



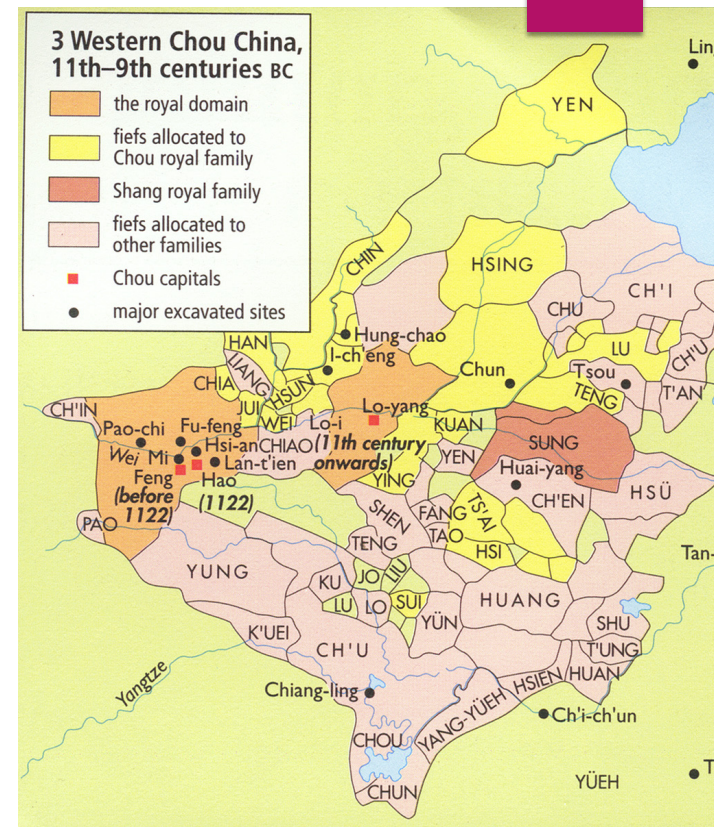
The Qin Empire (316-207 BCE)

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Origins of the Qin (Ch'in) State

- Feizi, petty chieftain and horse-breeder
- Enfeoffed by Zhou king in 897 BCE with Qin
- Leaders quickly assumed title Duke *gong*
- Helped defend Zhou (Chou) retreat in 771 BCE
- First prominence under Duke Mu (r. 659-621)



Gradual Sinification of Qin (770-360 BCE)

- ▶ Qin located on fringe of Chinese world
- ▶ Viewed by central Chinese as uncouth and barbarous
- ▶ Began to adopt Chinese culture and institutions
- ▶ Employed prime ministers from other states
- ▶ Gradually moved capital eastward

Lord Shang's Reforms in Qin

- ▶ Shang Yang 商鞅 (d. 338 BCE)
 - ▶ Lord Shang
 - ▶ Went to Qin in c. 361 BCE
 - ▶ Served Duke Xiao (r. 361-338 BCE)
 - ▶ Reformed Qin on Legalist principles

變法

Lord Shang's Reforms in Qin (c. 360-340 BCE)

- ❖ Legal Reforms
 - ▶ Land Reform
 - ▶ Agricultural Reforms
 - ▶ Tax Reform
 - ▶ Honorary Rank System
 - ▶ Family Reforms
 - ▶ Standardization
 - ▶ Mass Production

Qin's March to Conquest (316-221 BCE)

- ▶ 316 BCE -- Annexes Shu 蜀
- ▶ 256 BCE -- Destroys Zhou 周
- ▶ 230 BCE -- Annexes Han 韓
- ▶ 228 BCE -- Annexes Zhao 趙
- ▶ 225 BCE -- Annexes Wei 魏
- ▶ 223 BCE -- Annexes Chu 楚
- ▶ 222 BCE -- Annexes Yan 燕
- ▶ 221 BCE -- Annexes Qi 齊

(Reportedly 1.4 million enemy dead in 130 years of war)





Reasons for Qin Victory

- ▶ Situated in natural stronghold
- ▶ Exposure to non-Chinese culture and technology
- ▶ Like Macedon, conquest from the periphery
- ▶ Willingness to employ foreigners
- ▶ Longevity of rulers
- ▶ Irrigation and agricultural innovations
- ▶ Administrative and legal reforms

Reasons for Qin Victory

Out-populated, out-produced,
out-grew, out-smarted its
rivals.

