

The First Chinese Empires

Lesson 2 *The Qin Unify China*

- A. 1.** He was said to have “the chest of a bird of prey, the voice of a jackal, and the heart of a tiger.”
- A.2.** He reduced the powers of the landed aristocrats by dividing their estates among the peasants, who were then taxed directly by the state.
- A.3.** He left behind a vast army of more than 6,000 terra-cotta figures, along with horses, wooden chariots, and 7,000 bronze weapons.
- A.4.** One-third of the national income may have been spent.
- B. 1.** Qin Shihuangdi developed the Great Wall along the northern frontier of his empire in order to create a defensive barrier against nomadic invaders.
- B.2.** In Qin Shihuangdi’s time the Great Wall was said to extend 10,000 li, or 5,000 kilometers.
- C. 1.** The Qin dynasty ruled a highly centralized state that was divided into three divisions: the civil division, the military division, and the censorate. Below them were provinces and counties, which were administered by appointed officials.
- C.2.** Qin Shihuangdi died in 210 B.C.; his dynasty was overthrown four years later.

Summary and Reflection

A complete answer should include: the period saw advancements such as the restoration of order, the development of a single monetary system, and the building of roads throughout the empire; the Qin emperor reduced the powers of the landed aristocrats by dividing their estates among the peasants, whom he taxed directly, and, in doing so, he gained tax revenues for the central government; combining of smaller walls into the Great Wall represented an achievement, but building the Great Wall caused many deaths; the Great Wall did not successfully repel invaders; the First Qin Emperor angered landed aristocrats and Confucian intellectuals and that the common people were heavily burdened by his censorship of speech, harsh taxes, and forced labor projects.