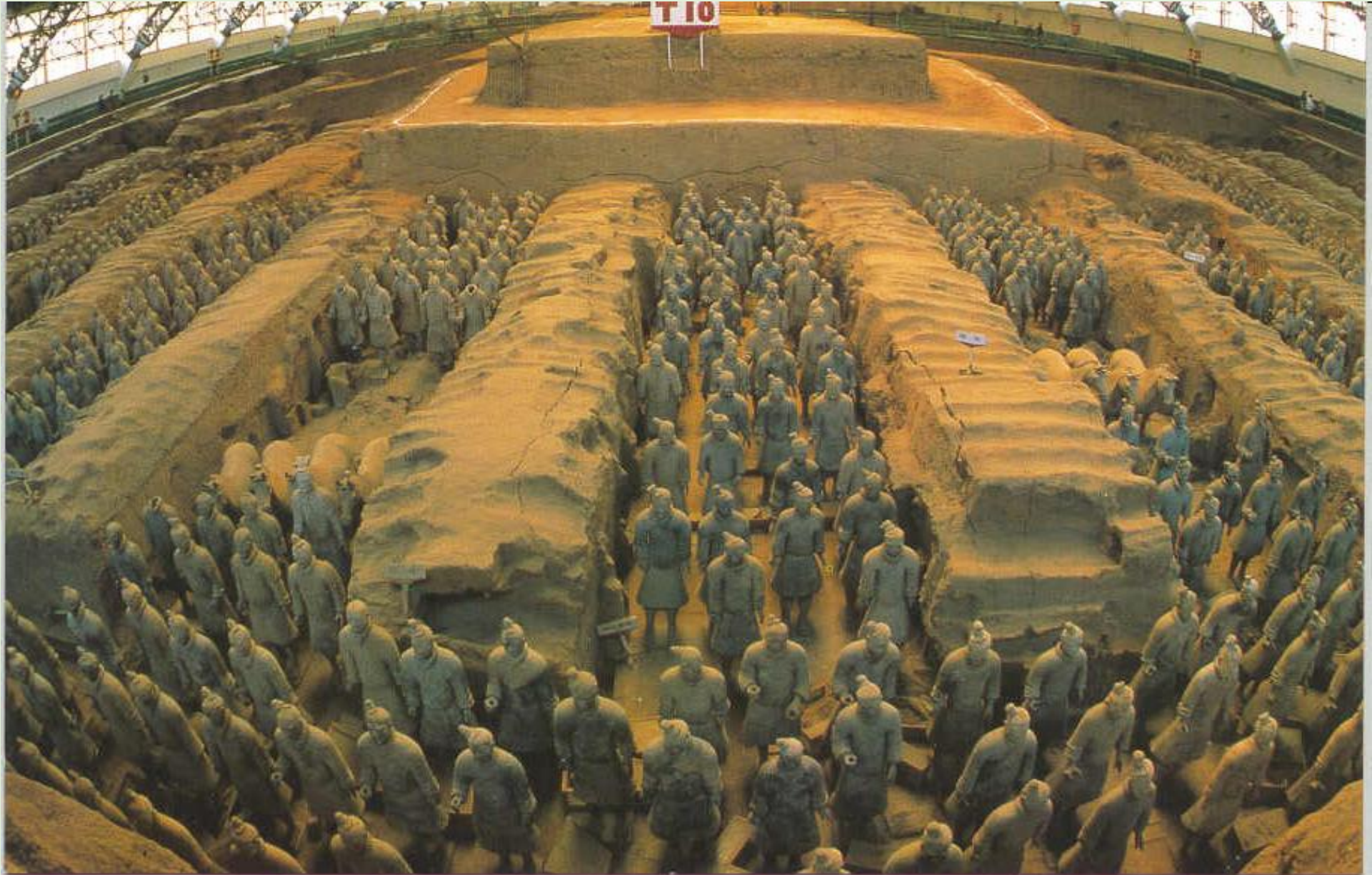
- Abolishes old “feudal states” and divides China into 36 military districts, each ruled by appointed officials.
- Use of inspectors (spies) to keep local officials in check.
- Shi Huangdi forces all “noble families” to live in the capital in Xianyang.
- Nobles land was divided up amongst the peasants who had to pay very high taxes.

Imperial governments projected “military power” over larger areas.

- Example: **The Great Wall**
- Needed to prevent raids from nomads to the North.
- What did the “Great Wall” say to outsiders?
- Also builds numerous roads and canals to help improve transportation.



# TERRA COTTA SOLDIERS



# *Qin Dynasty/Great Wall of China*

- Great Wall of China stretched 1500 miles from east to west.





# REASONS FOR THE **DECLINE** OF THE QIN

- 1) Attacks on intellectuals.
- 2) Heavy tax burden placed on the peasants to fund military conquests and public projects.
- 3) Brutal rule

**EXAMPLES:** 476 scholars buried alive, book burnings....



# HAN DYNASTY (207BCE-220 CE)

- Emperor Liu Bang, a peasant leader, overthrew the Qin Dynasty.
- Central Control through: Civil Service Exam to choose gov't officials and workers
- Exam based on Confucian teachings, Chinese law, history, and traditions.
- Helped to Strengthen Government because jobs were now attained based on merit and not birth or wealth.
- Improved calendar, made advances in medicine: Acupuncture, Complex flood control systems