Qin Conquest, 221 BCE

Political Unification

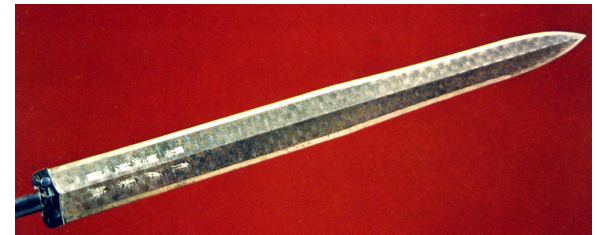
- ▶ Debate on Feudalism
- ▶ Divided empire into 36 Commanderies
- ▶ Commanderies divided into 1,000 Counties
- ▶ Centrally appointed officials
 - ▶ Tightly regulated
 - ▶ Non-hereditary
- ▶ Abolition of former rival states' feudal nobility



Qin Conquest, 221 BCE

Political Unification

- ▶ Disarmament
 - ▶ Weapons melted down
 - ▶ 12 statues, 29 tons
 - ▶ Ritual bells and racks
 - ▶ City Walls razed





Qin Conquest, 221 BCE *Economic Unification*

► Coinage

- Each Warring State had own coinage
- 221 BCE, Qin demonetized other coins
- One standard bronze coin
 - *Banliang* 半兩
- One standard gold unit

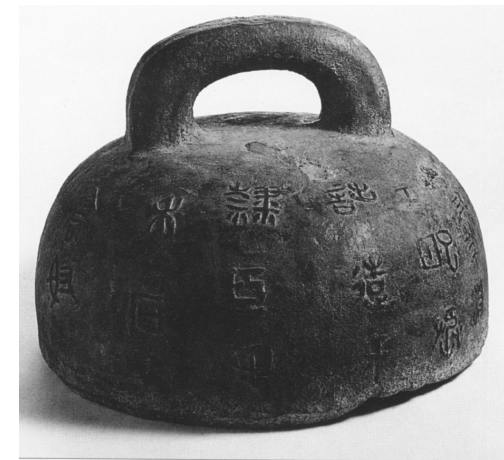


Knife

Qin Conquest, 221 BCE

Economic Unification

- ▶ Weights and Measures
 - ▶ Inspected regularly
 - ▶ Facilitated interregional commerce
- ▶ Chariot axle-widths



Qin Conquest, 221 BCE

Cultural Unification

- ▶ Writing of Warring States had diverged
- ▶ Burned books of other states and standardized the script



