Qin Dynasty

259-210 BC

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The People

- During the Qin Dynasty, many people suffered, due to Emperor Qin’s harsh ruling.
- They suffered through hard labor, endless military services, and awful punishments.
- The people of the dynasty had little power over their own lives and decisions, due to how controlling the Emperor was.
Jobs

- Some jobs that Emperor Qin assigned to people were to build bridges, roads, canals, and work on systems of flood control.
- If any of these jobs were performed slowly or not up to Qin’s expectations, those people would either be sent to work on the Great Wall or put to death.
- A highly significant job, other than building the wall was growing crops and harvesting silk.
Women's Roles

- The main role of the women throughout the Qin Dynasty was to stay at home, performing household chores and take care of their husbands and children.

- Due to male dominance during this time, women did not have much valued input in any decisions.
Religion

- The first emperor burned the books, and buried Confucian scholars alive.
- The only books left were about medicine, herbs, divining, and agriculture.
- Qin believed that people should just be growing food and that reading philosophy was a waste of time.
- Although books on philosophy and religion were forbidden, people were still thinking about it and it led to a great flourishing of literature and philosophy under the Han Dynasty.
Religion

- Qin’s philosophy was legalism. If any ideas weren’t legalism, he would shut it down.
- Legalism: When the people in power have total political control.
- Shang Yang used legalism to become more militarily powerful than the other states.
- To further strengthen the emperor’s power, he developed complicated rituals for worship.
Religion

- Even though philosophy and religion were banned, Qin was still interested in immortality.
- He believed that when people die they go to heaven, and still exist.
- He built a tomb for himself on Li Mountain.
Qin Government

The rules changed with a new emperor to being based on legalism. Legalism gives complete power to the Emperor and Government. There were under harsh ruling, to make sure everyone was in social order.
Qin legalism

Legalism gives the government and emperor complete power. Instead of the normal way of law where it was different in every state, legalism made consistent rules everywhere. Having complete power also meant the ruler could be as easy going or strict as he wanted. In the case of the Qin Dynasty, the rules were more strict to keep everyone in line.
Pros and cons of Qin government

Pros:

Everyone was required to learn reading and writing.

One solo form of currency made buying and selling easy.

Standardized weights made sure everyone bought the same amount of something.
Pros and cons of Qin government cont.

Cons:

People were heavily taxed to pay for the government.

Forced into military, forced to work on The Great Wall, road workers, gardeners, etc.

An entire family was punished if one person committed a crime.

Legalism gave government full control, so the government or ruler could do almost anything they wanted.
Qin Shi Huangdi

- Qin Shi Huang was the first and only emperor of the Qin Dynasty. He defeated the warring states then came to power, and he thought of himself as the ruler of the universe.

- He divided his empire into thirty-six prefectures, with two officials to look over. This was then divided into counties with two more people to look over them.

- He believed that people were bad and he must have control.
Protecting the Empire

- Qin ordered that a wall be built to protect his empire. Many people died from this. Later, more was added to the wall, and it became known as the Great Wall of China.

- He also created the Terracotta army, a clay army with over 6,000 soldiers that lay underground. He created this to protect the eternity of the Emperor.
- Qin tried to prolong his life by taking pills and potions, and even looked for magic herbs. He died at age 49.

- Qin’s mausoleum was built close to the Terracotta army.

- When Qin died his son tried to rule after him, but the people revolted against him and he was overthrown. The Qin dynasty only lasted 15 years. Next came the Han dynasty.
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Works Cited


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