	Qín	Chǔ	Qí	Yān	Hán, Wèi & Zhào
者	𠂔	𠂔	𠂔	𠂔	𠂔 𠂔
市	𠂔	𠂔	𠂔	𠂔	𠂔 𠂔

The First Emperor of China b. 259 BC, r. 246-221 as king, r. 221-210 as Emperor

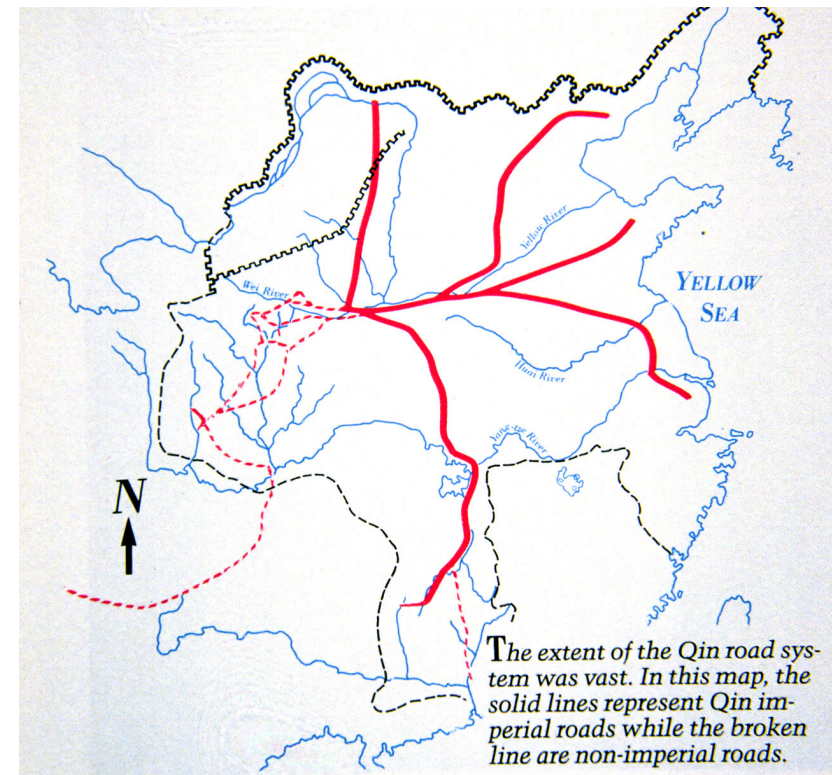
- ▶ The debate over the proper title:
 - ▶ King, *wang* 王, had been overused
- ▶ Ruler chose: *shi huangdi* 始皇帝
“First August Thearch”
- ▶ Successive rulers to be numbered

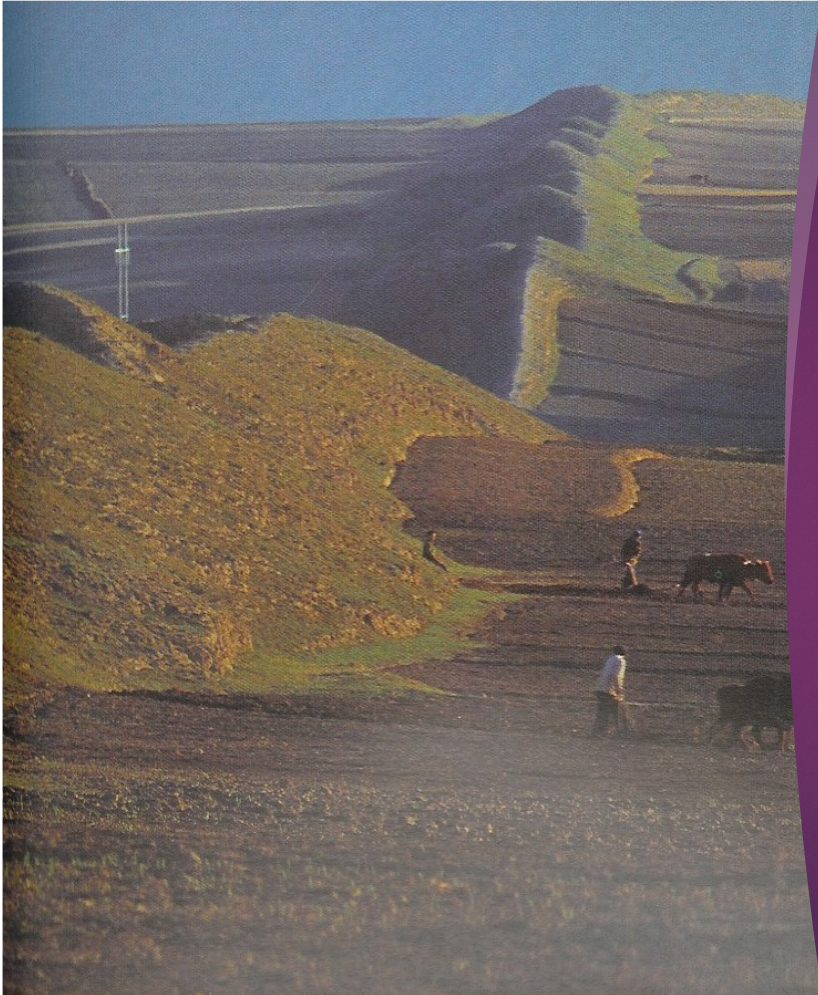


The Qin Dynasty, 221-206 BC

Royal Roads

- ▶ 4,250 miles
- ▶ 5-24 meters wide
- ▶ Planted with trees
- ▶ Straight Road, 500 mi. Xiangyang to Mongolia
- ▶ Rome had 3,740 miles of roads





The Surviving Qin-period Great Wall at Guyuan, Ningxia Province

The Qin Dynasty, 221-206 BCE Wars and Expansion

- ▶ Peace for only a year!
- ▶ Meng Tian takes Ordos by 213 BC
- ▶ 219-209 BC Southeast
- ▶ Forced colonization
- ▶ New territories lost upon fall of Qin





The Qin Dynasty, 221-206 BCE
Rituals of the State

- ▶ First Emperor toured his empire 5 times in 10 yrs.
- ▶ Six proclamations, 5 on mountains



Bisitun
Inscription
of Darius
the Great
(520 BCE)

The Qin Dynasty, 221-206 BCE

Quests for Immortality

- ▶ First Emperor obsessed with death.
- ▶ Combined his tours with search for elixir of immortality
- ▶ Penglai, Island of Immortals
- ▶ Tricked by charlatans
- ▶ Poisoned by mercury, arsenic (?)



Death of the First Emperor

- ▶ Portents of Death 211 BC
- ▶ Increasing paranoia, anxiety, searching
- ▶ Set out on tour with son Huhai, Li Si, and eunuch Zhao Gao
- ▶ Died July/Aug 210 BC, 50 years old





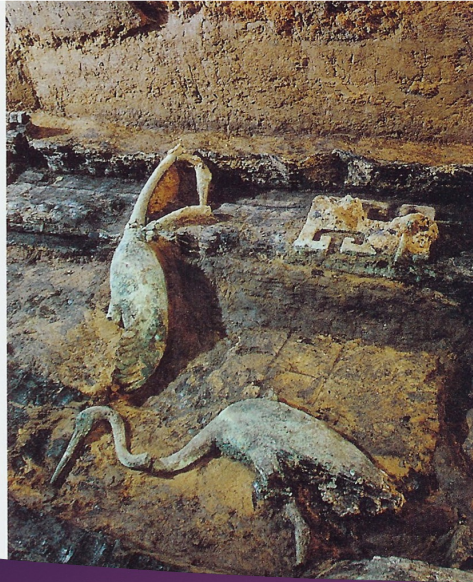


Terracotta Warriors,
Pit no. 1





Strongman



Bronze Waterfowl



Manufacturing Techniques of Bronze Waterfowl



Copper and tin alloy





Greco-Bactrian Kingdom
 Chinese name: *Daxia* 大夏

Reign of Second Emperor (c. 209-207 BCE)

- ▶ Dominated by official Zhao Gao
- ▶ Killed his brothers and his fathers' advisors
- ▶ Royal tour/purge
- ▶ Revolt by Zhao Gao, Huhai killed
- ▶ Successor, Zi Ying, 46 days on throne

Reasons for Fall of Qin Dynasty

- ▶ Moral failure (Confucian critique)
- ▶ Too innovative (Confucian critique)
- ▶ Conquest vs. rule (Confucian critique)
- ▶ Complicated and harsh laws
- ▶ High taxes and labor conscription
- ▶ Incomplete consolidation of south
- ▶ Expanded too fast
- ▶ Forced relocations and colonizations

Legacy of Qin Dynasty

- ▶ The name China
 - ▶ (Latin: Sinae, Persian: Chinistan; Sanskrit: Cina)
- ▶ Precedent for unified empire
- ▶ Imperial model for 2,000 years
- ▶ The Great Wall
- ▶ Writing system
- ▶ Law code

